

Lighting The Road To The Future


New Orleans

Data

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Celebration in the Oaks

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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New Orleans

Top Ten Amazing Events to Attend in 2017



Clockwise from left. The NBA All-Star Game Weekend will take place at the Smoothie King Arena. The Annual Zulu Coronation Ball will convene on February 24th. Top Taco Festival is the first of its kind in New Orleans.

Eric M Craig
Multimedia Editor

Last Sunday marked the beginning of a New Year. While some may see it as an opportunity to start a New Year resolution, others may be excited for the events to fill 2017. Luckily, in New Orleans, there are several festivals, concerts and events to look forward to in 2017.

As a token to welcome the New Year, here is a list of 10 must-attend events happening in 2017 in New Orleans, ordered by month.

1. NBA All-Star Weekend - February 17 - 19

The City of New Orleans will host the 66th Annual All-Star Game and weekend at the Smoothie King Cen-

ter. New Orleans has previously hosted All-Star Weekends in 2008 and 2014. Most recently, after North Carolina passed a Transgender Bathroom Law, the NBA chose to host the games in New Orleans. The festivities start Friday Night, at 7 p.m., with the Celebrity Game at the Smoothie King Arena on Saturday Night, at 7 p.m., the NBA will host a 3 Point Shootout and a Dunk Contest. Sunday night will be the well-anticipated 66th Annual Game, taking place at 6 p.m. at the Smoothie King Center. Keep in mind, the All-Star Weekend takes place in the middle of Mardi Gras season. For more information on Tickets, parties and more, visit allstarweekendneworleans2017.com.

2. Zulu Coronation Ball February 24

The beginning of the New Year also marks the beginning of Carnival Season (for some earlier than

others). One of the most sought after events is the Annual Zulu Coronation Ball. This past October, the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club announced the performers for the upcoming Coronation Ball, which include Jaheim, The O'jays and Bell Biv Devoe. This year's ball will take place Friday, February 24, 2017, at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. As always, a strict dress code is enforced: Men wear Black Tuxedos and Ladies wear Floor Length Gowns. Tickets and Table reservations will be sold through the club and online at <https://www.eventbrite.com>.

3. First Annual Top Taco Festival - March 23

This Year New Orleans will host its first-ever Taco Festival in the Central Business District at the Riverwalk. Tickets for this new event cost \$65, but, along

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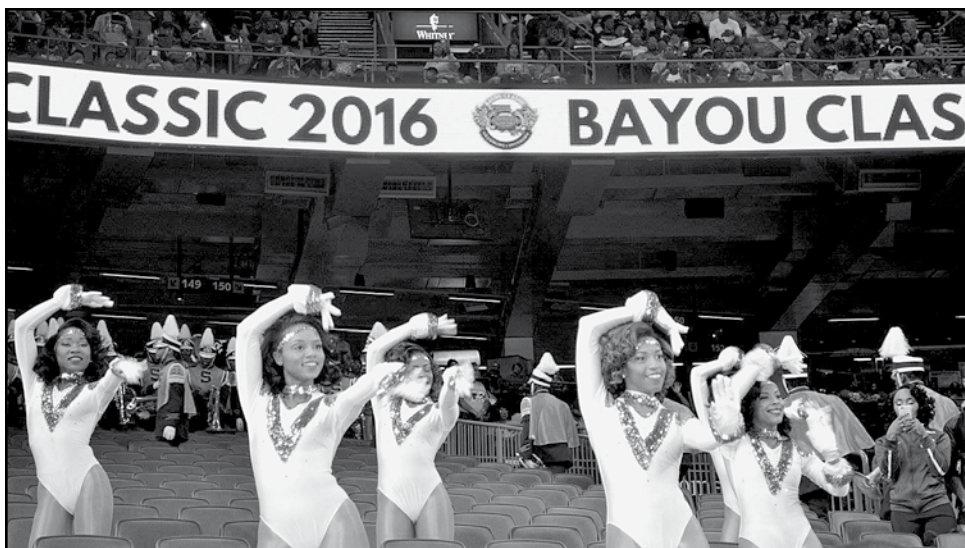
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Clockwise from upper left. The Third Annual Treme' Fall Festival will have food, art and local performances. Essence Festival tickets are on sale now. The Annual Jazz Fest will take place at the Fairgrounds. Photo by Sailn1, Flickr. Voodoo Festival is expected to bring heavy-hitting performances in 2017. Gentilly Festival will span three days, featuring several performances and activities. Southern University will comeback for revenge after losing the 43rd Annual Bayou Classic Game last year. This year's Fried Chicken Festival is expected to be bigger and better than before.

