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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

# P.G.T. Beauregard Monument Rises as Next Problem for the City

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Threaten Funding

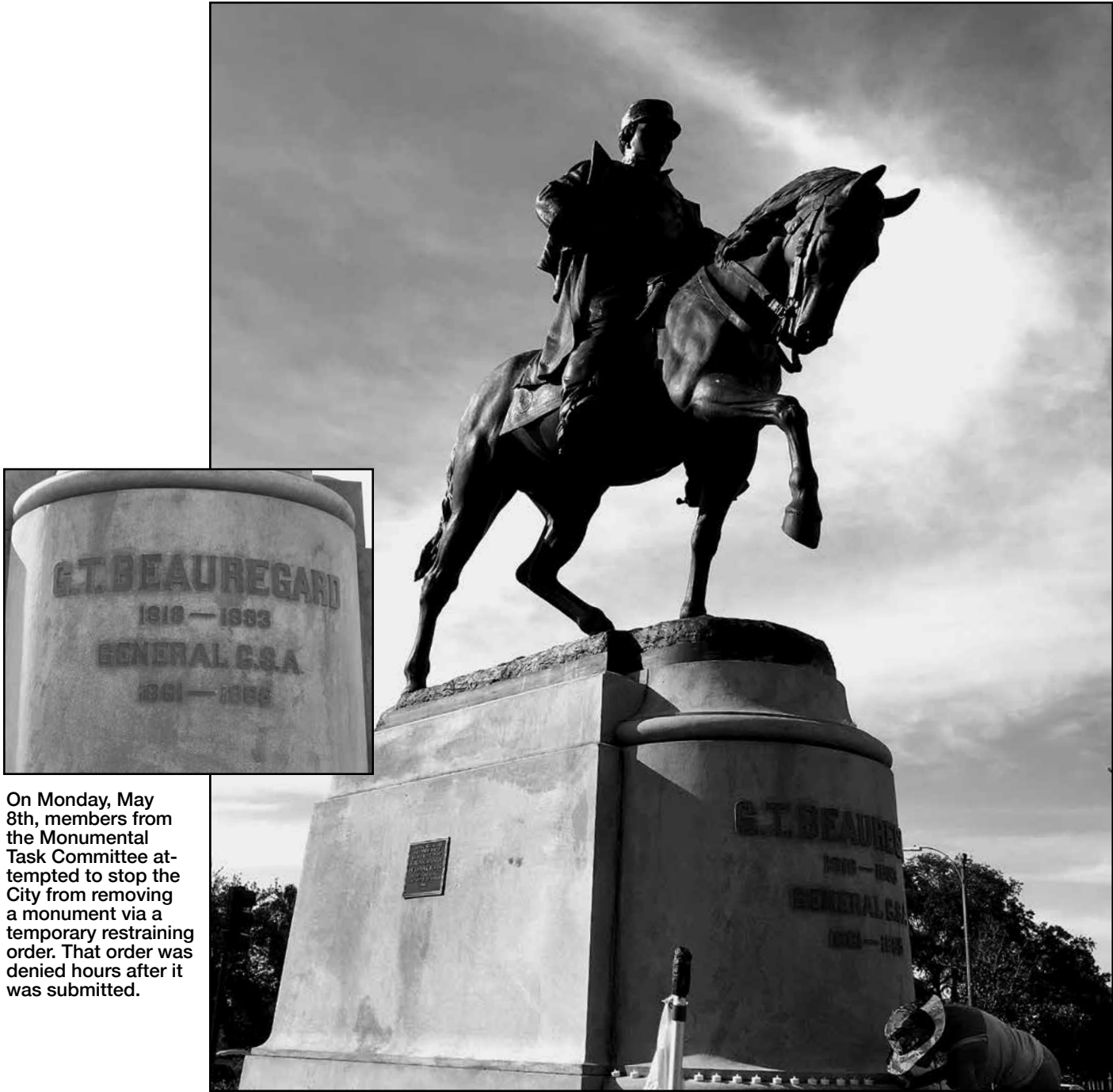
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# P.G.T Beauregard Monument Stirs Conflict in New Orleans



On Monday, May 8th, members from the Monumental Task Committee attempted to stop the City from removing a monument via a temporary restraining order. That order was denied hours after it was submitted.

The P.G.T. Beauregard Monument is located on Esplanade Avenue, at the entrance of City Park.

**Eric M Craig**  
Multimedia Editor

Monday, May 8th, marks two weeks since the first of the four Confederate Monuments was removed. Since then, the Landrieu Administration has remained quiet as monument protesters and supporters have voiced concerns and opinions at the sites of the surviving three monuments.

