Residents in St. Rose Want Justice

Newsmaker
Remembering Mama D

Style
Embracing Fine, Thin Natural Hair
Residents in St. Rose, Louisiana, a city just passed Kenner—tracing the Mississippi River on the East Bank—are displeased with their air quality, and they blame it on the nearby chemical plant. The St. Rose Community is primarily a residential neighborhood, with local businesses and a few big-box stores. According to the 2000 census, the estimated population of the city is roughly 5,200 people.

Located towards the western edge of the city is International-Matex Tank Terminals, which is one of the nation’s largest Chemical Storage Facilities. Bought by Shell in 2014 for $1 billion, the site is also home to an active chemical plant. And while IMTT is responsible for hundreds of jobs, residents of the St. Rose Community say it’s also responsible for several deaths.

**Listening to St. Rose Residents**

Walter Evans, Jr. has lived in St. Rose for the last 74 years. At 83, he laments the loss of several family members to cancer, which he believes is the direct result of the active chemical plant.

Several homes are in the vicinity of the chemical plant. Many residents have said they can smell foul odors emitting from the plant.
30-75% OFF STOREWIDE + 3-DAY SPECIALS & FREE SHIPPING ONLINE AT $49 VALID 5/24-5/29/17. PLUS, FREE RETURNS. EXCLUSIONS APPLY; DETAILS AT MACYS.COM/FREERETURNS

KICK IT ALL OFF WITH SAVINGS ON WHAT YOU NEED FOR SUMMER!

MEMORIAL DAY SALE

NOW-MON, MAY 29

GET $5 FOR EVERY $25 YOU SPEND! NOW-MON, MAY 22. GET UP TO $200 MACY'S MONEY. SEE BELOW.

KICK IT ALL OFF WITH SAVINGS ON WHAT YOU NEED FOR SUMMER!

30-75% OFF STOREWIDE + 3-DAY SPECIALS & FREE SHIPPING ONLINE AT $49 VALID 5/24-5/29/17. PLUS, FREE RETURNS.

EXCLUSIONS APPLY; DETAILS AT MACYS.COM/FREERETURNS

MEMORIAL DAY SALE PRICES IN EFFECT 5/24-5/29/2017. HOW MACY'S MONEY WORKS: We'll give you $5 Macy's Money for every $25 you spend, up to a $200 Macy's Money Reward Card in a single transaction. EXCLUDES THE FOLLOWING PURCHASES: furniture, mattresses, rugs, Apple Products, tech watches/jewelry/accessories, gift cards, services & fees, sales tax, phone & live chat orders, leased depts., restaurants, international orders, e-gifting, special orders, online backorders. USE YOUR MACY'S MONEY REWARD CARD in stores & online through 6/7/2017. May not be redeemed for cash, used to purchase Macy's Gift Cards or applied as payment or credit to your credit card account. If a purchase used to accumulate Macy's Money is returned, your return may result in a reduction of the value of your Macy's Money Reward Card and/or a reduction of your total refund amount. The remaining balance of your Macy's Money Reward Card will reflect the Macy's Money amount you qualify for after deducting the returned item(s) from your original purchase amount.

MEMORIAL DAY SALE

NOW-MON, MAY 29

MEMORIAL DAY Sale

30-75% OFF STOREWIDE + 3-DAY SPECIALS & FREE SHIPPING ONLINE AT $49

VALID 5/24-5/29/17. PLUS, FREE RETURNS.

EXCLUSIONS APPLY; DETAILS AT MACYS.COM/FREERETURNS

NOW-MON, MAY 29

MEMORIAL DAY Sale

30-75% OFF STOREWIDE + 3-DAY SPECIALS & FREE SHIPPING ONLINE AT $49

VALID 5/24-5/29/17. PLUS, FREE RETURNS.

EXCLUSIONS APPLY; DETAILS AT MACYS.COM/FREERETURNS

NOW-MON, MAY 29

MEMORIAL DAY Sale

30-75% OFF STOREWIDE + 3-DAY SPECIALS & FREE SHIPPING ONLINE AT $49

VALID 5/24-5/29/17. PLUS, FREE RETURNS.