with entry, it includes food and drinks.

4. New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival

During the weekends of the last week in April and the first week in May, the Annual Jazz & Heritage Festival will be held at the Fairgrounds. While the lineup is not official yet, expect there will be must-see performers, rain or shine. For more information and updates on Jazzfest, visit, nojazzfest.com.

5. Essence Festival - June 29 - July 2

Early July marks the annual Essence Festival in New Orleans hosted throughout the French Quarter. Beyond informational seminars, celebrity discussions, and on-the-spot updates, Essence Festival is also

known for its captivating concerts and performances. This year, Diana Ross, John Legend, Mary J. Blige and Solange are only a few of the headliners for this year's festival. The concerts will take place at the Mercedes Benz Superdome. Ticket prices start at \$189 for the concert, and, as always, the two-day Black Expo is free. To purchase tickets for the festival's concert, visit <http://www.essence.com/festival-2017>

6. Treme' Fall Festival - September 29 - Oct 1.

One of New Orleans newest festivals is anticipated to have another successful year in the Treme' community. The festival, which was originally a fundraiser to help restore the St. Augustine Catholic Church, will be held near the Church grounds. There will be sev-

eral local food and art vendors. Last year's headliners included Tank and the Bangas, Kermit Ruffins and Benny Jones. For more information and updates on the Annual Fall Festival, visit FaubourgTreme.wixsite.com/tremefest

7. Gentilly Festival - October 13 - 15.

In mid-October is the annual Gentilly Festival, a festival created to help recognize and support the Rebuilding and Growth of Gentilly. The festival runs a span of three days, which is full of several local artist performances, community sponsors, and activities for the children. There will also be several local food and art vendors. For more information on the festival, visit www.gentillyfest.com.

8. Voodoo Music + Arts Experience Festival - October 27-29.

During Halloween, one of the largest music and art events takes over City Park. While the Voodoo Festival line up is not complete, every year the organizers gather some of the finest musicians around the nation to perform in New Orleans. For more information on Voodoo Fest, visit, <https://www.voodooofestival.com>.

9. 44th Annual Bayou Classic - November 21 - 25

This year New Orleans will host the 44th Annual Bayou Classic. After the Grambling State Tigers won the series tiebreaker, the Southern University Jaguars will come back with competitive vengeance. During the Thanksgiving weekend,

Bayou Classic is one of the most diverse and vast festivals during the year with events for football-lovers and regular Joes. visit www.mybayouclassic.com for on the spot updates of the events.

10. Fried Chicken Festival - To Be Announced

Last year New Orleans held its First Annual Fried Chicken Festival at Lafayette Square. After thousands of residents and visitors attended the festival, the Speak Groups, the organizer of the Fried Chicken Festival, is planning to extend the event to two days and use a bigger venue. While the venue and day is still to be announced, stay up to date with Data News Weekly for on the spot updates on Fried Chicken Festival.

Congress Richmond Officially Swears in as Congressional Black Caucus Chair

Eric M Craig
Multimedia Editor

On Tuesday, January 3, 2016, Congressman Cedric Richmond was officially sworn in as the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Richmond represents Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District, and recently won re-election by a landslide this past December.

"I'd like to thank my colleagues in the CBC that gave me their vote of confidence and this awesome responsibility for the next two years. And their love, support, guidance and mentorship has meant the world to me for the last six years," Richmond said.

The Congressional Caucus is composed of 49 members. 47 of the members are in the U.S. House of Representatives. Two members are in the U.S. Senate.



