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May 6 - May 12, 2017 51st Year Volume 54 [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com)

A Data News Weekly Exclusive



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# Upcoming Festivals in May



Crawfish Mambo 2017. Photo via Crawfish Mambo official website.

**Eric M Craig**  
Multimedia Editor

As with the weather, festival season in New Orleans began to warm up in April. Now that April has come to a close, and May has begun, festival season has finally matured.

April was filled with a weekend of French Quarter Festival, The Crescent City Classic, the start of the Jazz in the Park Series at Louis Armstrong Park, and the first week of Jazz Fest.

So, how does May compare? Well, to start, there's a festival every weekend of this month.

Get the festival chairs ready. Here is everything you

need to know about how and where to have fun this May.

**Week Two of Jazz Festival – May 4-7.**

Weather for the second week of the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Jazz Festival is expected to complement its fiery and anticipated performances. Musical

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### DATA NEWS WEEKLY

P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347 | Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622  
editorial: datanewseditor@bellsouth.net | advertising: datanewsad@bellsouth.net

<b>Terry B. Jones</b> CEO/Publisher	<b>Contributors</b> Eric M. Craig Crawfish Mambo official website	<b>Art Direction &amp; Production</b> MainorMedia.com
<b>Edwin Buggage</b> Editor	<b>Treme' 7th Ward of-</b> ficial festival website	<b>Editorial Submissions</b> datanewseditor@ bellsouth.net
<b>Eric Craig</b> Multimedia Editor	<b>Kichea S. Burt</b> Howard Scott	<b>Advertising Inquiries</b> datanewsad@ bellsouth.net
<b>Calla Victoria</b> Executive Assistant	<b>Ashe' Cultural Center</b> Jeffery Ugwuanyi	<b>Distribution</b> On The Run
<b>June Hazeur</b> Accounting	<b>Edwin Buggage</b> Delaney George	<b>Courier Services</b>
	<b>Destiny Johnson</b>	

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



Treme/7th Ward Festival. Image via official festival website.



Jazz Fest week two. Photo by Kichea S. Burt.

acts at the Fair Ground start on Thursday, May 4th, at 11:20 a.m. The final act ends at 7 p.m. on Sunday, May 7th.

During the second weekend of the musical phenomenon, expect performances from Earth Wind and Fire, Jason Marsalis and Doreen's Jazz New Orleans on Friday;

Stevie Wonder, Snoop Dog, Big Freedia and Tank and the Bangas on Saturday; Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue, Ellis Marsalis, Kermit Ruffins and Patti LaBelle on Sunday.

Tickets are still available for purchase for \$80 at <http://www.no-jazzfest.com/tickets/>.

### Crawfish Mambo 2017 – May 13

The University of New Orleans is hosting its premiere 5th Annual Cook-off & Musical Festival right on Lake Pontchartrain on Saturday, May 13, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Crawfish Mambo is hosted by the UNO Alumni Association as



Bayou Boogaloo. Photo by Howard Scott

a fundraiser to benefit the University of New Orleans.

The festival will have samplings of different crawfish boils, music performances by several local artists, and a crawfish competition featuring over 50 competing teams. This year, the University is hosting its own crawfish eating competition.

Tickets bought before May 13 can be purchased for \$20 at <https://crawfishmambo.com/tickets>. Tickets bought at the gate are \$30. Children seven and under get in for free.

### Bayou Boogaloo

May 19-21st marks the 11th Annual Mid-City Bayou Boogaloo. The Mid-City event is sponsored by the Mothership Foundation Charity. The festival is filled with local art and food vendors, family and kid-friendly activities, and a powerful line up. The event is free and open to the public.

This year's lineup includes Tank and the Bangas on Friday, May 19th, at 6:15 p.m.; New Breed Brass Band on Saturday, May 20th at 2:45 p.m.; Cupid on Saturday, May 20th at 5:15 p.m.; Chris Thomas King

on Saturday, May 20th at 6:30 p.m.; and Water Seed, on Saturday, May 20th, at 7:15 p.m.