EXCLUSIONS APPLY; DETAILS AT MACYS.COM/FREERETURNS

NOW-MON, MAY 29

MEMORIAL DAY Sale

30-75% OFF STOREWIDE + 3-DAY SPECIALS & FREE SHIPPING ONLINE AT $49

VALID 5/24-5/29/17. PLUS, FREE RETURNS.

EXCLUSIONS APPLY; DETAILS AT MACYS.COM/FREERETURNS

NOW-MON, MAY 29

MEMORIAL DAY Sale

30-75% OFF STOREWIDE + 3-DAY SPECIALS & FREE SHIPPING ONLINE AT $49

VALID 5/24-5/29/17. PLUS, FREE RETURNS.

EXCLUSIONS APPLY; DETAILS AT MACYS.COM/FREERETURNS

NOW-MON, MAY 29

MEMORIAL DAY Sale

30-75% OFF STOREWIDE + 3-DAY SPECIALS & FREE SHIPPING ONLINE AT $49

VALID 5/24-5/29/17. PLUS, FREE RETURNS.

EXCLUSIONS APPLY; DETAILS AT MACYS.COM/FREERETURNS

NOW-MON, MAY 29

MEMORIAL DAY Sale

30-75% OFF STOREWIDE + 3-DAY SPECIALS & FREE SHIPPING ONLINE AT $49

VALID 5/24-5/29/17. PLUS, FREE RETURNS.

EXCLUSIONS APPLY; DETAILS AT MACYS.COM/FREERETURNS

NOW-MON, MAY 29

MEMORIAL DAY Sale

30-75% OFF STOREWIDE + 3-DAY SPECIALS & FREE SHIPPING ONLINE AT $49

VALID 5/24-5/29/17. PLUS, FREE RETURNS.

EXCLUSIONS APPLY; DETAILS AT MACYS.COM/FREERETURNS
“Our entire parish is funded by these chemical plants that we are surrounded by on the East and West Bank,” Evans said.

“I call it Cancer Alley because in this entire parish, people are just dying. As far as the parish is concerned, I guess those in charge just said, ‘let them die.’”

Evans has lost five sisters, one brother, and two daughters to cancer over the past three years. He also has two great grandchildren that suffer from breathing complications. All of which have been lifelong residents of St. Rose.

“There are other people I know in this community that are having serious problems. But still they tell us it’s not coming from the plant. But we’re trying to find out where all of this is coming from,” Evans said.

Evans said that there have been more cancer related deaths in the neighborhood since the chemical plant move became active in St. Rose than before the year 2014.

Vicinity to Homes

Activist and St. Rose Community One Voice, Elizabeth Bickham noted that the chemical plant is within feet of several homes. In fact, many backyards stop at the fence line of the chemical plant.

“When I moved here in St. Rose there was no such thing as this plant that's creating havoc on us,” Bickham said.

Bickham started St. Rose Community One Voice to serve as a support group and advocacy for the residents. The advocacy group has since partnered with the Louisiana Bucket Brigade to bring awareness to the clean air issue in the community.

“We have people in this community since that happened that have asthma and cancer. This is just a nuisance to us. All we want is monitored air. We want to make sure that people have a right to clean, fresh air,” Bickham said.

The Chemicals

On June 7, 2014, several St. Rose residents reported a foul smell coming from the IMTT Chemical Plant that lingered for more than a week to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. While Shell and IMTT took responsibility for the incident, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality supported that the smell was harmless.

Residents continued to disagree with that claim.

Evans said that the plant still emits foul odors in the area that are released early in the morning, around 4 a.m.

“If you go outside, you have to come back in. And it seems like the air condition pulls it back in.”

Evans described the smell as sickening and paralyzing.

“It’s an awful smell. It smells like rotten eggs. Sometimes it burns your eyes, and it seems like it gets down into the throat.”
Mia X, is a hip-hop legend most notably known for her work with Master P and his No Limit Records; where she released three albums with two of them going gold. Putting her stamp on the rap game, it can be reasonably argued that she is one of the best female lyricists to ever touch the mic. But what many do not know is that offstage Mia has a heart of gold; touching the lives of people with her selfless spirit and is dedicated to giving back to those in need and is an advocate for social causes in the community. “From the beginning of my career in the early 90’s I have been on the frontlines fighting against injustice since Adolph Archie was murdered while in police custody. I have also worked with schools speaking to kids, giving money and bringing things like toiletries because a lot of people don’t have the basic necessities; so, I go to schools and bring things like soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, sanitary napkins and deodorant.”