U.S. Representative Cedric Richmond will lead the the Congressional Black Caucus in the 115th Congress.

Richmond said that while the members represent both parties, they all have worked hard to represent the African-American

Population of the country, and for the betterment of their communities throughout the nation.

"There are many American, especially Black Americans who can't understand how we got here today," Richmond said, referring

to the nation's current position towards President-elect Trump and the division of the nation.

"We will head to many lessons from our leaders that came before, but we will innovate and evolve to tackle the challenges we face today," Richmond said.

"We won't give in, we won't give up and we won't fall down. We will continue to bend the arch towards justice." The Ceremony was held in Washington D. C. The Ceremony also inducted new members to the Congressional Black Caucus. Congressman Richmond thanked his family for their support when he decided to run for office at 25. He also thanked his wife, Raquel for her undying support.

Richmond's Wife, Mother, Sister-in-law and Brother were present at the Ceremony.

Our lives begin to end

**THE DAY WE
BECOME SILENT**

about things that matter.

Martin Luther King Jr. |

Paraphrased from a sermon, March 8, 1965

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Fashion & Style

Delaney's Armoire

Where Makeup and Fashion Collide



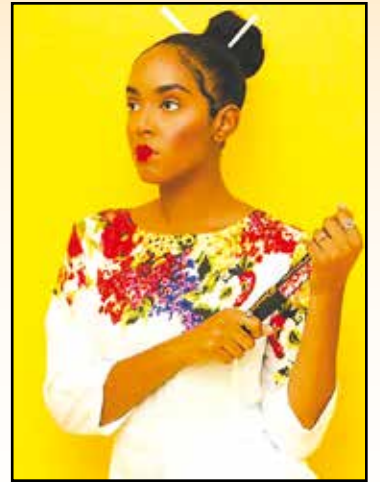
Local model gives a fierce pose as she embodies a disco/retro theme, thanks to the makeup applied by Harris. Shot by: Alexander Le'Jo. Le'Jo.



Harris's domestic violence shoot, and most viral work of art consisted of several cosmetic bruises, scars, scratches and fake blood to capture pain. Shot by: Delaney George.



Harris expresses her social frustration by capturing the graphic reality through makeup; applying a theatrical bullet in the middle of her head accompanied by running fake blood.



Local model poses in Japanese themed shoot shot by Miesha Williams, styled by Syraj Hamilton, and makeup by Harris.



Delaney George
Columnist

Fashion has many layers, which makes it the topic we know and love today. One of the most influential components of fashion is cosmetology, which can make or break a design, the model, or even the overall theme of a showcase.

Local New Orleans Makeup Artist Ebony Harris, 21, has had much experience with

cosmetics, especially in the fashion arena.

Harris, also known as "BeatByEbb" started as a beauty makeup artist, applying makeup to the everyday woman for occasions or shoots. Overtime, Harris began to master theatrical, beauty, and high fashion makeup. Since mastering these makeup components, Harris is

published in over 27 magazines globally, recognizing her cosmetic artistry. Her latest project, which is dedicated to domestic violence, went viral receiving over 1 million views via various social media sites.

Harris's influence in the local fashion scene blossomed since her success. Her art has captured the essence of sev-

eral photo shoot themes such as disco, Japanese cherry blossom, spice girl, and even social injustice issues. Harris has also participated as the head makeup artist for local fashion shows, capturing the vision of the designers through makeup.

"I am very passionate about makeup because it helped my life, and I

want to build that confidence in other people when I do their makeup" Harris said.

Harris's work and booking info can be found on Instagram or Twitter at @BeatbyEbb. For Harris's work calendar and schedule visit www.styleseat.com/ebonyharris4.

The Curly Corner

4 Ways to Use Apple Cider Vinegar for Natural Hair



Destiny Johnson
Natural Hair Columnist

Apple Cider Vinegar is used as an ingredient in the kitchen to cook a range of meals. However, this very basic substance, that is probably lying around in your cabinet, has

some pretty amazing benefits for your hair. Although it has a strong scent and is highly acidic, Apple Cider Vinegar, or ACV, should be a staple in any natural haired girl's routine. Here are four ways that you can use Apple Cider Vinegar to boost the health of your curls.

