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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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Goodbye Dear Friend

Remembering Allen Toussaint



New Orleans favorite composer, Allen Toussaint passed away on Monday while performing in Spain. The world will miss his musical talents, and New Orleans will miss it's dear friend. Rest in peaceful slumber dear friend.

By Kichea S. Burt
Data News Weekly Contributor

Allen Toussaint, January 14, 1938 – November 10, 2015, New Orleans’ quintessential member of the music community worldwide, passed away following a concert while on tour in Madrid, Spain. Toussaint, was

an iconic songwriter, composer, musician, and producer for over a half century.

Sometimes writing under the name Naomi Neville, many of Toussaint’s songs became familiar through other musicians, these include “Everything I Do Gonna Be Funky”, Mother-in-Law”, “Get Out of My Life, Woman”, “Working in the Coal Mine”, Play Something

Sweet”, “Ride Your Pony”, “Fortune Teller”, “Southern Nights”, and “I’ll Take a Melody”.

At age 17 he became a part of a band called the Dew Drop Set. In the early 1960s he wrote and produced a string of hits for New Orleans R&B artists such as Ernie K-Doe, Irma Thomas, Art and Aaron Neville, The Showmen, and Lee Dorsey. Toussaint’s piano and ar-

On the Cover: Allen Toussaint in attendance at the 2015 Satchmo Fest

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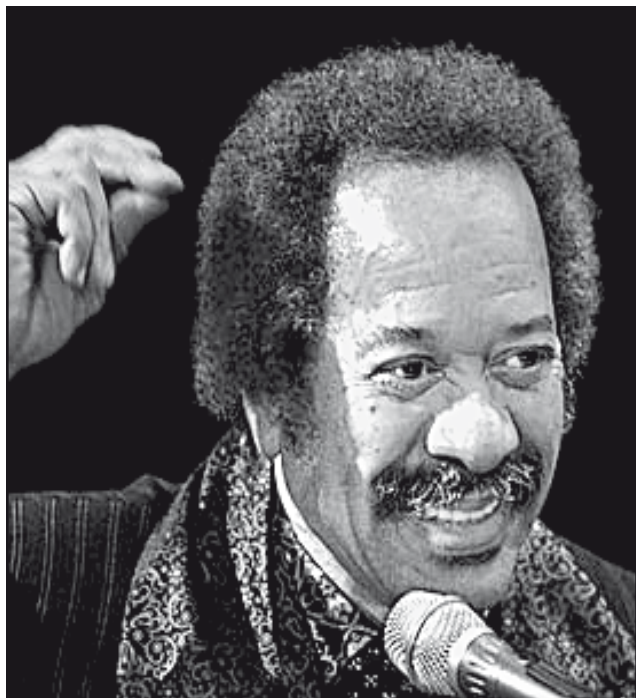
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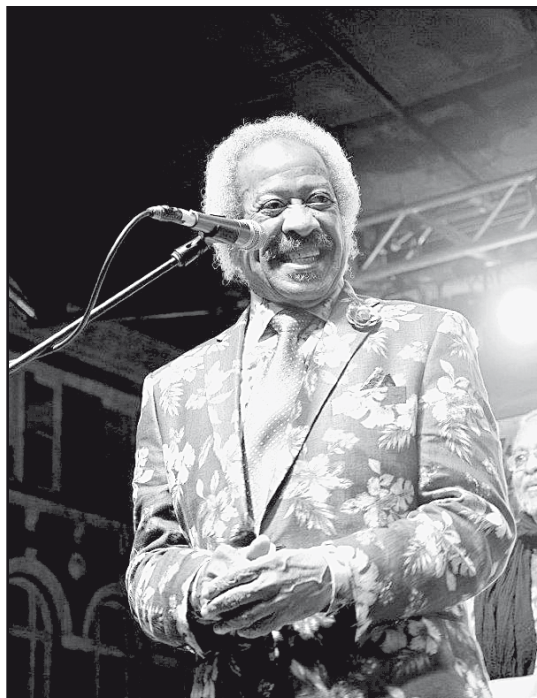
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Cover Story, Continued from previous page.



Toussaint at the Folly Theater in Kansas City 2010. (Photos by Allison Long/The Star)



2015 - Performing at the French Quarter Festival



Allen Toussaint on the cover of "Everything I Do Gonh Be Funky."



2015 - Performing at the French Quarter Festival



2001 - Mr. Toussaint performing at the N.O. Jazz & Heritage Festival

rangements show up on hundreds of records during the early 1960s on records by Lee Dorsey, Chris Kenner, and scores of other artists.

Starting in the 1970s, he switched gears to a funkier sound, writing and producing for The Meters, Dr John, and the Wild Tchoupitoulas Mardi Gras Indians Tribe. He also began to work with non-New Orleans artists such as B.J. Thomas, Robert Palmer, Willy DeVille, Sandy Denny, Elkie Brooks, Solo-

mon Burke, Scottish Soul Singer Frankie Miller (High Life) and Southern Rocker Mylon LeFevre. He arranged horn music for The Band's 1971 album Cahoots, plus Rock of Ages and the film "The Last Waltz", in conjunction with arranging horn parts for their concert repertoire. Boz Scaggs recorded Toussaint's "What Do You Want the Girl to Do?" on his 1976 album Silk Degrees, which reached #2 on the U.S. Pop Albums Chart. In 1976 he

also collaborated with John Mayall on the album Notice to Appear.