**P.G.T Beauregard**  
On Monday, organizers of the Monumental Task Committee proposed a temporary restraining order against the City, to prevent it from removing the P.G.T. Monument at City Park. Details of the restraining orders stated that the monument belongs to City Park—which is a private entity—and not the City of New Orleans. However, hours after the restraining order was submitted, the Orleans Parish Civil District Court denied the temporary restraining order and scheduled a secondary hearing this week.

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Cover Story Photos by Eric Craig

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

"We have a bitter history that is involved with all races, creeds and colors. We should come together in unity," said Jenna Bernstein, a monument supporter from Florida who camps at the P.G.T. Monument.

"I'm just disheartened as an American that we can't come together to respect history. To have empathy, love, and understanding. We're all human, we're all the same. These people [monuments] are dead; They can't defend themselves," she added.

Bernstein spent the afternoon lining the monument with candles and flags, and occasionally marched around the monument.

"I don't do this for attention, I do this to remember the people that lost their lives for a cause," she said.

"When people honk their horns, and yell out mean things to me, they don't know who they're talking too. They don't know that I volunteer to clean up parks, and care for other things and the history of this country," she added.

"They're just angry."

On Monday, the Office of the Mayor released the following statement:

"At this point, the Monumental Task Committee's time would be better spent working to find a museum or private land where these statues can be displayed in context rather than continuing to fight a lost cause."

### Opposing the Monument

Over the last two weeks, there have been several conversations that have questioned why the Landrieu Administration has been hesitant to remove the remaining monuments.

"It has created a whole conspiracy conversation that mainstream press isn't dealing with: The City government didn't really want to take all of the monuments down, but they want to meet a deal with the extreme groups," Oliver Thomas, WBOK 1230AM Radio Talk Show Host, noted as underground conversation.

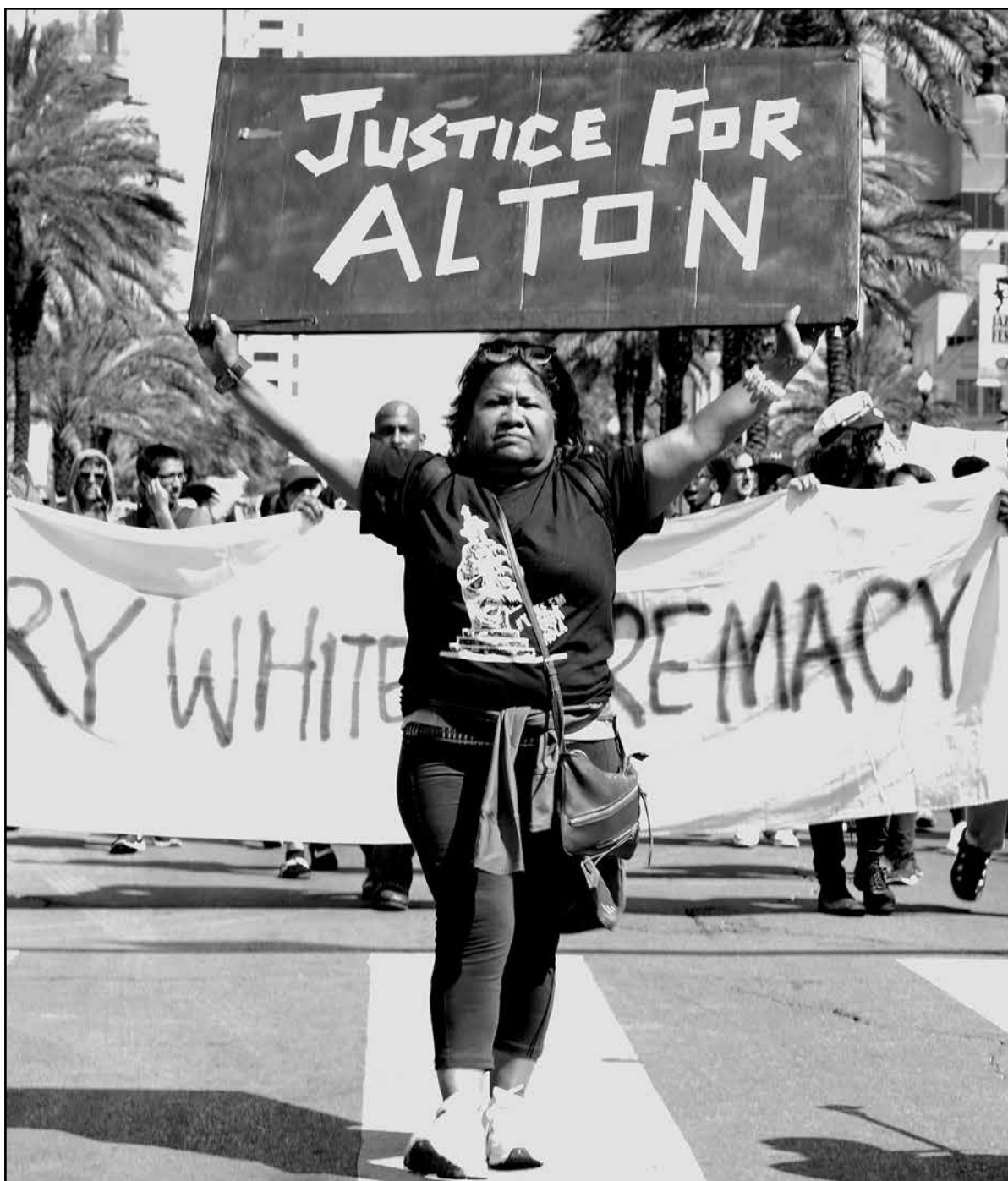
However, Thomas is a staunch advocate for the removal of the monuments.