1. A Clarifier – Apple Cider Vinegar can be used to cleanse your scalp of oil and hair products that a regular hair wash would not be able to do on its own. Use about ½ of a cup of Apple Cider Vinegar and a ½ cup of water

in a spray bottle. Spray this mixture over your hair, particularly your scalp, and then wash as usual. You can use more than a ½ of a cup of Apple Cider Vinegar depending on how much product buildup is on your scalp.

2. A Braid Spray – Braids and twists are beautiful but sometimes they can get itchy as the style gets older. Pour about a ½ of a cup of Apple Cider Vinegar and a ½ of a cup of water in a spray bottle. Spritz this mix on your scalp in between the braids to relieve itching.

3. Frizz Reducer – Use a small amount of Apple Cider Vinegar during your usual wash routine to help smooth down your cuticles and promote defined, non-frizzy curls.

4. Split Ends and Breakage Reducer – Apple Cider Vinegar helps to naturally remove tangles and improve porosity. This allows you to have an easier detangling process by reducing the amount of breakage you might get from combing. A simple Apple Cider Vinegar rinse will also strengthen your strands to help you avoid split ends.



Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from Fashion & Style.

Celebration in the Oaks, A Three-Decade Holiday Tradition

Alexis Davis
Data News Weekly Contributor

As the Christmas season and New Year has come to an end, so has open of City Park's most popular exhibition.

The annual Holiday Light Display in New Orleans' City Park opened to the public on Thanksgiving Day and remained open until Jan. 1. This lighting extravaganza began in 1987 with glittering lights hanging from the limbs of City Park's picturesque oak trees. This soon became a sensation to tour the rambling lightscape in the center of the City. By 1990, this outstanding display, then called Christmas in the Oaks, drew over 350,000 visitors to the park each year.

Royal Benetrix, 63, is the man behind the lights. He has been with Celebration of the Oaks from the beginning in 1986. He's the creator of the famous Milky Way structure that bejeweled the park. Along with his crew of six, plus volunteer assistants, the team doesn't begin installing the lights until the very end when all the structures are in place.

"The final three weeks before we open are very intense, non-stop," Benetrix said. "Failure is not an option."

Celebration in the Oaks is designed as an electrified toy chest of giant glittering playthings. A few signature light sculptures, such as the rocking horse, an antlered alligator and a fish-gulping pelican, were custom-made by artisans hired by City



Park over the past 29 years.

"For five years, straight my family and I made this place our Christ-



mas tradition," said Crystal Louis, a resident of Vicksburg, Mississippi. "My two younger daughters

Hailey and Rachael love the rides; and my husband and I love the hot coco and atmosphere."

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



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What We Can Learn From The Black Panther Party Today



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

Matthew “Peanut” Johnson was 16 years-old when San Francisco police officer Alvin Johnson killed him. The unarmed teen was said to have been fleeing a stolen car, and Officer Johnson claimed that he feared for his life, so he shot. The September 27, 1966 slaying was too much for African Americans in the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood of San Francisco, and folks

took it to the streets in protest. Through the lens of “law and order,” the uprising was so out of control that Governor “Pat” Edmund Brown called in the National Guard.

Some thought that calling the National Guard was an inflammatory overreaction. As the history website FoundSF writes of the scene: “Perhaps the best indication of both the essentially passive character of the response of Black males in Hunters Point and the unreasonable magnitude of White fears is the fact that, aside from long-range brick throwing, less than a half dozen assaults by Blacks against Whites were recorded in the course of five days of rioting.” According to some reporters, the police were overaggressive. In one case, police officers opened fire on a community center full of children

because they thought the children were armed. But when the children escaped, police reportedly entered the building looking for weapons, of which none were found.