Toussaint died in the early hours of November 10, 2015 while on tour in Madrid, Spain. Following a concert at the Teatro Lara, he suffered a heart attack at his hotel and was

pronounced dead on his arrival at the hospital. He was 77 years old. He is survived by his two children, including son Clarence (better known as Reginald) and daughter Alison, and by several grandchildren. His children had managed

his career in recent years. RIP Mr. Toussaint. Your influence on music in New Orleans and worldwide will be remembered always.

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Food Deserts Provide A Dangerously Low Amount Of Choices



Charlie Turner
Data News Weekly Staff
Writer

With Thanksgiving approaching, people from all over will line grocery stores in preparation for the US tradition. Every family has their own take on Thanksgiving dishes, but no matter what recipe is used it is difficult to cook a meal without vegetables- something that many in New Orleans do not have access to.

The term 'Food Desert' describes an area where residents are miles away from a store that sells fresh produce. The Ninth Ward and New Orleans East are classic examples, often profiled in PBS documentaries and exposes, of neighborhoods with residents that are sometimes 10 miles away from a place where they can buy fruit, vegetables and healthy groceries, in general. This problem can be mitigated if one has a car and the gas money to drive there-and-back from the Winn Dixie in Chalmette, but that is a distant reality for those who live well below the poverty level.

With much of the US being the result of suburban sprawl where long drives to commercial centers are common, it can be difficult to identify food deserts. The difference is that urban food deserts may be situated similarly to an affluent

suburb, but without the means to make the 5-mile trek for routine grocery shopping. The problem is more than just sheer distance from goods and services, it is about being unable to get to large stores that are often impossible to get to without motorized transportation. In addition, many New Orleanians once lived close to grocery stores, like the Robert Fresh Market on Elysian Fields Avenue, before Hurricane Katrina.

The other obstacle establishing access to fresh produce is providing it at an affordable price. A family that lives off of less than \$25,000 a year will find little reprieve in a boutique grocery store close to their home. Unfortunately, affordability of food is something that is difficult to quantify and thus difficult to rectify. The Agriculture Department (USDA), the federal agency in charge of issues from food stamps to farm subsidies, can provide modest incentives for stores to open in 'food deserts'. But one new grocery store hardly ensures that low-income residents are receiving legitimate access to healthy food options. USDA defines Food Deserts, using census data, as urban centers or rural towns where low-income residents have little or no access to grocery stores, produce or healthy food outlets. These param-

eters make sense, but have proved to be somewhat faulty in recent months. Are residents of the Upper Ninth -where the Dollar General on Poland Avenue is a popular food source- more able to purchase produce after the St. Roch Market opening? For many low-income residents the answer is no. Raymond Carter, resident of the St. Roch area, does not share the ill will towards the St. Roch Market that others may have, but admits that the new store is not on his radar. "It's a nice looking building, it's just better for me to shop other places".

A poor diet is the inevitable result of living in a food desert. Gas stations, po-boy shops and other small storefronts provide sustenance but nowhere close to the nutrition needed for a healthy lifestyle, especially with children. Children who are denied a well-balanced diet are highly prone to obesity, diabetes, heart disease and poor mental health- problems that are prominent and often untreated in the Black community.

Devonte, who did chose to not give his last name, is only able to go to the grocery store in Chalmette if he can get a ride. He usually buys a po-boy and some ramen packages from the Magnolia Gas Station down the street to cover his lunch and dinner meals respectively. He and his friends

are all healthy teenagers but this is not the case for many in the Lower Ninth, and is definitely not a shared reality for Black New Orleanians as a whole. A 2012 study conducted by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies found that those living in zip codes comprised predominately of African-Americans, the chance of heart disease and early death are far greater. Zip codes encompassing Tremé and the Seventh Ward had a life expectancy of 54 with a 5 times greater chance to die from heart disease.

Those interested in 'food justice', the social movement to combat inequity in food distribution, are tired of low-income communities being forced to wait for market forces and government assistance to combat food deserts. The lack of progress in developing these largely Black neighborhoods has catalyzed the growth of urban farming and organic food within New Orleans. Sankofa Market and Our School at Blair Grocery (OSBG) are examples of organizations located in food deserts that are trying at the very least to provide fresh produce to neighbors. The ultimate ideal is to empower residents with control over their food source and having a sustainable community.

The goal is admittedly quixotic

for Alex Goldman, Chairman of OSBG, but he rejects the common perception that organic farming is elitist. "Organic farming is often seen as part of the White, rich and privileged world- and for good reason since there is a long history of those who sell arugula for \$15 just because they know that there are those who will buy it if it says 'organic'."