Born Mia Young in New Orleans Seventh Ward, she says her dedication to giving back began with her late grandmother “Ma-maw” who was an early example of someone who was a selfless giver. “My grandmother cooked 10 pounds of red beans every day of my life and she fed everybody who was hungry in our community every day of my life. I remember we would go to department stores on Canal Street like Krauss, Maison Blanche, and D.H. Holmes whenever there was a sale and just buy stuff to give away to children and men and women who were starting new jobs. She was always doing stuff like that. We were always feeding people, and I feel I inherited her giving spirit. It is just something that is in my blood. I don’t know how to do anything else, that’s what my mother, my father and grandparents would do. It’s the normal and natural thing to do, I don’t feel right if something is going wrong with someone and I don’t do anything; it’s just in me.”

This influence is something Mia passes on to young people in addition to recipes she learned in her upcoming book “Things My Grandma Told Me, Things My Grandma Showed Me” which is part memoir and cookbook that intersperses Mia’s life from five years old to her grandmothers’ passing. Speaking of the hook and the important life lessons taught to her by her grandmother and her own recipe for a successful life she says, “The recipe for a successful life is work hard, be honest, be humble and have integrity. I feel if you are honest and humble and the sky is the limit.” Continuing she says, “When I learned how to make my grandmothers gumbo I was 30 years old and she was on her deathbed. She said to me, ‘I cannot leave here and you don’t know how to make gumbo.’ She then walked me through it step by step. She was such a wise woman who gave me so much and I feel this book will help a lot of people not just make great food but learn how to thrive and face many obstacles and adversity that we sometime face in life.”

Speaking of some of her other work to uplift the community she says “I joined rapper Sess-45 and started putting together an annual march. Ours is unlike others; you will not see a lot of the politicians but thousands of people come out. It starts at Jourdan Avenue and North Galvez in the Lower Ninth Ward where the levees broke and it goes all the way to the Seventh Ward at Hunter’s Field in my neighborhood. It is a wonderful march; we do health screenings and other things that help empower people in the community. In addition, I have been to Washington D.C. three times and I spoke before Congress twice advocating for the people of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.” Mia is also a survivor of uterine cancer and is an advocate of health and regular doctor visits, “I am an advocate for women’s health. Many times, people are so busy working they don’t take the time to see what’s going on with their health and when we do it is too late. In my shows, I always take the time out to tell ladies and men to make sure to listen to your body when we hear little voices to get that checked.”

Throughout her life, Mia has been representing the best of New Orleans; saying of its uniqueness, “You don’t live in New Orleans, New Orleans lives in you. We are a people who love great food, great music and care about each other. I feel the people of my City are like my extended family and I always try to be there for kids, anything to help and there’s never been a price attached when it comes to serving the community. Because when I am giving back I am living in the spirit of my grandmother and those who helped me become the person I am, so as I have been blessed it is my responsibility to bless and inspire others.”
Remembering Mama D

“Mama D”
Dyan French Cole
With Vision, Courage and Dedication

By Habibullah Saleem © 2017

The historical legacy of Dyan French Cole
Insightfully courageous insightfully bold
In the absence of fear, she stood her ground
Wearing her headwrap, her brand, her crown
Dressed and determined to oppose what’s wrong
Mama “D”, Mama “D” - Mama D was strong
Strong in knowledge, commitment and love
Bringing comfort to the less fortunate, relief and a hug

Have no fear, Mama “D” is here
Once she spoke, the people would cheer
Regardless of the topic, microphone in hand
Justice for the innocent, thoroughly in demand
The President or Governor, it really didn’t matter
She constantly insisted, we climb the ladder
A soldier for ownership, of our own destination
Seen at every meeting, including education

A modern-day Harriet Tubman, no challenge too big
A community warrior, her lifetime gig
Loved by her children, grandchildren and others
A community activist, a community mother
A female mountain in the turbulence of the storm
The essence of her dreadlocks, completed her form
Don’t mess with my people, let them rise!
City Council or Mayor, wisdom applied
Backing down, was NOT her “thing”
Let Freedom Ring, like the great Dr. King

