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North Rampart Streetcar Line Completed

First Streetcar Line on North Rampart since 1949



Mayor Mitch Landrieu, Sharonda Williams, Justine Augustine and other community leaders cut the ceremony ribbon at the St. Ann North Rampart Station.



North Rampart streetcars are expected to service stops every 20 minutes.



Mayor Landrieu voiced his support for the current RTA expansion.

Eric Craig
Multimedia Editor

The City of New Orleans is known for its vibrant art, music and creole cuisines. And the City is also known for its continued use and support for streetcars.

On Sunday, Oct 2, 2016, The City of New Orleans

began its service of the North Rampart streetcar line. It's the first streetcar to run along North Rampart since 1949.

The North Rampart line is 1.6 miles long, spanning from Elysian Fields Avenue to Canal Street. The line, once at Canal, will continue to lead towards the river. The streetcar will service the Tremé and Marigny

neighborhoods, arriving at stops every 20 minutes.

On Monday, Oct. 3, 2016, the City of New Orleans, New Orleans RTA and Transdev North America held a Grand Opening Ceremony at Louis Armstrong Park. The park is directly across from the North Rampart St. Ann Station.

Mayor Mitch Landrieu spoke at the grand opening

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Cover Story, Continued from Page 2.



The City celebrated the grand opening with a second line band.



The North Rampart streetcar line spans 1.6 miles between Elysian Fields and Canal Street.



Naydja Bynum, President of the Historic Faubourg Tremé Association.



Sharonda Williams, New Orleans RTA Board Chairwoman.

event, pleased with the completion of the North Rampart line.

"I'm always thrilled to be at events that speak to the rebirth of the City of New Orleans and projects that manifest themselves as building the City we always want it to be," Landrieu said on Monday's event.

"This street car expansion is another major sign of our continued revitalization. To remind all of us what we've done just in the last five years to help rebuild not just this street but this neighborhood," he added.

According to Justine Augustine, CEO of the New Orleans RTA, the project cost over 40 million dollars to complete. The streetcar line was completed within 18 months, which Augustine described as "on time and under budget."

Sharonda Williams, the Chairwoman of the RTA, shared the mayor's sentiments towards the completed streetcar line.

"The completion of this project is in fact a momentous occasion, but it's really just the beginning of what the RTA plans to do," Williams said. "The positive impact

of this project is clear, the street looks beautiful."

The completion of the North Rampart line is one of many RTA project the organization plans to implement. Currently, the RTA's goal is to increase the overall connectivity of the City by upgrading streetcar and bus lines, and catering to faster service. Williams said many more RTA projects will be fulfilled in the coming years.

While the North Rampart Streetcar is well accepted by the City, residents of the Tremé neighborhood are fond of the line, too.

Naydja Bynum, President of the Historic Faubourg Tremé Association, said the streetcar line is a nostalgic experience for the community.

"As a representative of Historic Faubourg Tremé Association, and a resident of Tremé, I'm extremely happy to welcome the North Rampart Street car tour community," Bynum said.

"Seeing the beautiful red streetcar rolling down N. Rampart Street has been a sight for sore eyes. And the Ding-ding-dinging sounds have been music to our eyes.

Making us forget about any inconveniences we thought we had."

Bynum was reminiscent of the streetcars that ran on North Rampart until 1949, when the City began to remove several lines.

"Having the streetcar on North Rampart Street have contributed to our community in many ways," Bynum said.

Bynum said the newly paved streets and the added lights have added to the beauty of the community. Additionally, she said that the added transportation will help service workers commute from the community to the French Quarter.

"The streetcar project has made such a positive connection between Tremé and the French Quarter," Bynum said.

Street car rides are a \$1.25 for a one-way trip. Day passes can be bought for \$3.00.

The Neighborhood of Tremé

The new streetcars will service the oldest African-American Neighborhood in the City and the nation, Faubourg Tremé.