It is important for the staff at OSBG to sell their bags of arugula for no more than \$8. While the return is not as much as it perhaps could be, what they see as 'price-gouging' not only makes organic food unattainable for low-income buyers, it gives the impression that it is not meant for them- a mindset that food activists around the country have been aggressively combating.

After working on the OSBG farm, Devonte has become acquainted long enough to see organic food as part of his world. "I think everyone should learn how to grow. If the power goes off or things get bad, we'll know how to survive." With more studies showing the corrosive effects of processed meat and pesticides, food justice activists are hoping that more attention will be given to the communities that have had no choice of healthier alternatives.

Family, Community Still Demanding Answers in Death of Victor White, III

By Rhodesia Muhammad
NNPA Newswire

NEW IBERIA, La. (FinalCall.com) – Hundreds of protestors gathered at Bouligny Plaza in New Iberia, Louisiana, to call for an end to police brutality and to demand justice for 22-year-old Victor White, III who was fatally shot while handcuffed in the back seat of a police cruiser while in their custody.

Rev. Victor White, Sr. and his family have been demanding answers from the Iberia Parish Sheriff's Department since his son's tragic death, March 3, 2014, which was ruled a suicide. Rev. White has mentioned many times that his son is not "Houdini", explaining that it was impossible for his son to have killed himself with his hands cuffed to the back and a gunshot wound that entered through the front. "Nineteen months later and I still have no answers as to why my son was killed," said Rev. White, addressing how it hasn't gotten any easier to talk about his son.

Deborah Muhammad, along with men and women from the Nation of Islam, attended the Oct. 17 rally. Ms. Muhammad and Daryl Muhammad were the first to interview Rev. White on their bi-weekly television show, the Community Defender in Lafayette, La., she said.

"It was the first time we talked about what has been labeled the 'Houdini' murder. We invited Rev. White and his family to be guests of the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan in Houston while on his regional Justice Or Else tour," added Ms. Muhammad.

She commended Rev. White and his wife for being so vigilant, persistent, and present in making sure there is justice for their son and that he is not forgotten. Support Ms. Muhammad says she will continue to give until he gets justice.

"I was asked to come down when the story first broke," said Rev. Raymond Brown, national president of



National Action Now, a civil rights organization based in New Orleans. "I was the first civil rights activist to call for an independent investigation into Victor White's death. We began holding press conferences until we received national coverage, but the case never got the attention like Michael Brown or Eric Garner," he added.

Rev. Brown, standing before the body of protestors also demanded that the head of the Louisiana State Police, Mike Edmonson, release the names of the police officers who arrested Victor White, III that night. "Every police officer or officers who are accused of murdering a Black man in America names are released to the public except here in Louisiana," he stated. "So you go tell Mike Edmonson to release the names and you tell him Rev. Brown said it!"

Rev. White has been very vocal about the many inconsistencies in his son's case, including the location of where the bullet entered his body, the displaced clothes he wore the night of his death, what he allegedly said before he supposedly killed himself, whether his hands were checked for gun powder and if there's dash cam footage.

"They are asking for my family to

believe that my son was in the back of a patrol car, hands cuffed behind his back, but somehow took his hands and come around the front, shot himself, and then put himself back," he said frankly.

"Growing up in the church," said Rev. White, "he would've never committed suicide." His son had "too much going for himself to do that," he added. Young Victor had a job, he had just enrolled in school for welding, had a six month old baby, had just received his income tax check and was about to purchase a car and lease a new apartment.

Some of the supporters present at the march were families of slain loved ones, community activists, and members of the clergy. Different races of people with like minds held posters; all uniting to demand an end to police brutality and answers in the Victor White III case.

Speakers included talk show host Tony Brown, President of the Lafayette chapter of the NAACP Marja Broussard, Bro. Takuna El Shabazz Council of Elders, Bro. Walter Umrani of the New Orleans Peace Keepers, and many of Victor's family members. A particularly touching moment at the rally occurred when Victor White, III

told his story through the voice of his mother, Vanessa White.

Rev. White is still petitioning

for the Iberia Parish Coroner, Carl Ditch to change the manner and cause of his son's death from suicide to homicide. A letter to the U.S. attorney and the Iberia Sheriff's Department was also crafted and circulated with a summary of demands, which in part included: Immediate naming of officers involved, removal of Sherriff Louis Ackal for continued negligence of duties including deaths of citizens in Iberia Parish Sheriff's Office (IPSO) custody, mandatory body cameras, quarterly review of policies, independent investigation of lethal discharge of weapons, mandatory revised training to focus on de-escalation, and diversity training to humanize all persons served in community.

The family said they will continue to fight until there is justice for Victor White, III.

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Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Happy 75th Birthday Big Chief Alfred Doucette

By Dionne Character
Data News Weekly Contributor

Mardi Gras Indians and R&B Review Concert

There were no seats available and certainly no aisle space as many “shook what they momma gave them” on the red carpet on October 30, 2015 at the 75th Birthday Bash of Big Chief Alfred Doucette held at the Mahalia Jackson Theater.