The San Francisco Sun Reporter, the premier African American newspaper in the Bay Area (full disclosure, I got my start as a column writer for them in 1980), reported on Peanut Johnson’s death with a front page headline, “Cop Kills Negro Youth; Blood Flows in SF Streets.” I had an opportunity to see a copy of the paper when I toured the Oakland Museum of California and spent a couple of hours inhaling the exhibit “All Power to the People: Black Panthers at 50.” In walking through the exhibit, one is struck with a sense of both progress and regress, a horrible sense of déjà vu, an ugly reminder that

for all the change we have experienced, there is a rigid racism that determines the way some people treat Black people. And our community seems to be somewhat unimaginative in managing solutions.

The young man who was killed on September 27, 1966 was named Matthew Johnson, but he could have been named Philando Castile, Tamir Rice, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, or let’s just call the roll. The officer who shot him was, of course, acquitted. The killing, and the acquittal, both galvanized people around the Black Panther Party fifty years ago, just as the killing of Michael Brown galvanized the Black Lives Matter movement a couple of years ago.

A review of the Black Panther Party Ten Point Platform reminds us that things like culturally sensi-

tive education, jobs, decent housing, food, and health care are still not accessible for all Americans, and that African Americans are far less likely to have access than others. The platform is displayed prominently in the multi-media exhibit space, along with pictures of many of the Panther founders, a film featuring Bobby Seale and other Panther leaders, including Erika Huggins, music of the times, and copies of the Black Panther newspaper. More than a walk down memory lane, the exhibit was, for me, a reminder of an audacity that so many African American young people exhibited in the face of oppression. One of the Panther newspapers had the headline, “Capitalism Plus Racism Breeds Fascism.”

Commentary, Continued on page 9.

Blackonomics

Black-Owned Comprotax Is One Of The Best In The Business



By James Clingman
NNPA News Wire
Columnist

Having written many articles on what takes place from January through April, each year, relative to our tax payments and refunds, I understand that we need reinforcement and repetition on certain issues. Just as advertisers and marketers understand the power of continuous exposure to their messages, Black folks need the same thing, especially when it comes to getting us to act on basic, sound, practical, and collective economic and business principles. So please take a little time to read my latest repetitive missive on one of this nation’s finest Black-owned businesses: ComproTax.

The tax preparation industry generates between \$6 billion and

\$9 billion annually, which indicates that there are plenty of tax returns to go around – the IRS estimates that there will be over 250 million filed by 2018 with revenues of \$11 billion! Compared to our percentage of population (13 percent), Black-owned tax preparation businesses should have revenues of at least \$1 billion. As far as I am concerned, ComproTax alone should be a billion-dollar business, considering it has some 220 affiliates throughout the nation.

One advantage that ComproTax brings to its customers is year-round services. That’s because ComproTax is more than a tax preparation service. Most of the large chains only come into our neighborhoods for four months or so, until around April 15. ComproTax is always there, providing Tax Preparation Training, Insurance Products, Bookkeeping Services, Payroll Services, Business Mentoring, and Small Business Consulting.

Additionally, ComproTax Founder, Jackie Mayfield, and his two co-founders, Yusuf Muhammad and Craig Johnson, believe in

something many Black businesses only talk about: Giving back. They return some of their profits to community activities and charitable causes, and they provide sponsorships for many Black events across the country. In other words, they are “Conscientiously Conscious” business owners.

Mayfield stated: “When it comes to tax preparation, you have a lot of choices. So, why choose ComproTax? ComproTax provides complete and professional tax preparation and bookkeeping services with the personal attention that you deserve. We have over 220 offices nationwide and we are steadily growing. In addition to our convenient office locations, we have hundreds of mobile affiliates that will come directly to you. Our tax preparers are committed to ongoing training to ensure that you get the best service and the best tax refund available. In short, we offer a vast network of trained professionals that are ready to serve you in tax season and out of season.”

He continued: “At ComproTax we are about relationships. We

work hard to get your business and develop a relationship of trust. We do this by being knowledgeable about new laws and requirements that affect your taxes, being reliable, and being confidential. That’s why our customers come back to us year after year. Don’t trust just anyone to handle your taxes and confidential books. Contact a ComproTax professional and begin a relationship with someone that you can trust.”