The City of Tremé was the first subdivision in the City of New Orleans. According to the Historic Faubourg Tremé Association, the Tremé Neighborhood was originally a portion of the Morand-Moreau Plantation that was sold to the City of New Orleans in 1810 by Claude Tremé. By 1812 it became the City's first subdivision.

In its existence as a New Orleans Neighborhood, it has served free people of color, Europeans and Haitian refugees.

Throughout its 204 years of existence, the Neighborhood of Tremé have added to the City. The City is also known for its architecture, visual art and music

According to city-data.com, a 2013 survey shows the Tremé Neighborhood houses 4,859 people. Over 90 percent of the population identifies as African-American.

The neighborhood is also home of the Louis Armstrong Park, the New Orleans African-American Museum, the Backstreet Cultural Museum, the Jazz and Heritage African-American Museum and the St. Augustine Catholic Church, one of the oldest in the nation.



Notable Quotable by Donald Trump

"If black lives don't matter, then go back to Africa; We'll see how much they matter there."

Do you want a President Trump? Go Vote! - November 8, 2016

Things Get Uncomfortable when Protesters Blackout BR, Interrupt Policing Meeting

Meghan Ellis
Jozef Syndicate

As shootings continue to plague cities around the country, frustrated citizens are continuing their fight for justice. With each shooting that has occurred, dash cam footage has been released, surveillance and other forms of film have been released to ensure complete disclosure. But, unfortunately, that hasn't been the case with the deadly shooting of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge.

After nearly three months, only the cell phone videos filmed by spectators has been released. In addition to the withholding of dash cam footage and surveillance, Baton Rouge police officers Blane Salamoni and Howie Lake

II are still on administrative leave. No charges have been brought against the officers and citizens are wondering why.

Now, citizens and protesters are demanding answers. Monday, Sept. 26th was declared #BlackOutBR, a day where local citizens wore Black clothes and did not work, go to college, or shop. A rally was held on the steps of City Hall calling for information on the Alton Sterling case. After the rally, protesters entered a police reform meeting to hear the committee's plans and to demand answers and action.

"The problem is, with an exception of a few, we don't see these people in the community," businessman Cleve Dunn Jr. told the committee. "When you look around and you don't see the community,



Photo of Alton Sterling, Baton Rouge resident.

there should be no meeting."

The committee included District Attorney Hillar Moore; Council-

members Tara Wicker, Donna Collins Lewis and Erika Green; BRPD Chief Carl Dabadie Jr; local pastors; and residents.

"What happens when leaders & protesters disrupt a meeting on police reform? Things get uncomfortable, they get real, and then they get a seat at the table, alongside the chief of police, the DA, & the DOJ," wrote Artist Walter Geno McLaughlin on Facebook.

More than 30 protesters lined the walls of the small meeting room, including Sterling's aunts.

"We want to press upon our local government but also go all the way to feds that we want a decision on the investigation, said Dunn who explained the reason for the gathering and expressed protesters' demands.

"This issue of Alton Sterling has been divested from the people in this room as much as we hate to hear that," said Will Jorden, who is an Assistant District Attorney and Prosecutor. "We hear the frustration. I am frustrated. These pastors are frustrated. But what this (committee) does is give the people a sense of legitimacy and to be able to move forward with positive change."

Wicker said, "This group today is not the group trying to come up with solutions. That's not our charge. That's not our job. That's not what we are doing here. Our charge is to setup an infrastructure so that what you are saying can actually be heard, documented and

Newsmaker, Continued on page 11.

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The Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale Gets Ready for Carnival Season

Leonard Lewis IV
Data News Weekly Contributor

The Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale held their Second Annual Cookout on Oct. 1, 2016 to launch their float themes for Mardi Gras 2017. The float riders came up with different shirts, umbrellas, and drinks to get members excited about the parade this year. The Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale is an all African- American Female Krewe that was founded in 2013. The krewe provides a social network for its members that creates friendships and professional and social support. With over 100 members, Femme Fatale will usher in its Carnival preparations with its Annual Gala on Saturday, Jan. 9, 2017 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel at 601 Loyola Avenue. The Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale will parade on Sunday, Jan. 31, 2017, following the traditional Uptown route.



CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE CAN LEAD TO ANEMIA LEAVING YOU FEELING TIRED AND WEAK

There are some things that you should know if you've been diagnosed with chronic kidney disease. In certain people, chronic kidney disease can lead to a serious condition called anemia. Anemia occurs when your body doesn't have enough red blood cells. Red blood cells carry oxygen to the rest of your body, giving you energy to do your daily activities.

If anemia due to chronic kidney disease is left untreated, you are at risk for serious health consequences, including a higher risk of heart complications or needing a blood transfusion. If you are unsure if you have anemia, or it's been a while since you've checked, a doctor can diagnose it through a simple blood test.

> QUIZ <

COULD YOU HAVE ANEMIA DUE TO CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE?

	YES	NO
Do you have chronic kidney disease?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have any of the following symptoms:		
> Feel tired often	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
> Shortness of breath	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
> Dizziness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
> Racing heartbeat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you have chronic kidney disease and checked off at least one of the above symptoms, you may have a condition called anemia.

ANEMIA SYMPTOMS ARE EASILY MISSED

Symptoms of anemia are very common to many other conditions and can therefore be easily missed. Common anemia symptoms include:

- > Feeling tired often
- > Shortness of breath
- > Dizziness
- > Racing heartbeat

ANEMIA DUE TO CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE CAN BE TREATED

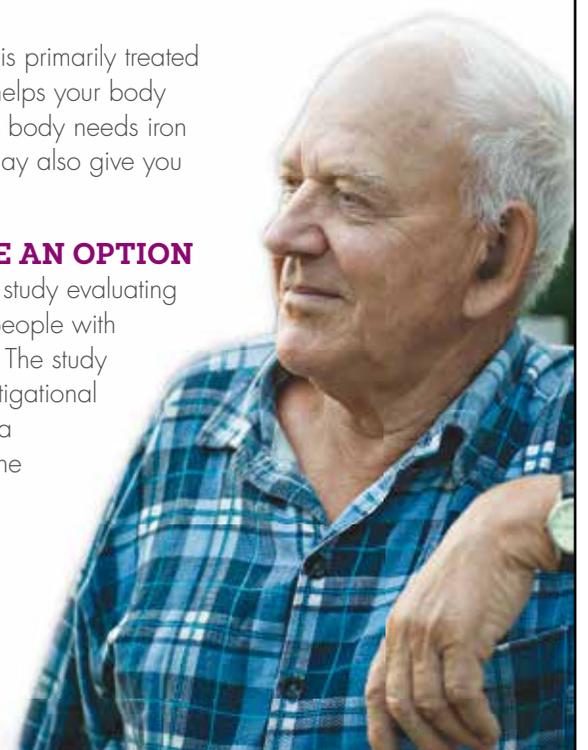
Anemia due to chronic kidney disease is primarily treated with an injection of a medication that helps your body produce red blood cells. Because your body needs iron to make red blood cells, your doctor may also give you iron, either in pill form or as an IV.

A RESEARCH STUDY MAY BE AN OPTION

The PROTECT Study is a new research study evaluating an investigational oral medication for people with anemia due to chronic kidney disease. The study compares the effectiveness of the investigational oral medication to an approved anemia medication given by injection. During the study, qualified participants will either receive the investigational oral study medication or the approved injection.

Treating your anemia may give you more energy and reduce your risk of serious health consequences.

PROTECT STUDY



Second Annual Tremé Festival



Jasmyne Bracy
Data News Weekly Contributor

A unique way to kick off the fall season is a celebration in the Treme' neighborhood. On Oct. 1, 2016, the Second Annual Treme' Fall Fest took place. Treme' is one of America's Oldest African-American Neighborhoods, and its oldest landmark is the St. Augustine Catholic Church. It was a full day of music, art, food, and more. The purpose of the event is to raise money to help restore the Church, which this year is celebrating 175 years of service. "The money mainly goes to restoration, here at the church but we also give money to other landmarks that we wish to keep up with," says Father Emmanuel Mulenga.