The show opened in full splendor while the Indians summoned old spirits through chants introducing Big Chief Alfred Doucette to the stage who, pranced around in movement shaking his feathers while brilliant colors of red green and orange caught the eyesight of those amazed by this cultural experience. While the walls held together screams of joy and high notes played by trumpeter, Chuck Bee, I’m sure the spirit of Mahalia Jackson was once again rejoicing this Halloween Eve where many showed up wearing costumes and Mardi Gras beads with painted faces.

A living legend who has been inducted into the Mardi Gras Indian Hall of Fame twice – once as a Big Chief of the Flaming Arrow Warriors and again as Council Chief of the Flaming Arrow Warriors, Doucette is the past owner of The legendary Nite Cap a R&B Lounge and according to Cyril Neville of The Neville Brothers ...many were able to refine their natural skills thanks to the Chief as it may have been the birthplace of “The Meters” Band.

While a portion of the proceeds went directly to New Orleans Musicians Clinic, this event was done New Orleans Style featuring some of the best talent who stopped by showing appreciation for a man who himself is no stranger to the stage. The lineup: Deacon John, James Andrews of the Ooh Poo Pah Doo Bar, Michael “Soulman” Baptist, The Mystics, Guitar Slim, Kid Merv, Al “Carnivaltime” Johnson, Cyril Neville, Gaynielle Neville, Sharon Martin who got the party started singing The Staple Singers “I’ll Take You There” were some of those who gave a Stella performance along with The Baby Dolls, New Orleans “Tambourine Lady,” who drove from Baton Rouge, Mardi Gras Indians and anybody who was somebody who wanted to join the “live band” showing love on stage.

This event was full of the Spirit of New Orleans as many childhood friends and neighbors came to celebrate this night of R&B and the 75th Birthday Bash of a man many spoke highly of on and off stage.

Chief Alfred Doucette clearly has the secret to a well-lived life as he continues to give back to the Community of New Orleans.

Dionne Character can be reached at dasolediva@yahoo.com



Columnist Dionne Character and Chief Alfred Doucette



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Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Ladies First Social & Pleasure Club Halloween Party 2015

Photos by Glenn Summers
Data News Weekly Contributor

We know its a little bit late, but we didn't want you to miss all the highlights of the Ladies First Social & Pleasure Club's Halloween Party! Everybody was decked out in their best costume, and the fun was much too much to pass up. Make sure you make it to this party next year! Congratulations Ladies First on a great party, and of course, Data was there!!!



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



Let's stand up and get ahead. Take the pledge at ReadyLouisiana.org.

A child's brain develops the most before the age of four. It is crucial to begin engaging and preparing their minds during this formative time. Unfortunately, the state of Louisiana lacks adequate public early education programs. Nearly half of our children are already trailing behind their peers by the time they enter kindergarten. The lack of available childcare, not to mention the price, also impacts 30% of our working parents.

In 2012, the Louisiana Legislature mandated an overhaul of our early learning system. But budget cuts have forced lawmakers to underfund this vital initiative. It's time to let them know how much this matters to our children and our working parents. Sign the pledge or find out how your organization can join the Ready Louisiana Coalition at readylouisiana.org.

READY LOUISIANA
A COALITION SUPPORTING OUR YOUNGEST LEARNERS

ObamaCare Improves Health of Black America



Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
NNPA Columnist

Black Americans continue to face serious disparities in education, employment, and in economic development. While over 45 million Black Americans have made some type of progress during the past seven years of the Obama Administration, there is still much more to be done to end the vast racial and socioeconomic differences between Blacks and Whites in the United States.

One challenge, however, where

there has been significant improvement is the issue of health-care insurance coverage for Black Americans as a direct result of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). More popularly known as ObamaCare, this federal legislative achievement by President Barack H. Obama did not happen without conservative opposition and controversy. But the growing health benefits to all Americans because of ObamaCare, and in particular for Black Americans, is undeniable.

During President Obama's recent weekly address to the nation, he detailed the quantitative progress and qualitative impact of the Affordable Care Act. President Obama stated, "For decades, too many working Americans went without the security of health insurance — and their financial well-being suffered because of

it. We've begun to change that. As the Affordable Care Act has taken effect, we've covered 17.6 million Americans. Since 2010, the uninsured rate has decreased by 45%. And for the first time, more than 90% of Americans are covered."

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services posted the following list of achievements of the ACA with specific reference to Black America:

- Last year, an estimated 6 in 10 uninsured African Americans qualified for Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP), or lower costs on monthly premiums through the Health Insurance Marketplace.
- Many shoppers found coverage for less than \$50 a month and nearly 7 in 10 found coverage for less than \$100.
- 7.8 million African Americans

with private insurance now have access to preventive services like mammograms or flu shots with no co-pay or deductible

- More than 500,000 African American young adults between the ages of 19 and 26 who would have been uninsured now have coverage under their parents' plan.
- 2.3 million African Americans (ages 18-64) gained health insurance coverage, lowering the uninsured rate among African Americans by 6.8 percentage points.
- If all states took advantage of new opportunities to expand Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act, 95 percent of eligible uninsured African Americans might qualify for Medicaid, CHIP, or programs to help lower the cost of health insurance coverage

in the Marketplace.