One thing I personally love to brag about is the Compro Event Center, a full-service convention center built, owned, and operated by ComproTax a few years ago and located in Beaumont, Texas. Managed by Fred Zeno, another ComproTax stalwart and long-time business associate to Mayfield and the co-founders, the Event Center is a spacious and luxuriously appointment venue that can be used for weddings, various meetings and conventions, parties, and banquets. I am proud to say that THE One Million Conscientious and Voters will hold our quarterly Training and Orientation gathering

there January 6-8, 2017. It would be great if other Black groups would do likewise; it is one thing to talk about supporting Black venues, but it is much better to act upon those words.

ComproTax was founded in 1982 and has since created a platform for true economic empowerment via entrepreneurship, by modeling a high level of conscientious consciousness in addition to merely talking about it. As Brother Mayfield said in a speech 16 years ago at a MATAH conference in Philadelphia, “Not only should we be conscious, our consciousness must be disturbed enough for us to do what must be done to achieve real economic power.”

To that I say Ase (Ashe) and Amen!

We should support this and other Black owned businesses that believe in reciprocity and providing top-quality goods and services to their customers. For more information on ComproTax and to find an office near you, go to www.comprotax.net or call 1-888-884-2829. In any case, however, use a competent Black-owned tax firm this year.

2016 Recap

Louisiana August Flood Recovery

Data News Staff Edited Report

Federal Disaster Assistance comes in many forms to support various recovery functions. Below is a breakdown of the various forms of assistance Louisiana disaster survivors and communities have received since the August flood:

- National Flood Insurance Program authorized and issued nearly \$2.2 billion in payments so policyholders can repair and rebuild flood-damaged property.
- The U.S. Small Business Administration has approved low-interest disaster loans of about \$1.2 billion to help businesses, private non-profits, homeowners and renters recover from property losses and other damage. Loans have been approved for more than 17,000 homeowners,



Patricia Anderson, resident of East Baton Rouge said that in August five-feet of flood water damaged her house.

renters and businesses.

- FEMA has approved grants

of approximately \$588 million through the Individual Assis-

tance Program to help households temporarily pay for a place to stay and make repairs to make their homes safe, sanitary and secure. About \$158 million has helped households pay for disaster-related expenses like replacing essential household items, and moving and storage costs.

- FEMA's Public Assistance Program has reimbursed more than \$271 million to local and state government and certain private non-profit entities in 26 designated parishes for emergency and permanent work. Eligible work may include repairing or replacing of disaster-damaged facilities and infrastructure, debris removal and response activities.
- FEMA has also implemented two programs to meet the in-

creased housing need of disaster survivors:

- Nearly 2,600 households have moved into Manufactured Housing Units (MHUs). MHUs are the last resort for survivors whose primary home is uninhabitable, have uninsured housing needs, and have no other practical temporary housing resources within a reasonable commuting distance from their primary residence.
- More than 1,300 households are now in the Transitional Sheltering Assistance Program. The program provides rooms in participating hotels to flood survivors. Survivors have until Jan. 17th to check out.

The state and FEMA continue to review ways to help communities and survivors recover from the August flood.

Commentary, Continued from page 8.

That is, perhaps, a timely slogan for these troubling times, but few mainstream African American politicians will use the word "fascism" in a sentence.

The more important part of the story of the Black Panther Party is the story of resistance to injustice, resistance despite the interference of the FBI, Herbert Hoover, and Cointelpro. If the Panthers could develop more than 40 chapters without the assistance of the electronic media, is there any limit to what we can do now?

We limit ourselves. There is an unseemly caution among African American people. Too many have learned how to color within the lines; many have been rewarded for it. Insanity means doing the same thing over and over, then hoping for different results. And so too many, including leaders, have taken the "go along to get along" approach,

forgetting that sometimes getting along is not enough.