Arts and crafts booths went from one side to the other. The stage was setup in the middle featuring bands such as Tank and the Bangas, Kermit Ruffin, and many more. Tours of the church were given as well as activities for the young people. "It is a beautiful day and the music is great," said Ernest George, a New Orleans native attending the event. photos by Eric Craig.



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A Mockery of Democracy

Donald Trump and the Rise of a Reality Show Presidential Candidate



By Edwin Buggage
Editor, Data News Weekly

Networked: Point and Click Reality and the Manufacturing of Dissent

As I have been following the 2016 Presidential Election it seems unreal, like a reality show called "Who Wants to be President," but the sad reality is this is real. It reminds me of the 1976 film *Network*, set in a fictitious television station called UBS that follows the Story of Howard Beale, a frustrated anchorman with low ratings who is on the verge of getting fired. In the beginning of one of his broadcasts he begins by saying he will kill himself on live TV, which is followed by him ranting about the state of society on air and is a ratings success. Subsequently, his show becomes a top-rated show and Beale is suddenly

the voice of people who are dissatisfied with the direction the country is going. The film's subplot also deals with the blurring of the lines between serious news, entertainment and what the impact television is having on the human race.

It is the precursor to reality television and the converged media universe we have today in the age of Rush Limbaugh as a rating juggernaut on talk radio, to Sean Hannity and Bill O'Reilly on Fox News, to Keeping up with the Kardashians, American Idol and The Real Housewives of Atlanta being top rated shows on cable television along with the internet with Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and others becoming social as well as information platforms for a new generation of Americans. I would argue that this phenomenon of "networked" lives has changed communications and life in America forever. I will go further and argue that in this age there has been a transformation where "unfiltered authenticity" is desired by a public where talent, intelligence or insight are no longer barriers for entry into the public sphere. It has touched every aspect of life in the U.S. in-

cluding politics and has changed political discourse in America. A space that was seemingly reserved for rational, reasoned discourse (even if that were not always the reality) is now reduced to banality and scripted chaos that resembles professional wrestling, the Jerry Springer Show and reality television programming.

As Howard Beale was the Angry Prophet of television, similarly, Donald Trump is accomplishing this today using social media particularly Twitter to rant against the establishment and his political enemies. Who as Howard Beale encouraged his viewers to yell out their window "I'm Mad as Hell and I'm Not Going to Take It Any More." Trump is using Twitter in the same way to tell people to vent their rage against the establishment.

Twitter and Tapping into Americans Quest for Democracy

New forms of communication technology have changed political discourse in the 21st Century. With its platform that does not have any barriers to entry, Twitter and many other digital platforms

on the Internet has become a place where businesses, individuals, news organizations, entertainers, politicians and others have used to communicate and engage people in discourse surrounding an array of topics. Since beginning in 2006 Twitter has become a tool many use in disseminating thoughts, ideas and brand messages. U.S. President Barack Obama was the first U.S. Commander-in-Chief to effectively use the internet in his 2008 Campaign, where Yes We Can and Change became more than campaign slogans but a movement fueled primarily by his use of the Internet. Since that time Twitter with its 140-character limit per tweet have become a way many people communicate. This type of shorthand is what is becoming to define general discourse in the 21st Century. As a result, the byproduct of this is the trickle down impact it is having on political discourse.

The 2016 U.S. Presidential Campaign is the first election that a candidate has used Twitter in a way to circumvent conventional news outlets to promote their agenda and engage their critics. Trump and his team have undoubtedly tapped into

this technology using it effectively to move ahead of his competitors. I would argue do not understand the relationship between social and traditional media, taking this a step further I would opine it is something that's led to them not connecting with voters in addition to garnering media coverage for their campaigns. Something that's resulted in many of them having to suspend their campaigns as Trump winning the Republican nomination and now is one step away from winning the White House.