"Monuments of war are erected to adhere to people that want to strike fear. These monuments have no place in our City," Thomas said.

"If you say symbolism vs substance—the monuments should come down. What also should come down are prices, unemployment of Black men, police brutality, and economic barriers that have stopped economic equality and parity," he added.



After months of protesting, the City has removed the first of four monuments. The remaining monuments include P.G.T. Beauregard, Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee. Photo courtesy of Take 'Em Down NOLA.



On Sunday, May 7th, Take 'Em Down NOLA protestors marched to Lee Circle. Photo courtesy of Take 'Em Down NOLA.

Thomas said that resources could be better spent educating the public on the history of the monuments, rather than having them remain as insulting landmarks across the City.

"It's interesting to me to see how if monuments didn't mean anything, if they were not offensive symbols, then you wouldn't see the pushback from other monument supporters," Thomas said.

### Reaction to Restraining Order

On last Sunday, Take 'Em Down NOLA held a second-line march at Lee Circle, symbolizing its victory of the removal of confederate monuments.

When Lead Organizer Malcolm Suber heard that the Monumental Task Committee attempted to restrain the City from removing Confederate Monuments, he was not moved.

"These reactionaries and Monumental Task Force will stop to anything to prolong the inevitable," Suber said.

"The earlier suits they filed claimed the same. But the Federal judge and appeals have always said that the properties always belong to the City," he added.

### Recap of the Confederate Events

Around 2 a.m. on April 24th, unidentified contractors removed the Battle of Liberty Place Statue, located on Iberville Street in the French Quarter. The statue, erected in 1891, is a monument honoring fallen members of the Crescent City White League, which were a group of all White and mostly Confederate Soldiers that battled against New Orleans' Integrated Police Force and the States Integrated Militia.

Originally placed on Canal Street, the monument was moved to Iberville in 1993.

In February of 2015, Landrieu signed an ordinance to remove and relocate four Confederate Monuments in New Orleans. City Council voted 6-1 on the removal of those monuments. In March of 2017, The United States District Court of the Eastern District of Louisiana backed the City's right to remove the statue.

Landrieu said that the monuments would be housed in a private warehouse, and later donated to a museum for safe keeping. The City allocated \$170,000—and an undisclosed amount of private funds—to hire a contractor to remove the monuments.



# Governor Criticizes Republican-Proposed Bill

## Data News Staff Edited Report

Last Thursday, Gov. John Bel Edwards released the following statement on the House Republican Budget that decimates critical state services without regard to the impact on the people of Louisiana. The budget amendment was crafted behind closed doors, without input from agencies and released to the public less than 24-hours before voting in the House Appropriations Committee.

"We can't move Louisiana forward if we're standing still. Despite their rhetoric to pass a 'standstill' budget, the House Republican Leadership just rushed through a flawed budget that would send us tumbling backwards. Their budget guts health care, children's services and veteran

services to levels that endanger the health and welfare of the people of Louisiana. When politicians craft policies without the input of the experts in a field, you know you're getting a bad deal, and that's how this budget was drafted. It's time to craft a bi-partisan, sustainable solution for Louisiana. I look forward to working with the Senate to craft a responsible budget that ensures we're adequately funding the people's priorities."

Highlights of some of the cuts included in the House Republican Budget:

1. More than \$720 million in cuts to critical health care services (when accounting for the loss of federal matching funds)

2. Forcing non-compliance with federal orders risking legal sanction: Forcing the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) into non-compli-



A proposed Republican Bills Plan to make several cuts to the state's healthcare, school, and clinical services.

ance regarding federal consent decree or court orders in aging and behavioral health settings due to staffing cuts. This includes com-

plete abdication of proposed obligations under a pending order regarding nursing homes (DOJ).

3. Dropping our Zika defenses:

Elimination of our efforts to plan for, prevent, control, monitor and possibly respond to a Zika outbreak in Louisiana, would leave a high-risk state like Louisiana defenseless against the spread of Zika disease. Children born to Zika-infected mothers can have life-altering medical conditions with costs upwards of \$10 million. This cut would functionally eliminate our ability to address a Zika outbreak.