For a full list of this year's Bayou Boogaloo lineup, visit <http://www.thebayouboogaloo.com/lineup/artists/>.

### Treme' 7th Ward Cultural Festival

This year a new festival is in town, and its centered around the Treme' and 7th Ward neighborhood. Taking place along Basin Street and North Claiborne Avenue, is a free festival celebrating music, culture and food that is quintessential to these two neighborhoods.

Musical performances at this year's festival include Kermit Ruffins & the BBQ Swingers, Treme' Brass Band, Nisha Ruffins, Original Royal Players Brass Band, and other local artist.

Special performances and events are available to attend for a charge, including a unique tour of the Treme' and 7th Ward neighborhood and a separate Babydoll Bar Crawl Performance.

For more information about the event, visit: <http://treme7thwardcd.org/>

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# Central City Visitors Center to Launch May 5th

## Ashé Cultural Art Center

Ashé Cultural Arts Center (Ashé), its Board and Worldwide Travel Experiences (WTE), in partnership with the Oretha Castle Haley Blvd, Merchants and Business Association, Central City Renaissance Alliance and the New Orleans Multicultural Tourism Network, announce the launch of the Central City Visitors Center, the first of its kind on Oretha Castle Haley Blvd. in New Orleans. The official opening is May 5th, 2017 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Ashé, 1724 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd. The event includes a ribbon-cutting and an afternoon of entertainment to mark the occasion.

Said Carol Bebel, Co-founder and Executive Director of Ashé, "The Visitors Center is part of a continued unfolding of a nearly 40-year-old community vision, with the help of developers like Kathy Laborde and Gulf Coast Housing Partnership, community organizations, community leaders, elected officials, the City's Administration, as well as state and national philanthropic funders."

It's no mystery that Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard is on the move. In fact, it features a fresh new look and a slew of activities at the many businesses and restaurants up and down the street. A few days ago, Mayor Mitch Landrieu, City



The Ashé Cultural Center is located on 1712 Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard. Photo via Ashé Cultural Center

and state officials, and community stakeholders held a ribbon-cutting signaling the official completion of the Boulevard's \$1.85 million streetscape project.

On the heels of that activity, the Visitors Center plans to establish itself as a hub for tourists and locals who want to explore Central City and learn more about its incredible culture and history, as well as that of surrounding attractions in the greater New Orleans area.

Featured at the launch will be

a Mardi Gras Indian Suit Exhibition with colorful, authentic suits created and worn by Big Chief Howard Miller of the Creole Wild West (CWW). Miller, who will be in attendance along with members of his gang, is the President of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Indians Council and Director of the CWW Youth Program.

Also, showcased will be costumes worn by The New Orleans Creole Belle Baby Dolls Marching Club, photography from the Co-sette Richard Collection, and visual art created by senior citizens of the Central City Economic Opportunity Corporation.

The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, call (504) 569-9070.

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# Jazz Fest 2017 Week One

**Kichea S. Burt**  
Photographer

On last weekend, The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation's kicked off the 2017 Jazz Festival at the Fairgrounds. The weekend was filled with several fun, local and national acts that kept the crowd yearning for more. Despite the inclement weather that delayed the festival until the afternoon on Sunday, Jazz Fest continued to attract large and eager crowds.



JD Hill and Deacon John



Singer with Maceo Parker



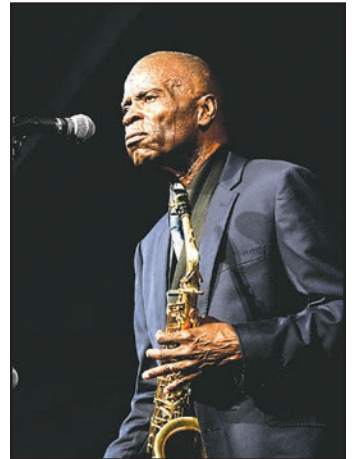
Margie Perez



Singer with Mokoomba of Zimbabwe



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Washitaw Nation Spy Boy  
Eric Burt



Ashland Parker n Douce Brown of Trumpet Mafia



John Boutte



# Pretty Nasty Party at Generations Hall

**Eric M Craig**  
Multimedia Editor

Last weekend, Gamma Rho & Krescent City Diamond Club presented the Pretty Nasty Party. Hosted at Generations Hall, the party remained live from the start to the end (which was around 3 a.m.)