America's Political Paradox: The Widening of Information and the Closing of the American Mind

The lanes that one can get information and express themselves in the 21st Century have expanded and are at an unprecedented place in the Western world. Today there is access unlike any time in human history, but I would argue that citizens of these societies are on information overload and this type of shorthand "Twitter" is a way to

Buggage, Continued
on page 11.

A Trump Win in November Could Tear This Nation Apart



Bill Fletcher, Jr.
NNPA Columnist

Alright, team, we are getting close to the finish line: Election Day November 8. We have witnessed the first debate, between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, and while I would argue that Clinton won, Trump made enough arguments to reinforce some level of confidence among his supporters. After having a comfortable lead over her Republican opponent, current poll numbers suggest that

Clinton's lead has almost vanished in key states; reasons why the race has tightened are still up for debate.

There are four presidential candidates on the ballot: Hillary Clinton (Democrat), Donald Trump (Republican), Gary Johnson (Libertarian Party) and Dr. Jill Stein (Green Party). The reality is that the presidential choice comes down to either Clinton or Trump. Johnson has about an 8 percent showing in the polls and Stein about 3 percent.

What voters have to decide is not only where will they come down, but also the importance of other races that will be decided November 8. Thus, my first plea is that everyone votes. Each vote, as we saw in Florida in 2000 and Ohio in 2004, can be potentially critical.

A second issue is that races, in

addition to the presidential race, are critical. The United States Senate, as of this moment, is a toss-up between the Republicans and Democrats. We could find ourselves with a small Republican majority, a small Democratic majority, or a literal tie. So, even if you find yourself dissatisfied with the Presidential choices, there are other races that will make a real-world difference.

The third issue, however, is one that hit me, yet again, in watching the debate. Trump and his supporters are dangerous. It is frightening that a presidential candidate can continue to deliver outright lies and has not been run out of town on a rail. But it is actually more than that. Leading the birther movement against Obama, threatening to put Muslims under surveillance, proposing a wall along the border

with Mexico and an escalation of deportations, allegedly, as a means of cutting crime, tells us that Trump understands nothing about the experiences of those of us of color. Worse, he is quite prepared, in the face of the history of the U.S., to play with matches in a field of unstable dynamite. Trump isn't stupid; he knows precisely what he is doing and he knows how he is motivating racists and xenophobes to come out of the closet. Yet, he keeps doing it.

So, it really comes down to this: No matter who is elected, people of conscience will need to put and keep pressure on the next administration. At the same time, don't deceive yourself. Ultra-right-wing forces will play on Trump's victory in order to push us further over the edge into a racial dystopia.

Black America went through a racial dystopia after the defeat of Reconstruction and found itself in the hell of Jim Crow. Asian America went through the persecution of the Chinese and Japanese, the annexation of Hawaii, and a genocidal war against the Filipinos. Latino America went through the seizure of the northern third of Mexico and the later seizure of Puerto Rico, along with the constant demonization of their people and their heritage. Native Americans have faced constant efforts aimed at the violation of their sovereignty, and, indeed, their extermination. We do not need a President who takes us anywhere close to that world again.

Bill Fletcher, Jr. is a talk show host, writer and activist. Follow him on Twitter, Facebook and at www.billfletcherjr.com.

Welcome to Doc Griggs Corner

What is Diabetes?

Eric Griggs, M.D., Danyelle Kimble and Raven Spooner
Data News Columnists

Every day Americans have diseases that alter their lives. One of the most common diseases is Diabetes. Diabetes is a serious disease involving problems with insulin. Insulin is a hormone made by the body in the pancreas. The pancreas is an organ located behind the stomach. It breaks down the sugar obtained from food to create energy. Medications are needed to respond to insulin to obtain energy. Important signs of diabetes are extreme thirst, constant hunger, and using the restroom often. Other signs include extreme weight loss, headaches, blurred vision, and poor wound healing.