4. Ending local services: Ending local school-based, clinical and access-oriented services, including behavioral and substance abuse health services in Louisiana, impacting more than 135k recipients, through the \$70 million reduction of DSH LINCCA contracts, which includes the end to the funding of Louisiana Clinical Services (LCS) Program which recruits, retains and expands access to physicians in underserved communities throughout the state, as well as the provision of school-based health clinics in markets throughout the state. It also eliminates much needed contracts for services like Families Helping Families, which would directly affect those we serve in the disability community.

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# "Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill"

## Data News Staff Edited Report

Multitalented New Orleans chanteuse and all-around entertainer, Sharon Martin, will once again take on the iconic role of Billie Holiday in Lanie Robinson's stage musical production of Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill.

April 21 through May 21, in The Pontchartrain Supper Club at Pontchartrain Landing, 6001 France Road, New Orleans, Martin will be reprising the role she sang to sellout audiences five years ago at The JuJu Bag Café under the direction of award-winning Producer/Director Ms. Tommye Myrick. Now, Back by Popular Demand, Martin and Myrick have teamed up again to present – in narrative and songs – the tragic and haunting story of the pioneering jazz singer, Miss Billie Holiday, also known as "Lady Day."

The performances are part of an optional dinner theater package that includes a high-end Dinner Buffet with selections of appetizers, side dishes, salads, entrée items, desserts and non-alcoholic beverages.

Show times are at 8:00 p.m. Saturdays and 3:00 Sundays. Doors open for one 1/2 hour before show times for dinner.

### Previous Reviews:

"Martin's re-creation of singer Billie Holiday's voice – which can't



Sharon Martin will return to the stage for Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill between until May 21 at the The Pontchartrain Supper Club.

be easy to conjure – is eerie in this production .... 'Strange Fruit' is worth the price of admission."

Alison Fensterstock, -The Times-Picayune

"She (Martin) was simultaneously charming and pitiful. She sang beautifully and she has an unusual timbre in her voice that suggests Billie's distinct, haunting lilt."

Dalt Wonk - Gambit Weekly

Located just 15-20 minutes from downtown New Orleans, Pontchartrain Landing is a newly gated marina, villa and RV resort

that offers pleasure boat docking, a swimming pool, luxury casual living and dining.

Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill is produced by the Racine Foundation, sponsors of an annual fundraiser to help with the cost of providing scholarships to the Delgado Community College/University of New Orleans degree program in Hospitality Management. The profits on this event can support one student for a year with tuition and books.

Ticket prices - Dinner Theatre package \$50 per person; Show only, \$30 per person, \$35.00 at the door.

For more information, group sales and reservations call Pontchartrain Landing at (504) 333-6748 or email voicesinthedark-rep@gmail.com

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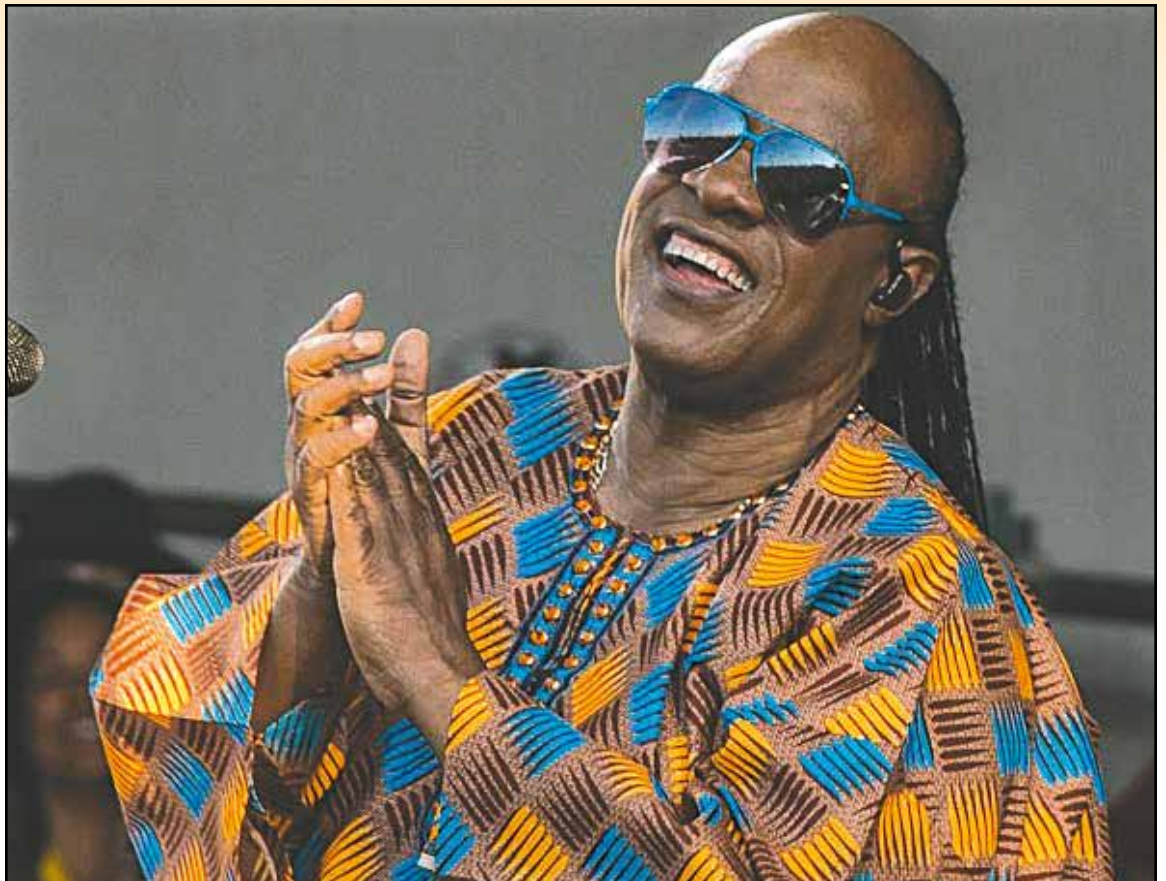
# Jazz Fest 2017 Week Two