Not having health insurance will not only cause you to suffer financial harm, but also the status of your health will be put in increased jeopardy and difficulty. Over a year ago, I asked various African American physicians about their professional opinions about the impact of ObamaCare on the Black community. Last week, I asked again the same physicians their opinions about what progress has been achieved during the past year. Every Black doctor reported to me that ObamaCare has had a net-positive impact on helping to improve the overall health status of the Black American community.

My sister, Dr. L. Francine Chavis of the Granville Health System in our hometown of Oxford, North

Commentary,
Continued on page 9.

What's Wrong with the Truth?



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

Award-winning film director Quentin Tarantino gets high props for stepping up to tell some truth about the many murders of African Americans at the hands of misbehaving police officers. How, after all, can you justify the killing of a baby boy, Tamir Rice? Or the illegal choking of Eric Garner? Michael Brown stole some cigarillos. Does that deserve the death penalty? We can call the roll and then we can describe a murder. That's all Tarantino did.

Here's what Tarantino said — "I'm a human being with a conscience, and if you believe there's

murder going on then you need to rise up and stand up against it. I'm here to say I'm on the side of the murdered."

Tarantino isn't a "cop hater." He is, as he said, a human being with a conscience. Too bad we can't say the same thing about Patrick Lynch (ironic last name), the president of the New York City Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, who called for a boycott for the Tarantino film "The Hateful Eight," scheduled for release in December. I'm not a huge Tarantino fan, but if the police are going to boycott his film, I will see it at least twice (or buy tickets for somebody) just to have his back.

What is wrong with the truth? Quentin Tarantino didn't say that every police officer is a murderer. He called out those who are and said that he stood with those killed — the Eric Garners, Michael Browns, Tamir Rices of the world. Patrick Lynch and those who share his opinion have so embraced the "thin blue line" that they refuse to decry unacceptable police behavior

or even express remorse for the unnecessary killings of citizens. There is an attempt to justify every killing, an attempt to say it is all right to use a chokehold, deemed an illegal maneuver; to massacre a soon to be married Sean Bell; to turn 41 bullets on an unarmed Amadou Diallo (19 of the bullets hit him), to sodomize Abner Louima. In the Louima case, several "officers of the peace" were tried and convicted, but they are among the very few who pay the price for their rouge activities.

Any human being ought to shudder at these extreme police killings. Too many human beings, too many police officers, seem to think this behavior should not be decried. The police officers that I know speak among themselves about rouge police officers and their unacceptable behavior, but they don't speak up. So, there are police officers that choose to rape some of the women they stop for traffic violations. There are police officers that coerce delinquent young

girls into prostitution. There are police officers that take the drugs confiscated in drug busts for their own use or to sell. There is silence from police unions regarding these actions.

Police unions with integrity would uplift good officers and criticize bad ones. They'd assert, and then enforce, a code of conduct. They'd say there is zero tolerance to illegal police behavior, and then they'd enforce it. Unions are supposed to defend their members, and that makes sense. Even as they defend those that are unjustly accused, they must also be quite clear that they oppose illegal behavior.

Officer Randolph Holder, a Guyana native, whose application to the police academy included an essay that said he wanted to be a role model, was killed in late October by a criminal who was fleeing him. His death was a tragedy. His family, by the community, and by his fellow officers, mourns him. We who are human must mourn him. We

who depend on law enforcement officers to maintain order in our communities must condemn the culture of violence that led to his death. And we who are human and object to violence must also object to the police violence that left Eric Garner dead. We must also criticize the grand jury that decided that his murderer, "Officer" Daniel Pantaleo, did nothing wrong. We must decry the folks who said that Garner was complicit in his own death because he was overweight.

There is nothing wrong with the truth. Quentin Tarantino spoke it. The rabid Patrick Lynch opposes truth and calls for boycotts on a Tarantino film to punish him. Where are the police officers that will cross the thin blue line to hold fellow officers accountable? Why are so many silent in the face of police brutality, murder, and injustice?

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist based in Washington, DC. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" will be released in November 2015.