In the city of New Orleans, prosperity must be
In the midst of the battle, there stood Mama “D”
Not biting her tongue, speaking with force
Mama “D”, Mama “D”, stayed the course
The first female president, New Orleans NAACP

Dyan French Cole, the extraordinary Mama “D”
We all will miss you while cherishing your deeds
You taught what it meant to always believe
For multitudes of people you brought relief
At age 72, May You Rest in Peace
Mama “D” - Mama “D”

Born and committed for all people to be free
The Creator is Greater

Eric M Craig
Multimedia Editor
On Saturday, May 20, New Orleans lost its beloved activ-ist and hero Dyan French Cole, better known as “Mama D.” Cole was 72 when she died.

Mama D was known as an activist that stood for racial and economic equality. In fact, Data News Weekly honored Mama D as a trailblazer for her willingness to stand up to the community. She was a mentee of Data News Weekly’s late Scoop Jones.
Bayou Bougaloo

Kichea S. Burt
Photographer

Between Friday, May 19th, and Sunday, May 21st, a party reigned on the Bayou. Bayou Boogaloo, sponsored by the Mothership Foundation, featured several local art vendors, restaurants, and musical artists. Some of the hot lineup included Tank & The Bangas, Mia Borders, Zigaboo Modeliste, and James Martin.

Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events
Wine Tasting at the Ritz Carlton

Saints Football Player Tyrone Hills held a wine tasting party in the Juneau Penthouse Suite on the rooftop of the Ritz Carlton.
Desirée Charbonnet Announces Bid for Mayor

On Monday, May 22nd, Former New Orleans Municipal Court Judge Desirée' Charbonnet announced her bid for Mayor of New Orleans. At the announcement, several community leaders supported Charbonnet, including Louisiana State Senator Troy Carter, former WDSU-TV personality Norman Robinson; and New Zion Baptist Church Pastor C. S. Gordon, Jr. Charbonnet.

“In a City where 25 percent of our adults can’t read beyond a 4th grade level, unemployed parents struggle to nourish their hungry children, and non-violent defendants are thrown into a prison and court system designed to punish and profit off of the most vulnerable in our community, it is impossible for me to sit on the sidelines. It’s just not in my DNA. And when I think of the compassionate citizenry that united under Hurricane Katrina, I know we can all do more – together. That is why today, in my native City, I am compelled and proud to announce my candidacy for Mayor of New Orleans," Charbonnet said, in an official release.

Charbonnet became the first women judge elected to the Municipal Court Bench in New Orleans, and was the first to be elected as Chief Judge.

Politics

LaToya Cantrell Announces Listening Tour, Campaign Team

On Monday, May 22nd, Counclimember LaToya Cantrell announced her leadership appointments for her campaign team and a June neighborhood tour.

LaToya Cantrell.

“Today we are breaking ground both literally and symbolically,” said Bland. “We are ready for con- struction to begin, but we are also cel- ebrating the ground-breaking pub- lic/private partnerships that have come together to make a difference in the lives – and futures – of Louisi- ana’s youngest citizens.”

With an investment from the State of Louisiana, strategic partnerships and funds secured through private donations from 63 cities in 18 states and the District of Columbia, LCM has secured $45.5 million needed to begin the project. Major donors Boysie and Joy Bol- linger, The Jaeger Foundation and Patrick E. Taylor Foundation, along with more than 330 other donors, have contributed so far to the capi- tal campaign. The capital campaign has been led by Chair, Lizette Ter- ral, with Co-Chairs, Nancy Marsi- glia, Anne Milling and Poco Sloss.

“This new Louisiana Children’s Museum is a very important long- term investment for the State of Louisiana," said Senator Morell. “Working together on this model for early childhood learning, we are creating an engaging place to learn and play that will open up new worlds for the children of Louisiana today and into the future.”

Bland added, “This new facil- ity, along with our many important partnerships, will give us the en- vironment, resources and tools to positively impact early learning and

Museum, Continued on page 11.
There’s an old fashion trend boiling up this summer in men’s wear and its stirring up a lot of conversation. The “romper”, a shirt and pants combo, which is no secret to women’s fashion, caught the attention of men. Fashion runway models, commoners, and even infants sport the male version of the romper, deemed a “romphim.”