**Kichea S. Burt**  
Photographer

After an amazing weekend full of powerhouse performances, the Annual New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival has come to an end. Last week's performances include Patti LaBelle, Trombone Shorty, Big Freedia, Earth, Wind & Fire, Snoop Dogg and Stevie Wonder.



Rianna Giddens



Stevie Wonder. Photo courtesy of JR Photography



Cuban Drummers



Chucho Valdes



Native American Dancer



Trombone Shorty



Chucho Valdes Quartet of Cuba

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

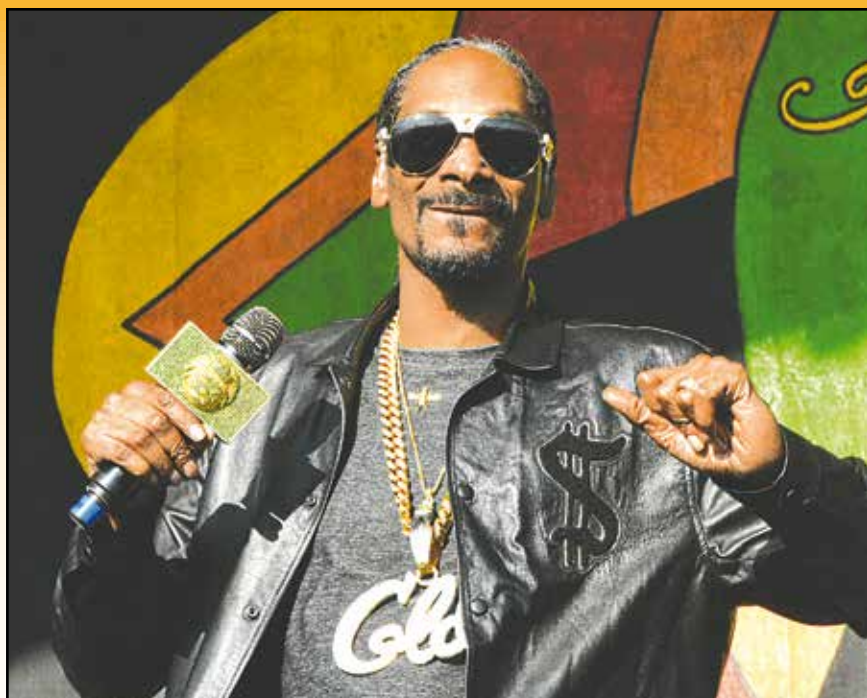




Quiana Lynell



Patti LaBelle



Snoop Dogg



White Cloud Hunters



Earth, Wind and Fire



All Carnival Time Johnson and Robert Parker & Clarence Frogman Henry



Big Freedia



Jamison Ross

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# AKA President, Lawmakers Condemn Racist Act at American University

**Lauren Victoria Burke**  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

A day after Taylor Dumpson, who is an African-American woman, was elected to be student body president at American University, nooses and bananas (some with the words “AKA Free” on them) were found hanging in various places on the American University campus.

Dumpson is a member of the Historically Black Sorority Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA). On May 4th, as lawmakers were debating a repeal of the Affordable Care Act and protesters were chanting on Capitol Hill nearby, Dumpson received support from several sectors.

Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson, the International President of Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) sorority, flew to

Washington, D.C., to stand in support of the American University student. Other members of the AKA sorority stood alongside members of Congress to support Dumpson and to display a sense of strength and solidarity in the face of racism.

Reverend Barbara Skinner opened the Capitol Hill press conference about the suspected hate crime on American University's campus with a prayer.

“We aren’t in a post-racial society,” Dumpson said. “I think the way to move towards a better society, and a more inclusive society, is to really focus on and appreciate the differences among us, because what makes us different is very important.”

Rep. Frederica Wilson (D-Fla.) said that the attack has shaken



Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson, the International President of Alpha Kappa Alpha, gives remarks on Capitol Hill during a press conference about the recent suspected hate crime at American University in Washington, D.C. (Lauren Burke/NNPA)

the community to its core and vowed that, “we’re not going to be stopped.”

Later, in a written statement, Wilson said that no matter how high we go—whether it’s being elected the nation’s first Black president or AU’s first African-American student government president—some people just can’t help themselves from going low.

“Unfortunately, this is not even the first time in the past year that such a controversy has occurred on AU’s campus,” said Wilson. “Without the appropriate action, it will not be the last. Sadder still, American University is not the only campus on which white students are expressing their prejudices against students of color.”

**National News,**  
Continued on page 11.

## Dollars & Sense

# Business Competition Focuses on Black Women Entrepreneurs

**Lauren Poteat**  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

In an effort to increase opportunities for Black women entrepreneurs, Odyssey Media launched “Keys to Success: Access to Capital,” a \$25,000 business pitch competition and digital workshop series for women of color who own and operate small businesses. The Coca-Cola Company’s “5by20 Initiative” supported Odyssey Media in the launch of the competition and workshop series.

The digital workshop series, which is available until May 5, features three different 45-minute segments that walk participants through applications for traditional loans, alternative financing, strengthening their financial image, and revitalizing company brands. Participants must view the entire digital workshop series and complete the application process by May 5 at 10 p.m. EST to be eligible for the \$25,000 grand prize.

A press official with Odyssey Media, a Black-owned marketing and communications company, said that the business pitch competition, is only open to businesses that are certified minority- and women-



Linda Spradley Dunn, CEO and founder of Odyssey Media

owned, or are in the process of getting these certifications, and have been established at least three years.

Linda Spradley Dunn, the CEO and founder of Odyssey Media, said that when it comes to accessing capital for minority female business owners, race and gender do play a big role.

“However, I tell female entrepreneurs, all the time, not to beat themselves up about it; understand it and move on,” said Dunn. “Once you fully understand the way capital and funding works, it then becomes easier to access it and that’s what ‘Keys to Success’ is all about: providing a platform to solve the number one

issue facing women minority business owners—access to capital.”

In the 2015 State of Women-Owned Businesses Report, commissioned by American Express OPEN, the number of Black female-owned businesses increased from one in six in 1997, to one in three in 2015, making them the fastest growing group of entrepreneurs in the United States.

While this trend proves to be promising, only 14 out of the 30 percent of women-owned businesses in the U.S. are run by minority women.

The Odyssey Network Business Retreat, scheduled for May 22-May 26 at the Ritz-Carlton on Amelia Island, located off the northeast coast of Florida, is the finale event for the program. The retreat will feature keynote addresses from top-level businesswomen of color, panel discussions and wellness activities, according to a press official with Odyssey Media. The event is open to the finalists of the business competition.

Cheryl McCants, the Keys to Success program manager, said

**Dollars & Sense,**  
Continued on page 11.



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# Downtown Lesli Brown

## Do You Know What It Means To Be From New Orleans

*Power 102.9FM Radio Personality Exclusive Interview with Data News Weekly*

**Edwin Buggage**  
Editor

### 5-0-4 For Sure

Hailing from the 7th Ward of New Orleans, Downtown Lesli Brown is truly 5-0-4 to the core. Having a radio career spanning over 15 years; today she is a top personality on CUMULUS owned radio station Power 102.9 FM playing non-stop Hip-Hop and R&B. On Monday through Friday from 7PM to Midnight and on Sat. 10 AM to 2PM you can hear Lesli, throw down in her own unique way that's making her a household name on the airwaves. Her route into the world of radio is an unusual one as she recounts it saying, "At the time I was a single parent and doing rap and thought me and my friend was going to be the next Salt-n-Pepa." After having several recording deals that fell through, including one with C-Murder's (Corey Miller brother of Percy "Master P" Miller) TRU Record's she felt the record business wasn't all it was cracked up to be and in 2001 began to focus on working in radio.