Youth Pastor Who Raps

By Alexia Pierre

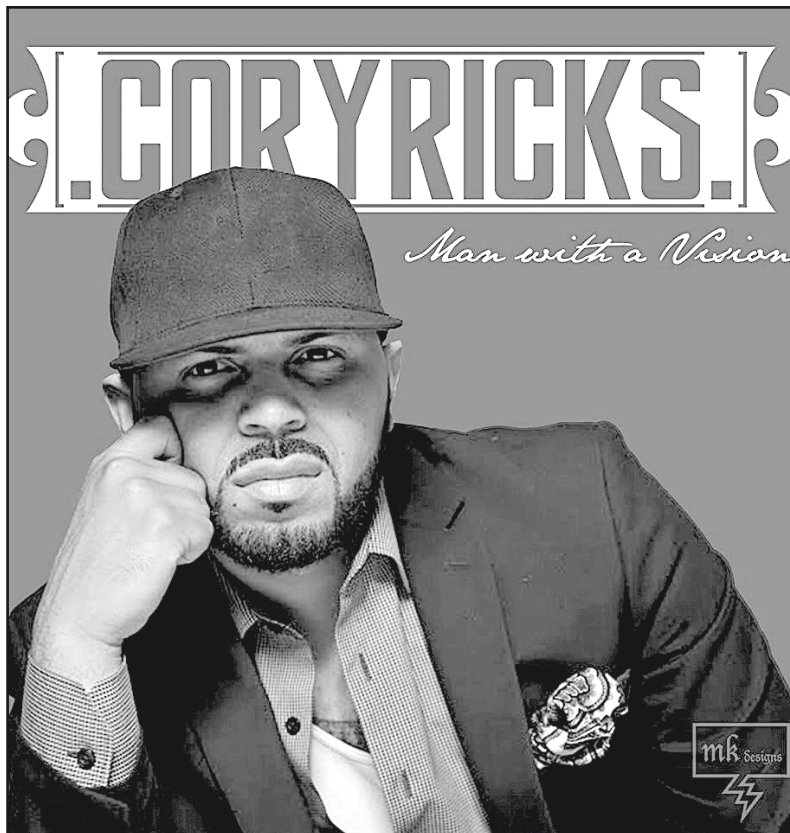
This column is a weekly feature taking Data News Weekly's readers behind the scenes of the New Orleans gospel scene. We launched this column with a series on New Orleans Gospel Rap and Rappers.

Cory Ricks knows the music industry. He had lived it for 15 years. Three years ago, he took up gospel rap. It was part of a personal transformation he made to turn his life around. On Nov. 3, the 31-year-old youth pastor at New Home Family Worship Center, in Uptown, New Orleans released his second official gospel album. "Man with a Vision" shows Ricks' improvement from his last album "Man with a Mission," in addition, it shows his growth in his faith with God.

"I think this particular album is polished. I know what I'm doing now," Rick said.

He decided that he wanted to take some time out from music to be sure he was going about his new calling in life in the right way. "I sat down for about four to five years where I did no preaching, just learning," Ricks said. Before making a change in his life, he said he had "lived the street life," and was a "big time womanizer."

"Then God exalted me in the area of preaching," the youth pastor said. Ricks currently is a supervisor at Renaissance New Orleans Arts Hotel in the Uptown area. The married father of two kids said his marriage to his wife Tiffanie was his first step in turning his life around. Then he began the journey



of determining how he could use his creative talents in music differently. Ricks said he had to learn about God first and then he had to re-learn how to write music.

"I had many major business meetings and they were telling me, straight up, do some devil music. That's when I realized how much of an influence that music had on people," Ricks said. The "devil music" was not what Ricks wanted to use to influence people, so he pursued a different genre of music. "God has allowed me to become the bridge—the bridge between the streets and

the church and the young and the seasoned," he said of his new found purpose. Ricks believes he was given a story to tell not to condemn others but to help them find their God-given purpose. "We're not judging them for what they're going through, we can relate to what they're going through but show them also a better way," he said. Local Rapper Darryl Manning, also known as Favor, said Ricks gives him the extra energy he needs to live out his faith. Manning and Ricks come from similar backgrounds and Manning said he believes God allowed them to

cross paths. "[Ricks] is an anointed man of God. He keeps me up by just watching him run for the Lord," Manning said.

Ricks believes Christian Rap is nothing but simply bait to reel in the new generation. "Jesus told Peter I'd make you a fisher of men—the thing I know about fishing is that salt water fish and fresh water fish is two different kinds of bait," Ricks said. "If you want to fish properly and catch something, you have to give the desired bait ...if you don't you will lose that generation," Ricks explained. "So many people say we have to make Christianity cool—no, no—Christianity is already cool! We have to make the masses aware that it is cool."

"Man with a Vision" includes "Have Mercy on Me," which symbolizes Ricks' shortcomings, even as a pastor. He was simply in a "bad season," he said. "I was just cry-

ing out to God to have mercy on me," Ricks said. The album also features songs, such as "The Girl Next Door" and "Stomping on the Devil," which is the typical "radio song" with a fun beat and a catchy chorus. However, Ricks believes the biggest challenge of being a Christian Rapper is radio airplay on secular stations and being televised. "People don't want to talk about anything positive, even on the news; they talk about who got killed, yet they don't talk about who got healed," Ricks said. With more radio airplay, gospel rappers could offer something that is "refreshing, real, transparent, and true," he said.

"I know the streets and I know Jesus—that's two things I know," Ricks said.

Stay tuned for next week's column as we continue to share opinions and highlights of the local gospel scene.

Commentary, Continued from page 8.

Carolina stated, "Because of the ACA, I now see many more African American patients at a point where medical care can help them immeasurably. Having health insurance coverage, many for the first time, is an important factor."