Visit [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com) for more photos from these events

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# Documentary Marks 25th Anniversary of LA Riots and Why It Still Resonates Today

Jeffery Ugwuanyi  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

Xavier University hosted a screening of National Geographic Documentary Films LA 92 that features rare archive footage of the events surrounding the Rodney King Trial. The screening and a panel discussion took place at Xavier on April 27, 2017, allowing students to see parallels between King's trial 25 years ago and Michael Brown's today.

"I lived through it," Tia Smith, the Department Head of Mass Communication at Xavier, told the students at the screening, "Everything during that moment in time was powerful."

The event brought together Bri-



Several students attended the panel hosted by Dr. Brian Turner, Dr. Sharlene Sinegal-Decuir and Dr. Russell Frazier of Xavier and Dr. Tia Smith and Dr. Pamela Waldron-Moore. Photo by Jeffery Ugwuanyi.

an Turner, an Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology, Russell Fra-

zier, an Assistant Professor of Political Science, and Sharlene Sinegal-

Decuir, an Assistant Professor of History to explain to students why

the outcome of the Rodney King Trial was still relevant to today.

LA 92 runs, which had a limited theatre release in New York and Los Angeles premiered on TV on April 30th. The film is produced by two-time Oscar Winner Simon Chinn and by Emmy Winner Jonathan Chinn. It was directed by Oscar Winners Dan Lindsay and TJ Martin. The filmmakers wanted to contextualize the 25th Anniversary of the LA Riots by bringing multiple perspectives about issues of injustice at the time. Many of the scenes and perspectives in the documentary echoed today's concerns raised by the Black Lives Matter Movement.

"If you take the expansive time

**State & Local News,**  
Continued on page 9.

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## Attorney Cherrell Simms Taplin Appointed to Louisiana Supreme Court

### Data News Staff Edited Report

Attorney Cherrell Simms Taplin has been appointed, by order of the Louisiana Supreme Court, as Judge Pro Tempore of Orleans Parish Civil District Court, Division "J," according to Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson. Taplin will fill the vacancy created by the election of Judge Paula A. Brown to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal and she will serve from May 1, 2017 through November 30, 2017, or until the vacancy is filled by an election, whichever comes sooner.

Taplin received her undergraduate degree from Loyola University in 1998 and her law degree from Loyola University School of Law in 2002. Taplin has been serving as Senior Chief Deputy City Attorney for the City of New Orleans since December 2013 where she was responsible for the oversight of the Law Department Staff, budget assistance and office management, as well as overseeing and directing



Attorney Cherrell Simms Taplin

over 1,000 active cases in litigation.

Prior to her service with the City of New Orleans, Taplin was in the practice of law with the firm Galloway, Johnson, Tompkins, Burr and Smith, APLC, from December 2006

until December 2013 where she handled a Diverse Civil Defense Practice in addition to oversight of associates and senior-level guidance and supervision of project and case assignments. From October 2002 until December 2006, Taplin was an Associate with Bryan & Jupiter, APLC.

Taplin is a former president and a Member of the Board of Governors of the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society. She served on the regional and national board of governors, as well as co-chair of the Annual Convention Planning Committee of the National Bar Association. She is a member of a number of professional organizations including: the Louisiana State Bar Association; the National Bar Association; the American Inn of Court, A.P. Tureaud Chapter; and the Defense Research Institute. She was a 2009 recipient of the Loyola University College of Law, Black Law Students Association (BLSA) Distinguished Alumni Award.