If you are tired and dispirited in the wake of the 2016 elections, the Power to the People exhibit at the Oakland Museum might be the energizer that you need. Perhaps you need to be reminded that a group of audacious young people, facing obstacles, and lacking substantial resources, were able to raise important issues and make some changes in the ways Black people thought about themselves. And the Black Panther Party may also have made a difference, if just a bit of one, in the way that Black people are treated.

When we celebrate the Black Panther Party, we celebrate the concept of resistance. In these coming years, when resistance to oppression and unfairness will be critically necessary, celebrating the Black Panther Party is an opportunity for renewal.

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Historians Rank President Obama's Legacy

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Supporters and critics alike may eventually come to view President Barack Obama's two-term White House tenure the same way.

His determination for change never appeared to cause him to stumble on his goals, be it Obamacare or commuting the sentences of so many who were imprisoned for so long — primarily because of antiquated laws that punished mostly low-level minority drug offenders.

Even as Obama is set to leave office, he took unprecedented steps to retaliate against alleged Russian interference in the 2016 election.

Obama labeled Russia's action as significant, malicious and cyber-enabled and sanctioned six Russian individuals and five Russian entities while ordering dozens of Russian diplomats to leave the country.

The president also gave them and their families just three days to pack up and leave.

"These actions follow repeated private and public warnings that we have issued to the Russian government, and are a necessary and appropriate response to efforts to harm U.S. interests in violation of established international norms of behavior," Obama said in the statement released by the White House.

It's the kind of action that some said will make them miss the progress of the past eight years and critics will come to realize that Obama's place in history will be a lofty one.



Historians agree that the Affordable Care Act will stand as one of President Obama's greatest achievements during his tenure in The White House. (Freddie Allen/AMG/NNPA)

"The biggest tragedy of the Obama presidency was the relentless and often irrational unwillingness of Republican lawmakers to work with him to achieve meaningful objectives," said Mario Almonte, a public relations specialist who also blogs about politics and social issues. "Even so, many years from now, when the history of his presidency comes into better focus, our society will come to recognize the enormous impact Barack Obama had on American culture and possibly world culture as the first Black president of the United States."

And, as Kevin Drum a writer for "Mother Jones" noted, Obama has

moved forward on eight substantial executive actions over the past month — aside from the Russian sanctions — including enacting a permanent ban on offshore oil and gas drilling in areas of the Arctic and the Atlantic Seaboard; he's refused to veto a UN resolution condemning Israel's settlements in the West Bank; designated two new national monuments totaling more than 1.6 million acres — Bears Ears Buttes in southeastern Utah and Gold Butte in Nevada; and he's instructed the Department of Homeland Security to formally end the long-discussed NSEERs database.

Obama has also instructed the Army Corps of Engineers to deny final permits for the Dakota Access Pipeline where it crosses the Missouri River near the Standing Rock Sioux reservation and he's issued a final rule that bans the practice among some red states of withholding federal family-planning funds from Planned Parenthood and other health clinics that provide abortions.

Also, the outgoing president completed rules to determine whether schools were succeeding or failing under the "Every Student Succeeds Act."

"He was most effective as a nor-

mal president, and he helped put the presidency back on a human scale," said Stephen Walt, a professor of international affairs at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. "He was a devoted and involved father, a loving husband, a man with acknowledged — albeit — vices, and someone who made it clear that he did not regard himself as omniscient."

Walt continued: "As president, he showed that effective governing requires careful deliberation, discipline, and the willingness to make hard and imperfect decisions, and he let us all watch him do just that."

Walt added that future historians will give President Obama "full marks" for never acting impulsively or cavalier.

Daniel Rodgers, the Henry Charles Lea Professor of History, emeritus and historian of American ideas and culture who taught at Princeton University, wrote that what buoyed Obama's aspirations was not a program, but a dream that in his person, the people might come together and shape politics to their will and common aspirations.

"That was what the 'we' in the brilliant 'Yes We Can' slogan in the 2008 campaign was essentially about," Rodgers said. "He has not called the nation to new feats of courage — ala Kennedy — to make war on poverty — as Johnson did — even to dream more freely than ever before — as stated by Reagan. What Obama's words have called for is for Americans to be the people they already are."