After being told you have Diabetes by a doctor, the next step is treatment. Treatment options range from tablets to injectable insulins. Medicines control your blood sugar and stops signs of Diabetes. If Diabetes is not controlled, it will destroy the eyes, heart, kidneys and nerves.

Diabetes is a dangerous disease that can lead to death. However, there are ways to decrease the risk of developing Diabetes. Everyone can practice healthier lifestyle changes that decrease their risk. Lifestyle changes include better eating habits, being more active, and learning about the disease. Knowing your Diabetes and living well is



important for healthy living.

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For more information, go to www.diabetes.org.

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Dr. Griggs is the Community Medicine Liaison for Access Health Louisiana, Community Medicine and Preventive Health Advisor for the Xavier College of Pharmacy Health and Wellness Center, and Director of Life Sciences for STEM NOLA.



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Using Art for Social Change

Southern Parlor Series Reflects on Black History, Current Injustices.

Nigel Palmer
Data News Weekly
Contributor

The Ace Hotel's Gallery was full of powerful pictures that turned your happy smile to a solemn face. The purple room reminded everyone of their noble heritage. The small rooms made everyone feel at home and connected. The jazz music had a rhythm that made you tap your feet unknowingly. The bar was in the corner, just for elegance.

Gia Hamilton had a vision.

When Hamilton founded the Afrofuture Society in 2015, she wanted to create a safe space where people could feel comfortable in their own skin. The society's membership seeks to connect people of African descent in the visual arts community and provides a creative space for Black people and their allies.

From August to September 2016, the society launched the Southern Parlour Salon Series where 18 visual artists led discussions on topics such as abstraction, activism, and aesthetics.

"Southern Parlour investigates the creation of safe space, art making as a process, activism, and black-



Left to right: Gia Hamilton, Torrence Taylor, Quess Moore, and Cairo Kwame.

ness as a metaphorical concept," said Hamilton, a native of New Orleans who also serves as the Principal Curator for the society.

"In a living room setting, artists, writers, practitioners, and the viewer share intentionality of the expansion and contraction of blackness in a 'leased,' or occasional space," Hamilton said. To

tackle these subjects, Hamilton invited Stylist Torrence Taylor, Poet Quess Moore, and Organizer Cairo Kwame on Tuesday, Sept. 27th at the Ace Hotel on Carondelet Street. For the closing ceremony on Oct., more visual artists will talk about social injustice.

Taylor screened a video that was filmed on his organization

the NOLA Nobles. "The Nobles were founded so that Black men could see their self in another way often," Taylor said. He instructed members of the Nobles to wear suits and always to dress their best because that was part of African culture and heritage. He said royal African history was something that he believes

African-Americans have forgotten. He tells the members of his group that dressing nice is not a fashion statement, but restoring self-identity.

Poet Quess Moore screened a spoken word video he co-produced. His film portrayed the pain that one feels when they see another person of color being lost to gun violence and not receiving justice. "Your emotions go through things when you constantly see people like you being treated like garbage," Moore said.

Organizer Cairo Kwame said he came to New Orleans in 2010 to pursue his goal of becoming a filmmaker but found his passion in activism. "If you're going to do something, be revolutionary with it, whatever it is, be revolutionary," Kwame said.

On Saturday, Sept. 24., 2016, both Kwame and Quess said they took their expressions to the streets as they joined forces with the group Take 'Em Down NOLA to call for the removal of Confederate monuments around the City of New Orleans. "That's an altar, not a statue, an altar. And [when] we look at an altar, you gotta ask yourself what's the sacrifice for the altar. And we know the answer, our bodies are the sacrifices," Moore said.