# Let Me Find Out about Fifth Ward Weebie... Taking Over The Big Easy

Edwin Buggage  
Editor

## Fifth Ward Weebie... The Making of a Mogul

Jerome Cosey A-K-A Fifth Ward Weebie is known as a bounce and rap phenomenon that's known to rock parties with his high-energy songs. A few years ago, he created the song and video "Let Me Find Out" that's gone viral on YouTube and along with his other hits are still dance floor classics. But outside of music he is a mogul in the making and Philanthropist; giving of his time and resources back to the community. He has been spearheading events for years that have brought the likes of Avant, Chante' Moore, Meagan Good and others to New Orleans. Most recently he's created an event called "Laugh and Chill" that combines music and comedy. "Laugh and Chill is important for New Orleans because it contains two of the things I feel are key elements in life; Comedy & Music, which both heals the soul," says Weebie. This is the fifth installment of the series that's featured nationally renowned comedians Michael Blackson, Gary Owen and Pierre Edwards, in addition to R&B Sensations Musiq and Carl Thomas.

## Bouncing to the Top

While the genre of Bounce Music has been exploding over the past few years with Big Freedia at the forefront of the movement and Pop Sensation Miley Cyrus twerking and Beyonce', who has for many years taken bounce elements



Fifth Ward Weebie.

and made them mainstream. Unlike some Bounce artist who are no longer in the music game, Weebie is the one artist whose music spans generations and continues to be relevant. Speaking of the success of "Let Me Find Out" and was he surprised he says, "Yes and no. Yes, because I didn't expect people old and new fans a/k/a family to interact with the song the way they did. And no because I really worked on "Let Me Find Out" for almost three months before recording it and I also knew it was a shock song. I am excited that it took off the way it did and thanks to all the people who continue to support me and my many projects."

Over the years Fifth Ward Weebie has been able to take Bounce into other genres, such as with

Brass Bands, Trombone Shorty, PJ Morton in addition to working with hip-hop heavyweights Master P and Lil Wayne. Speaking of why he is able to seamlessly take his brand of bounce into unfamiliar terrain he says, "What I bring all the time is great energy and good Nola Music. It's like great Gumbo and that is what our music is in New Orleans and I just put my own spin on it and make it fit with any style of music."

## Recipe for Success

Speaking of flavor Weebie also gets down on the food tip. On any given Sunday, you can catch him boiling crawfish at Encore, located in Metairie. "I boil crawfish because I love it and it's a Louisiana thing baaaby!!! Continuing he says, "Me & my partner B Streezy been boil-



ing for fun as a hobby until Q93 DJ Wild Wayne invited us to boil one year for a DJ Roof Top Party In L.A

for the BET Awards Weekend and the people loved it. So, we came up with the idea of a day party on Sunday because nobody was doing day parties. So, we invite the City to come enjoy some good food, chill, and drink early from 3PM until 9PM and its \$10 Admission + FREE Seafood."

## Giving Back to the Community

As his star rises he has not forgotten where he comes from, he is constantly finding ways to give back to his community. "Me & My Childhood Friend Richard Hines have an organization we call "Hey Young World Inc." We go back to our community where we're from and host an event every year where we supply the kids in our neighborhood with school supplies, entertainment, food, and vital information about other community programs they can get their kids involved with."

## Lessons from Mama: Pray Hard Work Hard

His life is a testament that where you start does not determine where your life ends. He has created a recipe for success and in an inspiration for his community. Fifth Ward Weebie, who grew up in a single-family home says growing up in a single parent household was motivation for him. Also, he says the most valuable lesson in life he's learned is from his mother who simply told him to pray hard and work hard. This formula is working for him as he is letting the world find out what success and giving back looks like.

State & Local News, Continued from page 8.

between 1992 and modern day events of Trayvon Martin, Sandra Bland, and Philando Castile, you'll see that it's like a psychological distress," Turner said during the panel discussion. "What we do different and how do we help you all as you begin to face these issues?" Turner said is the work of this current generation.