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Fox Host and St. Louis Police Group Want Teen's Artwork Removed From U.S. Capitol

Lauren Victoria Burke
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On December 29, Fox News personality Eric Bolling spoke out against a painting by a high school artist and constituent of Rep. Lacy Clay (D-Mo.), who represents greater St. Louis and the city of Ferguson, Missouri.

"I'm saying to the three million people out there right now. Call your Congressman or call Lacy Clay's office and say 'get that picture down' cops do not need to be depicted in this way. Blue Lives Matter," Bolling told the audience on the Fox News show "The Five."

The painting in question depicts a street scene that includes a protest march and animals in police uniforms. It also includes a depiction of a citizen facing a cop depicted as a horse-like figure pointing a gun at a citizen depicted as a wolf. The artwork is now hanging in a long hallway that connects the U.S. Capitol to the Cannon House Office Building where many members have offices.

The piece called "Untitled #1" was painted by David Pulphus, 18, and is amongst hundreds of other pieces of artwork by high school students as part of annual art competition by the student constituents of members of Congress across the country. The police killing of Michael Brown in August 2014 by a Ferguson Police Officer soon followed by the killings



Fox News Personality Eric Bolling encouraged his viewers demand the removal of David Pulphus' Artwork from the U.S. Capitol. At the time of the painting, Pulphus was an 18 year-old high school student. (David Pulphus)

of Kajieme Powell and teenager Vonderrick Myers near St. Louis may have served as inspiration for the artist.

The day after Bolling's pronouncement to remove the painting from the Capitol, Congressman Clay issued a statement, in part, to correct inaccurate information in several press reports that Rep. Clay selected the winning art. Members of Congress typically use a panel of judges that

select the winning art in the popular annual contest and take no part in judging the artwork.

"Members of Congress support student art competitions in our districts, but we do not select the young artists and we do not judge the artwork. I had no role in selecting the winner of this student art competition and I would never attempt to approve or disapprove artistic expression. The U.S. Capitol is a symbol of free-

dom, not censorship. The young artist chose his own subject and the painting will not be removed," Rep. Clay said in a statement on December 30.

Joe Patterson, president of the St. Louis County Police Association, said that "we are not about censorship, but good art and good taste are sometimes not the same thing," regarding the student's work. The work by the high school students hangs each year for a little less than a year; new art is selected each summer.

The U.S. Capitol features several pieces of permanent, paintings and sculpture of figures from American history many may find objectionable. Several racists, segregationists and confederate figures are featured as statues, busts and in paintings in the U.S. Capitol building including Confederate "President" Jefferson Davis, and pro-slavery Presidents Andrew Jackson and John Calhoun.

A large portrait of the late Alabama Senator and segregationist James Eastland also hangs on the third floor of the U.S. Capitol above the Senate Chamber.

Lauren Victoria Burke is a political analyst who speaks on politics and African-American leadership. Lauren is also a frequent contributor to the NNPA Newswire and BlackPressUSA.com. She can be contacted at LBurke007@gmail.com and on Twitter at @LVBurke.

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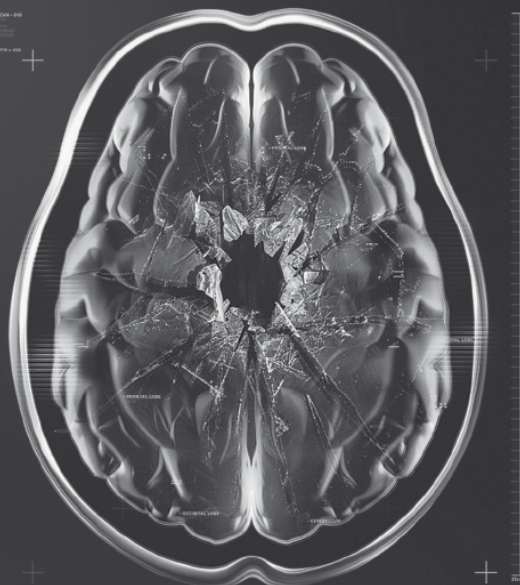
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