Louisiana Democrats Celebrate with Annual Dinner

Eric Craig
Multimedia Editor

On Saturday, Oct. 1, 2016, the Louisiana Democratic Party held its Annual Jefferson-Jackson Dinner. The annual dinner was created to celebrate and honor fellow Democrats and party ideals and passion across state of Louisiana.

Democratic National Committee Interim Chair, Donna Brazile, was a guest speaker at the night's event. Brazile is also a recipient of Data News Weekly's 2016 People's Golden Service Award.



Democratic National Committee (DNC) Interim Chair Donna Brazile with New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu at the 2016 Jefferson Jackson Dinner. Photo by Louisiana Democratic Party.



Notable Quotable
by Donald Trump

"You take a look at the inner cities, you get no education, you get no jobs, you get shot walking down the street. They're worse -- I mean, honestly, places like Afghanistan are safer than some of our inner cities,"

Do you want a President Trump?
Go Vote! - November 8, 2016

Deepwater Horizon Film tells the Story of Lost Lives, B.P.'s Role in the Oil Spill Disaster.

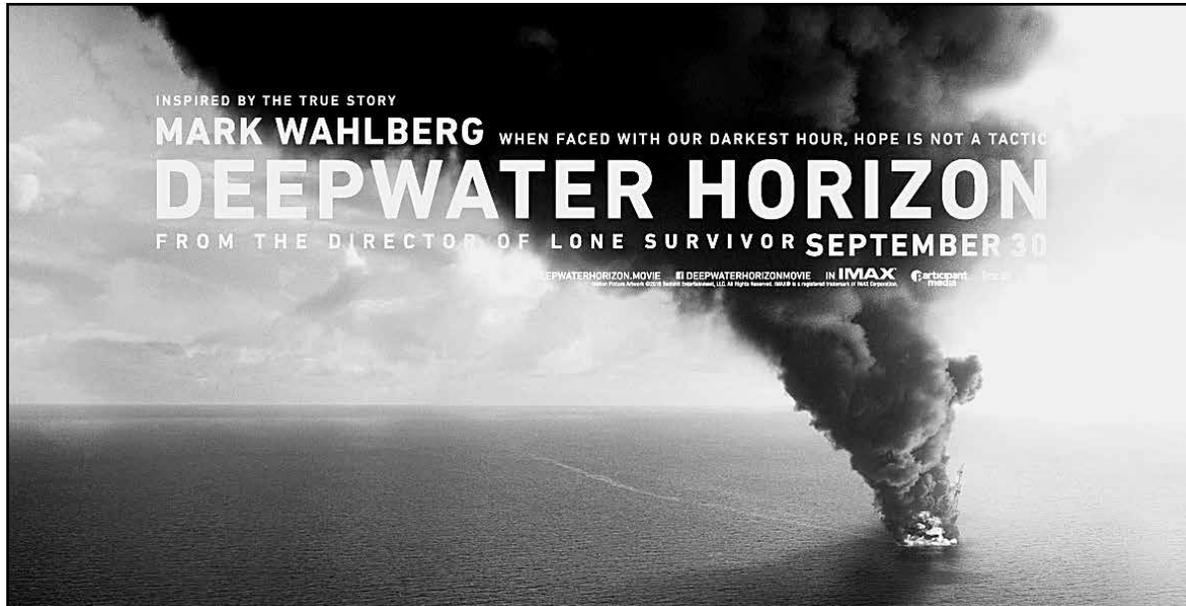
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It could have been avoided.

That's the message of Deepwater Horizon, the Mark Walberg-produced film that chronicles the events that lead to the 2010 British Petroleum Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico that took 11 lives and drastically destroyed the environment. Oil spewed from the Macondo Well for 87 days, releasing over 200 million gallons of oil into the ocean and resulted in \$54 billion in estimated damages.