So how did Lesli Anne Gusman, become Downtown Lesli Brown? Speaking of the origins of her radio name she says with a laugh, "I took part of my name from Q93's Uptown Angela, but that's only 10 percent of the story. When I got into radio it was during the Cash Money and No Limit Records phase and anywhere I traveled to when I told them I was from New Orleans and they asked are you from uptown. But I thought in every City for every uptown there is a downtown and for east there's a west and I wanted people to respect my downtown hustle." With her N.O. lingo and swag on full blast she says, "People need to know everything that is New Orleans does not come from uptown, the whole City has a lot of amazing things coming from them including where I'm from in the 7th Ward baaaby."

### New Orleans Where Everybody is Family

She is pleasant, humorous, intelligent, compassionate and inspirational. These are qualities that she uses to draw in her captive and loyal audience. Speaking of her appeal she says, "I am a radio personality, I am there to entertain and bring out my personality and realness. I



Downtown Lesli Brown.

am doing it for everybody who is from the hood like me and showing to them that the way you start don't have to be the way you end. You don't have to be a product of your environment and I feel I am putting the hood girls on the map." Continuing she says, I bring what's raw and real to the radio and I am like an extended part of your family, I want people to feel like when they listen to me that I know her, that's my mama, my sister, my grandma or my cousin wrapped up into one. Where people who are listening are saying I know this woman. I want you to feel connected to me and I feel that everybody is family when I am on and off the air."

### The Story Behind the Glory and Dedicated to Giving Back

She has not only conquered the world of radio; she is also doing commercials, hosting red carpet events, doing motivational speaking and many other things extending her brand. In her life where she has undoubtedly overcome obstacles to become successful, but today many only see the glory but there is a story of the grind that's behind the shine. Never forgetting her journey Lesli is dedicated to giving back with the iChoose Project. This project is a campaign developed by Brown to empower people from different walks of life to inspire them to reach higher. This is something that is aligned with her meaning and

purpose in life. "I wake up and my life's meaning and purpose changes from day to day and I feel it should evolve as you face new situations and challenges in life. Also, when it comes to my life and how I live it I've always tried to be real. And I would also like to say to people in life you can only get out of it what you put into it. So, to be a success you must have a vision, goals and a plan to get to your destination."

### Making things better in the 5-0-4 Ever

While she is a diehard 5-0-4, she says that people must expand their horizons and not be afraid to grow. When speaking of what she would say to inspire people to greatness she says, "First thing that comes to my mind if you want to grow is don't be afraid to leave this City. This City has a way of trapping some into many of the negative aspects of

it." Conversely, she says, "You can flourish here, but you have to stop trying to impress the streets and do what's right for you."

She says speaking of Hurricane Katrina, its aftermath and its effects on the people of New Orleans many who have never traveled far outside the City. "I find that after Katrina some people had a chance to start anew and be their true genuine self. For me I couldn't wait to come back, I am here and my twang is what makes me who I am, I became successful because I had to stop being scared and not bound and gagged by being in New Orleans and things begin happening for me making me my best self and I try to share that with my audience so they can be the best person for themselves wherever they are and we as people from New Orleans can all benefit from that."

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Delaney's Armoire

# Jazz Fest Fashion Recap



**Delaney George**  
Fashion Columnist

This year at Jazz Fest, people from all walks of life gathered in celebration of food, culture, and music. Jazz Fest is known to many as the place to cut loose and be free. Many of the Jazz Fest attendees spotted on its final day, displayed that sense of joy and freedom in their outrageous festival ensembles.

The fairgrounds flooded with an array of styles from bohemian chic, sexy and sheer, and just down right southern vibrancy. As many stages as there were at Jazz Fest, there was an outfit to match. In Congo square, more high fashion and tribal looks were found verses the more freestyle costume vibe of ensembles found at the Acura stage.

Festival attendee and local model Monique Sanders came for the food and to hear Maze perform, but said she just couldn't resist getting festive for Jazz Fest's final day.



Photos by Delaney George

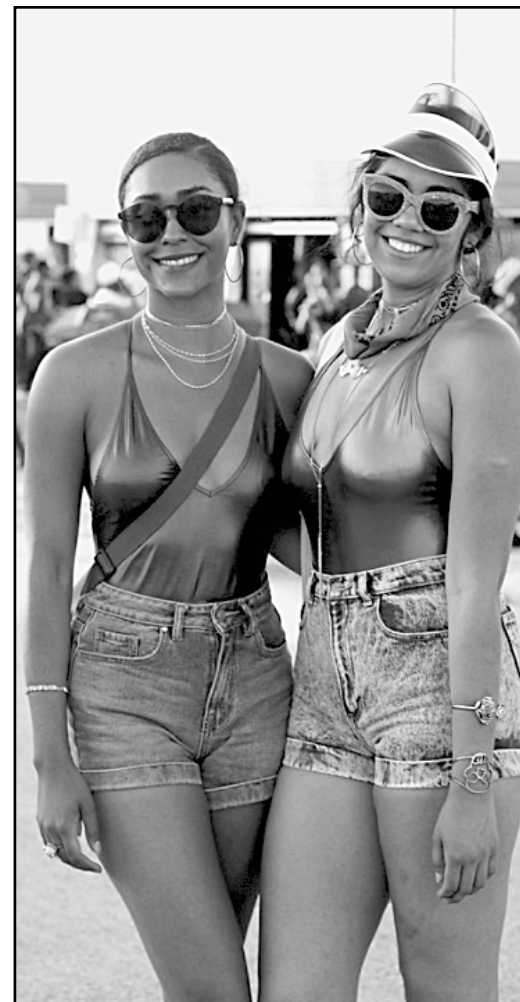
"I had to dress up. I figured a lot of people would be chill and wear boring stuff but this is my first Jazz Fest in so long, why not