We, therefore, will have to make sure that our elected officials in the Congress of the United States are adequately informed about the critical positive difference that ObamaCare has made and it making to sustain and improve the health of Black America. We should oppose all those who want now to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

The health of our families and

communities is at stake. We cannot afford to let anyone or anything take us backward. Of all our current disparities, our health has to be paramount. We are making progress, but the negative winds of regression are blowing strong. During the current Open Enrollment period for the ACA, November 1, 2015 to January 31, 2016, for more information on how you can get affordable health insurance go to Healthcare.gov, or call 1-800-318-2596.

We agree with President Obama's assertion, "After all, this country is at its best when we look out for each other. And together, we can help more Americans get the

security that they and their families deserve." For Black Americans, the security of acquiring and maintaining healthcare insurance is vital and a critical priority. Nothing is more important than our health.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is the President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and can be reached for national advertisement sales and partnership proposals at: dr.bchavis@nnpa.org; and for lectures and other professional consultations at: <http://drbenjaminfchavisjr.wix.com/drbcfc>.

Early Voting Ends Saturday November 17th. You can vote at the following locations:



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8870 Chef Menteur Hwy., New Orleans, LA 70126
Lake Vista Community Center:
6500 Spanish Fort Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70124

JEFFERSON PARISH

Joseph Yenni Parish Building:
1221 Elmwood Park Blvd., Rm 502, Harahan, LA 70123
Charles Odom Building:
5001 Westbank Expwy., Ste. C-2, Marrero, LA 70072
Registrar of Voters: 408 Minor Street, Kenner, LA 70062
Grand Isle Community Center: 3811 Highway 1, Grand Isle, LA 70358

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Plaquemines Parish Government Building:
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Belle Chasse Library: 8442 Hwy. 23, Belle Chasse, LA 70037
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Ortique Lecture on Law and Society to Feature Bryan Stevenson

Founder of the Equal Justice Initiative and Author of "Just Mercy" Lecture set for Nov. 23

On Monday, November 23, 2015, attorney and civil rights activist Bryan Stevenson will deliver the next Justice Revis O. Ortique Jr. Lecture on Law and Society in the Georges Auditorium at 7 p.m. on Dillard's campus. He is the recent author of the critically acclaimed New York Times best seller, *Just Mercy*, which was named by Time Magazine as one of the 10 Best Books of Nonfiction for 2014. The event is free and open to the public with a book signing following the lecture.

The founder of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama, and its Executive Director for 26 years, Stevenson is a devoted advocate opposed to the establishment

of the death penalty, an advocate for unlawful imprisoned children, and an ideal American citizen at the forefront of discussing racism as reflected in the Judicial System.

As an extensively established public interest lawyer, Stevenson has dedicated his career to helping the poor, the incarcerated and the condemned. Under his supervision, EJI has won major legal challenges eliminating excessive and unfair sentencing, exonerating innocent death row prisoners, confronting abuse of the incarcerated and the mentally ill, and aiding children prosecuted as adults. He has successfully argued several cases in the United States Supreme Court, and recently won a historic ruling that mandatory life-without-parole sentences for all children 17 or



younger are unconstitutional. Furthermore, Stevenson and his staff have won reversals that led to the release of over 115 wrongly con-

demned prisoners on death row.

Stevenson's work fighting poverty and challenging racial discrimination in the criminal justice sys-

tem has won him countless awards including the American Bar Association's Wisdom Award for Public Service, the MacArthur Foundation "Genius" Grant, the Olaf Palme Prize in Stockholm, Sweden for international human rights, and the National Medal of Liberty from the American Civil Liberties Union among others.

A 1985 graduate of Harvard University, with both a master's in public policy from the Kennedy School of Government and a Doctor of Laws from Harvard Law School, Stevenson has received 14 honorary degrees including degrees from Yale University, the University of Pennsylvania, Georgetown University, and Washington University.

Seats are on a first come basis. For more information go to @DU-BrainFood, visit www.dillard.edu or call 504.816.4800.

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2015 Black Saints Celebration Set for November 14

November is designated as Black Catholic History Month around the country. Here in the New Orleans Archdiocese, The 2015 Annual Black Saints Celebration will be on Saturday, November 14, beginning at 11am at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church.

Choirs, Bands, and Dancing Groups from around the city will participate in the parade beginning at St. Roch Park and will end back at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church which will also include the A Mrs. Sophie Ar-

amburo Servant/Leader Awards which are given to individuals/groups that serve the community. Bishop Fernand Cheri will be the speaker and music will be provided by the Archdiocesan Mass Gospel Choir during the Prayer Service.

All are welcome to attend this event.

For more information call the Archdiocese of New Orleans Office of Black Catholic Ministries at (504) 861-6207 or email bcatholics@arch-no.org or go to www.obcm-no.org.



Tapestry of St. Josephine Bakhita which hung from St. Peter's Basilica during her canonization ceremony. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano via Reuters) (Sept. 5, 2008)

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Who Dat? Fans Dat!