Men can wear Romphims as pants, shorts, short sleeves, or just plain straps. Romphims are now more than ever at their most popular point in fashion history, but can be found in old 80’s photos, being worn by celebrities such as Mike Tyson.

While most are in frenzy on social media over the upcoming trend, some people embrace the male onesie and its comeback into male fashion. Local Stylist and Creative Director, Syraj Hamilton holds a different opinion about the new Romphim, saying he didn’t understand what the big deal is, and that fashion changes constantly.

“I just see it as another way to express male fashion. We are already limited, I am definitely going to embrace this style” said Hamilton.

For more information on the Romphim and the discussion, email Delinkey@yahoo.com and tell us your thoughts.
Embracing Your Fine, Thin Natural Hair

Far too often, new naturals are exposed to social media pages and blogs that feature naturals with thicker, coarser hair. This hair tends to look more like a lion’s mane and is the epitome of being a natural woman in 2017. The ideal natural has hair that, even with shrinkage, still falls down at the shoulders and can reach great heights with just a few passes of the afro pick.

However, those women, although beautiful, do not represent every natural. Many women have fine hair that tends to have a thinner appearance when worn curly. When braided without added hair, the braids or twists can come out much thinner with less volume. This hair tends to need more help to increase volume if that is what the wearer desires.

Fine natural hair is beautiful in its own right and does not need to be manipulated to look thicker in order to emulate the quintessential natural woman blasted all over social media. Here are some care methods you could try incorporating into your regimen if you have finer, thinner natural hair:

1. Natural hair tends to be weighed down by heavy butters and oils. Try using light butters and oils to add moisture.
2. Add a protein treatment once a month or every few months to help strengthen your hair.
3. Try to avoid extensive heat. A blow dryer should only be used on the medium or low setting. A flat iron should not be placed on your hair higher than 350 degrees.
4. Use the LCO method after washing. This is the Liquid, Cream, and Oil you use when applying your hair products. First wash the hair, then apply your leave in, and then an oil sealant to lock in the moisture.
5. Try to air dry the hair instead of blow drying.
6. Always protect the hair when sleeping using a satin pillow case. Fine hair has a greater risk of breakage.
7. Wear protective styles to reduce breakage.

Happy Growing!

Fashion & Style
Destiny Johnson
Natural Hair Columnist

The Curly Corner

Fine haired women represent the diversity of natural hair. Photo via www.curlsunderstood.com.

Museum, Continued from page 9.

education – a critical need in Louisiana which regularly falls at the bottom of national child well-being rankings.”

Twenty-four children assisted the following VIPs and special guests in breaking ground: Bob Becker, Taylor Beery, Julia Bland, Michelle Bourg, Vince Giadina, Jeff Hebert, Walt Leger, Nancy Mar-siglia, Anne and King Milling, JP Morrel, Mark Moses, Caroline and Bo Reilly, Paul Simoneaux, Poco Sloss, Allison Stouse, Lizette Terral and Kendall Winingler.

Friends, Musicians & Artists coming 2gether to help 1 of our True Community Leaders

Dyan French Cole 1L"Mama D"1L

Club Caribbean 2441 Bayou Rd NOLA

Thur May 25, 2017 6p-1a
Fri May 26, 2017 7p til
$20 or a donation at the door

For more info. (504) 957-9666 or email Eric @ EricBProd@yahoo.com

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 5 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, experiences 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 and datanewseditor@bellsouth.net.

We can’t wait to hear from you!

This space can be yours for only $80

Call Now!

504-821-7421
CONGRATULATIONS
DISCOVER THE UNEXPECTED
FELLOWS!

Discover the Unexpected is back! This year’s DTU journalism fellowship presented by the all-new 2018 Chevrolet Equinox in partnership with the National Newspaper Publishers Association has expanded beyond Howard University to include students from Spelman College, Morehouse College and Clark Atlanta University. Our 8 DTU Fellows will share stories from Atlanta, Washington D.C., Raleigh and New Orleans. Our young journalists will explore and share stories from these rich strongholds of African American history and culture. Join them as they embark on this exciting journey of inspiration, education and discovery.

#discovertheunexpected

DISCOVER MORE OF THEIR STORY AT NNPA.ORG/DTU