give them a fashion show?" said Sanders.

Many of the Jazz Fest attendees had the same idea as Sanders,



showing more skin than usual and letting their fashion personality do all the talking at the festival. For more photos of the looks found



at Jazz Fest visit [www.laneslense.pixieset.com/hottestjazzfest-fits2017shotbylaneslense](http://www.laneslense.pixieset.com/hottestjazzfest-fits2017shotbylaneslense) or dm@LanesLense on Instagram.

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## The Curly Corner

# 3 Easy Ways to Detangle Your Natural Hair



**Destiny Johnson**  
Natural Hair Columnist

Naturally curly, kinky hair is beautiful but it isn't so pretty to the touch when knots and tangles take over when you're trying to put your hair in a desired style. Natural haired ladies tend to experience matting, single strand knots, and tangles more often than women with looser textured hair due to all the twists and turns our hair naturally makes as it grows. Although knots and tangles are not totally avoidable, here are three ways to help relieve your hair of the snags that keep you from having a stress-free curl maintenance experience.

1. Wide toothed comb – When you have heavy tangles, start with damp hair and begin combing with your wide toothed comb starting from the ends and working your way up. The wide teeth on the comb produce less stress on your hair so that they can unravel on their own.

2. Finger detangling – Using your fingers to detangle your damp



Detangling can be tough but make it a breeze with these tips. Photo via Curlyincollege.com

curls allows you to easily find tangle and snags. This allows you to work through them with care instead of using a tool to force your hair to be combed out. Finger detangling also

encourages less breakage.

3. Detangling Conditioner – A detangling conditioner can be used to loosen your hair of knots and tangles. Keep the detangler in for

at least 15 to 20 minutes and use a wide toothed comb for best results.

Happy Growing!

Follow me on Instagram @See-yourcurls

## Dollars & Sense, Continued from page 8.

that the annual Odyssey Network Business Retreat will give participants the opportunity to receive on-site coaching and to rehearse their pitches in front of body language specialists. McCants added that the experience is a "fabulous opportunity" for businesses at any stage.

DeShawn F. Bullard, the president and CEO of NouriTress Hair Products, LLC and a Keys to Success participant, talked about the opportunity to take part in the workshops and the pitch competition.

"For me, it's all about growth," Bullard said. "In order to access capital, you really have to have your financial books in order and a lot of starter companies don't. As a small business owner, I could not pass up the opportunity to gain extra revenue and additional knowledge for my company."

## National News, Continued from page 8.

Members called for a federal civil rights investigation of the racism displayed at American University. Students of all backgrounds marched in protest of the incident on May 3. In a statement last week, outgoing American University President Neil Kerwin said, "I regret this happened, apologize to everyone offended, and state emphatically that this incident does not reflect what American University truly is."

Members of Congress who attended the press conference included Reps. Alma Adams (D-N.C.), Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Texas) and Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas), who hosted the event

Lauren Victoria Burke is a speaker, writer and political analyst. She appears on "NewsOne Now" with Roland Martin every Monday. Lauren is also a frequent contributor to the NNPA Newswire and BlackPressUSA.com. Connect with Lauren by email at [LBurke007@gmail.com](mailto:LBurke007@gmail.com) and on Twitter at @LVBurke.



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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.

Submit New Orleans school items to [Orleans@nola.com](mailto:Orleans@nola.com). Include contact information.

## DATA CLASSIFIED

Call 504-821-7421 to place your classified ad.

## Job Opportunity

### Freelance Writers Wanted

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for freelance writers to join our team print and digital team. We want to hear from you if you are a working journalist, or an aspiring journalist who has 2 years or more of newspaper or PR writing experience. We need writers who can cover New Orleans news stories, ranging from local high school sports, community events, City Hall and entertainment. Experience in print is necessary, experience in digital and social media are encouraged.

Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

If you are interested, please email your resume and 3 writing samples to: [terrybjones@bellsouth.net](mailto:terrybjones@bellsouth.net) and [datanewseditor@bellsouth.net](mailto:datanewseditor@bellsouth.net).

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