Loyal Fans rally behind team despite loss in OT

By Kaelin Maloid
Data News Weekly Staff
Writer

A little girl with two big puffs and smooth brown skin is in a black Drew Brees jersey that hangs off her thin body. She has some ketchup smeared on the side of her face from the fries she just ate, and there's a black and gold pom-pom in her right hand. She clutches her grandmother's hand, bouncing on the tops of her toes, desperate to get in the arena. She smiles a toothy grin, revealing that her bottom tooth is missing. "Who dat!" she chants, tugging her grandmother closer into the arena.

After dropping their first three games, the New Orleans Saints of the past resurfaced to win three straight, bringing their record to 4-4 before Sunday's game. When the Tennessee Titans took the field in the Superdome Nov. 8, they were hoping to end that streak.

And, unfortunately for the Saints, they did.

Somewhere away from the girl, there is another family—this time, it's a man in a beat-up Mark Ingram jersey. The color is as faded as the man is tall, and the coloring on the numbers is cracked. The jersey looks well worn. On either side of him are two equally as big boys, smiling. They wore their Ingram jerseys, too. The man is grinning, like many of the Saints fans here. He



sees somebody he knows and raises his hand to the man. "Who dat!"

The game, unlike the beginning of the Saints' season, started off well. Brees was being, well, Brees, completing 28 out of his 39 passes and throwing three touchdowns. He even scored himself, keeping the ball and jumping over the pile of players for the touchdown. However, he was sacked four times and threw an interception in the third quarter meant for Mark Ingram.

The Saints, who had led 21-10, couldn't quite put away the pesky Titans, just like the fans can't quite put away their pride for their team, despite the loss.

"Win or lose, I'm a Saints fan, baby!" one fan shouted as he left the arena, raising his fist in the air. His shout was followed by some "Who dat's!" from passerby's.

Being a Saint's fan is like rid-

ing a roller coaster, according to Louisiana native Wesley Porter, who was visiting New Orleans for the game: it has its up and downs, sometimes it's fast, sometimes it's slow, but, for the most part, you just sit back and enjoy the ride.

"It's a helluva ride," said Porter. "And you're usually worn out after the ride."

Ups: The Saints are 4-5 after their recent loss to the Titans, but according to head coach Sean Peyton, the Saints know their problem is getting consistency, and they will be working on those areas.

Downs: The Saints are slowly proving that, at best, they are a .500 team. Battling to maintain a winning record and get to the playoffs will be difficult.

Fast: The way the ball rotated perfectly out of Drew Brees' hand and down the field for a touchdown by Josh Hill.

Slow: The way the fans ambled out of the Superdome in utter disbelief after the Saints allowed the Titans to come back and win the game in overtime.

When the Saints lose, the fans lose, too. Fans entered the Superdome prior to the team's loss laughing, their costumes as perky as their smiles. Post-game, however, one little boy clutched his Saints' hat between his hands and glared straight ahead. Another little girl dropped her candy and her brother said she dropped it "just like the Saints dropped that game." One man seemed to be in such despair, his friends had to each sling an arm around him and carry him to their truck as he repeated over and over, "Why? All they had to do was play defense Why?"

It was a sad Sunday outside the Superdome for Saints fans.

So why be a Saints fan?

"The Saints aren't just a team," said Kiana Ridley, all smiles despite the loss. "They are a way to bring together people who don't really have that much in common. They're like the glue of New Orleans."

Another fan, Natalie Hardy added, "Being a Saints fan means being able to party—even when they lose."

Some people may say that it's just a game. The players on that field are just a form of entertainment and not to be taken seriously.

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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!

Entergy Announces Second Phase of the NOLA Transmission System Upgrade Project

I-10 crossing work scheduled Nov. 14 and 15 near Xavier University

Crews continue working on the second phase of Entergy New Orleans' technological upgrade to the electric power transmission system – Ninemile generation-Derby substation – and will begin on the first of a series of interstate crossings this week. Weather permitting, work crossing Interstate 10 will take place on Saturday, Nov. 14 and Sunday, Nov. 15 near Xavier University. Entergy New Orleans will conduct its remaining interstate crossing work in December and in January 2016, with the entire second phase being com-

pleted by March 2016.

"Unlike the first phase – Ninemile generation-Napoleon substation – where crews worked mostly in residential neighborhoods, the second phase requires project crews to work over I-10 near downtown New Orleans," said Charles Rice, president and CEO of Entergy New Orleans, Inc. "Since a safe, accident-free environment for both the general public and project crews continues to be our top priority, we have been involved in extensive planning that will allow us to maintain that focus with the least

amount of impact to the general public."

Entergy has coordinated with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and Louisiana State Police to determine non-peak times for short, intermittent I-10 closures to ensure safety for all.

The first I-10 closure will take place at South Telemachus Street and South Genois Street, both of which are located near the Xavier University campus. During the short, intermittent closures, police will stop traffic on I-10 in both directions. Loui-

siana DOTD digital message signs are in place to alert drivers about the closures, and traffic controls will be placed at the designated on-ramps.

The Power to Grow NOLA website will provide detailed and up-to-date project information for those who are interested. The Power to Grow NOLA hotline (504-670-3624) and the project email address (powertogrownola@entergy.com) are available for customers to voice their project-specific questions and concerns.

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