The movie, released in theatres on Sept. 30, 2016 follows Chief Technician Mike Williams, played by Walberg, as he and the rest of his crewmates are caught in the sudden and complete destruction of Deepwater Horizon, the oil rig that they work on. With very little time to act before the entire rig is engulfed in flames, Williams bravely rescues as many crewmates as he can. As the film chronicles the human story that few saw on the headlines, it also examines the shortcuts B.P. took in maintaining the rig, which eventually led to the rig's destruction.

"It's all about the almighty dollar," said Iris Brown Carter with



the Louisiana Bucket Brigade who attended an early screening of the film on Sept. 27, 2016 at A.M.C. Palace Theater in Elmwood, LA. Carter said she was among the Brigade's team that worked on clean-up projects around the Gulf of Mexico and is thankful that the film focused on B.P.'s role in this disaster.

The movie recounts several shortcuts by B.P. that contributed to the blowout, such as the incorrect setting of the cement floor that surrounded the oil pipe. The film compares the pressures on the oil rig to a soda can being shaken up. What really moved viewers was

seeing the entire oil rig engulf in flames in mere moments, due to a company's neglect, at the expense of its workers. While no one else could possibly understand the horrors the workers faced on the rig, there are many residents who were impacted by the effects of the oil spill, including the people of New Orleans.

Stacy Hampton, who also attended the screening, and who works for a government agency that investigated the incident at Deepwater Horizon said that the film was 100 percent accurate in its depiction of the incident on the oil rig. Hampton said that she

chose to come to watch the movie to make sure that it accurately portrayed the incident.

Residents who screened the film on September 27th loved the film, such as Charles Joseph who brought his family to see the film and who described it as a "good tear jerker." Kenneth Lacho and Gerri Scuderi said they both saw the movie a total of five times before it's official release date. "They couldn't give me enough money to go back on [the oil rig]," said Scuderi, who felt horrified about the extent of corruption a company could have at the expense of its employees.

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cope with this societal affliction. In turn it has reduced political discourse into sound bites, infotainment and sensationalistic, overly simplistic rhetoric where style and so-called authenticity supplants substance. What also is problematic is within these new communication formats that they are often havens of anger and bombast that leads to further polarization among the American Electorate.

But as I argue this point, I would also argue that there is a paradox in the age of Twitter and its impact on political discourse and its relationship to Democracy. That one could reasonably argue that it's polarizing, but conversely, it is an exercise of free speech as granted by the First Amendment of the Constitution. But the problem today is having this information overload have led to citizens using "cliff notes" to

understand the world around them. And without a broader understanding of the things that happens in society that their legitimate rage or concerns can be exploited by parasitical, political gnats wrapped around jingoistic, xenophobic, patriotic rhetoric. Or angry rants on Twitter in the name of "keeping it real" have become legitimized and is changing the way people are having political discourse; but the larger question is will it produce substantive change?

The fact is these platforms have been used to help promote and produce some positive Change as was the slogan of President Barack Obama being elected the First African-American President of the United States, or internationally during the Arab Spring where many countries toppled dictators using social media to organize. But the question becomes

in this latest "digital social revolution" that is being waged by Donald Trump against the establishment via Twitter is good for the U.S. in its quest to become a more civil society? Where he is the face of a movement that is being fueled by discontent and disruption lead to a better Democracy? But in the final analysis, solutions or reasoned discourse may not be the goal as Howard Beale tells his viewers; that he does not have solutions but change won't happen until they get angry. In 2016, this has been a winning political strategy for Donald Trump, a tweet that is a billionaire and established brand and reality TV star that's been re-positioned as a manufactured angry prophet of the frustrated masses using Twitter, and bringing out the worst in the American electorate one tweet at a time.

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put into a policy paper that will be submitted as the voice of the community."

Protesters presented a list of demands which included changes be made to city and state flood contracts. The change to contracts would require the cancellation of current contracts in order to include Black-owned firms in renegotiations. The third demand is in reference to police reform. With incidents of alleged injustices resolved with internal investigations, community leaders and local citizens adamantly believe there needs to be a task force in place on state and local law enforcement levels to reform police across the city and state.

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