At the age of 14, a sophomore in high school, Sinegal-Decuir shared her story of living through that time during the LA riots. "Obviously, I wasn't political at the time. I mean I saw all this happening on the news and I saw Rodney King get on TV and speak," she said, "but the real question is

continuity versus change. How much has remained the same and how much has changed and if we look at history, it basically repeated itself."

She pointed to riots that took place in 1965 and then in 1992 as being very much still similar to the riots that take place today in moments of civil unrest.

"We can learn a lot from history. In 2017, I hope we never see a riot like Rodney King's happen again but I definitely feel like the pressure is there," Sinegal-Decuir added. "We can only take so much before we erupt."

Read the full story on La-DataNews.com

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Delaney's Armoire

# Manage your Heels Fashionably



**Delaney George**  
Fashion Columnist

Heels have been the go-to shoe for as long as fashion has existed. Whether it's date night, church, or just a T-shirt & jeans type of night, heels work with every and any ensemble. However, many of us find heels very difficult to walk in but that doesn't mean you can't.

From wedges to stilettos there's an eye-catching height enhancer for every woman's foot. Here are some shoes to consider that will be easy and stylish to walk in.

## Wedges:

Wedges are always a great option for beginners in heels. Wedges are made to elevate the foot just like a heel, without the balance commitment. Wedges come in a large variation of sizes and wedge textures such as yarn or plastic based depending on your preference.



Block heels by @Egypttrendz on Instagram



Wedged heels by @Dinari&Co on Instagram



Stiletto heels on model @Delannii on Instagram

## Block Heels:

Block heels are a step up from wedges, but not as advanced as a stiletto. A block heel is not as elevated as a wedge but still hold the same basic shapes of the most popular heels such as pumps. Block heels are typically shorter and very easy to walk in while giving off the same edgy style as the most dangerous of heels.

## Stilettos:

Stilettos are the cream of the crop in the shoe world. Stilettos

are edgy, elevated, and eye catching. Although they are the most popular, they are the most challenging to walk in. Many women dislike the 4+ inch heels that some of them have or they aren't fans of the open or closed toe front. The stiletto's format is not for everyone but whether you are walking or sitting they look good on anyone's foot.

For more information on the best heel choice for you and where to buy email [Delinkey@yahoo.com](mailto:Delinkey@yahoo.com) or visit @Delannii on Instagram.

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## The Curly Corner

# 3 Reasons Why You Should Co-Wash Your Natural Hair



**Destiny Johnson**  
Natural Hair Columnist



Give your hair ultimate moisture with co-washing.

Wash day can turn into an all-day affair for natural men and women. Depending on your hair length, you might use several bottles of non-sulfate shampoo, conditioners, leave-in conditioners, and gels just to achieve your best wash and go. Using a conditioner instead of a shampoo can be the best option to maintain the health of your curls and here are three reasons why:

**1. Softening** – A conditioner can help to soften the hair after a

wash. Shampoos tend to dry out the hair and force you to use conditioner to bring the moisture back into your hair.

**2. Detangling** – A conditioner can be used to help detangle the hair since it can soften your hair while you comb through it. Conditioners can give your hair more slip which makes it easier for wide toothed combs and fingers to get through.

**3. Moisturizing** – The right conditioner can even be left in your hair for a certain amount of time in order to maximize the amount of moisture it can leave in your curls. The moisture in the conditioner can help to better clump your curls and coils together to show off your hair's beautiful pattern.

Happy Growing!

Follow me on Instagram @See-yourcurls

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### MCDONOGH 35

The National McDonogh 35 High School Alumni Association is reaching out to all graduates as it begins the celebration of the school's Centennial Celebration (1917 to 2017).

If you are a graduate or if you know of someone who graduated from the school, contact the alumni association at [mcdonogh35alumni-association@yahoo.com](mailto:mcdonogh35alumni-association@yahoo.com), [mcdonogh35alumniassociation.org](http://mcdonogh35alumniassociation.org), or write to McDonogh 35 Alumni Association, P.O. Box 50306, New Orleans, LA 70122, ATT: Alumni Association.

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