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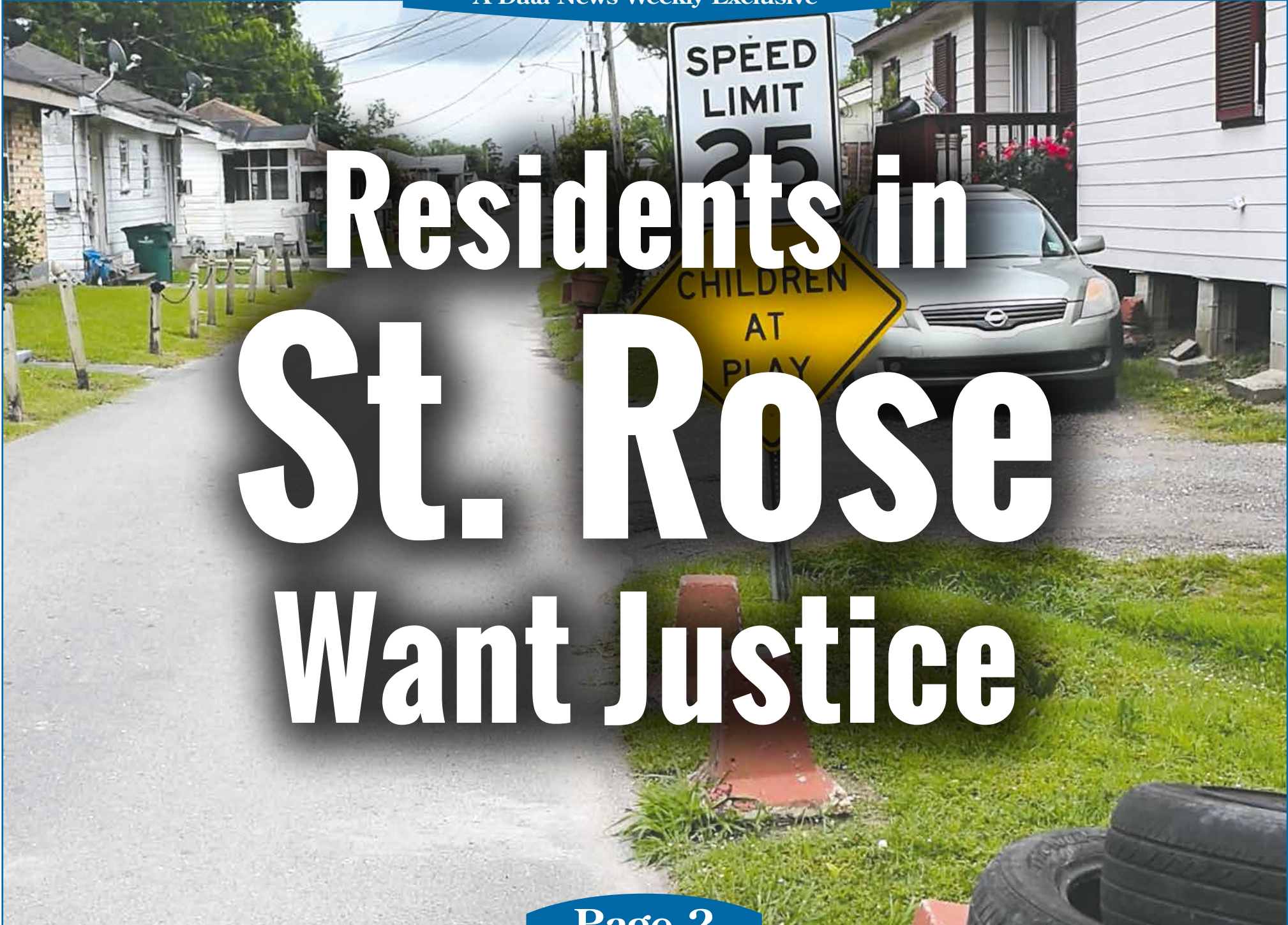


Bayou Boogaloo Recap

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May 27 - June 2, 2017 51st Year Volume 57 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive



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St. Rose Residents Want Clean Air



Several homes are in the vicinity of the chemical plant. Many residents have said they can smell foul odors emitting from the plant.

Eric M Craig
Multimedia Editor

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.

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Cover Story, Continued
from page 2.

"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 life-long 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 not-



The IMTT Facility and Chemical Plant are located at the eastern edge of St. Rose Louisiana, in the middle of a neighborhood.

ed 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.

"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.

Bickham started St. Rose Com-



Elizabeth Bickham is a Community Activist in St. Rose, Louisiana.



Walter Evans, Jr., said the chemical odor is released early in the morning and can affect the eyes and throat.

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A green fence lines the boundary between several homes and the chemical facility.

munity 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.

"IMTT is an Oil Storage Facility. All it had was barrels of stowed oil. Shell owns the chemical plant here. It's shell that has the chemical and has caused the problems."

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."

trailblazer Mia X

No Limits to Giving Back to the Community

by: Edwin Buggage

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 "Mamaw" 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 book 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 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."

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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 activist 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. Friday, May 19, and Sunday, May 21, 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

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Louisiana Children's Museum Breaks Ground in New Orleans City Park

Data News Staff Edited Report

Kid-sized shovels were hard at work in New Orleans City Park today as the Louisiana Children's Museum (LCM) broke ground at its new site, bringing the child-centered, family-friendly museum one step closer to reality.

The ceremonial groundbreaking was celebrated by LCM Chief Executive Officer, Julia Bland, along with Senator JP Morell, Representative Walt Leger, Louisiana Assistant Commissioner of Administration, Mark Moses, New Orleans Chief Administrative Officer, Jeff Hebert, City Park CEO, Bob Becker and LCM Capital Campaign Chair, Lizette Terral.



The \$45.5 million campus is planned to open at City Park in 2018.

"Today we are breaking ground both literally and symbolically," said Bland. "We are ready for construction to begin, but we are also celebrating the ground-breaking public/private partnerships that have come together to make a difference in the lives – and futures – of Louisiana'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 Bolinger, The Jaeger Foundation and Patrick F. Taylor Foundation, along with more than 330 other donors, have contributed so far to the capital campaign.

The capital campaign has been led by Chair, Lizette Terral, with Co-Chairs, Nancy Marsiglia, 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 facility, along with our many important partnerships, will give us the environment, resources and tools to positively impact early learning and

Museum, Continued on page 11.

Politics

Desirée Charbonnet Announces Bid for Mayor



During her speech, Desirée' addressed some of New Orleans' most pressing issues, including public safety, infrastructure, housing and education. Photo by Bernie Saul.

Data News Staff Edited Report

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 defen-

dants 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.

Data News Staff Edited Report

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

"When you have lived in New Orleans and worked in the community for as long as I have, you know that our City is made up of many neighborhoods and voices," says Cantrell. "I wanted a team of men and women, natives and transplants that reflects our City's diversity and who are as committed as I am to making New Orleans a fair and equitable place for all," Cantrell said in an official release.

The following members will lead Cantrell's Campaign.

Bob Tucker – Campaign Chairman. Tucker is a local businessperson and has served for many years as a community activist and political strategist.

Marilyn Wood – Campaign Manager. Cantrell's Chief of Staff for New Orleans City Council District B Office for three years. She has held community development leadership positions in political, not-for-profits, entrepreneurial and governmental organizations.

LaToya Cantrell Announces Listening Tour, Campaign Team



LaToya Cantrell.

Andrea McNeil – Deputy Campaign Manager. A community-driven political specialist, McNeil has managed numerous successful campaigns, including a state representative race and she was a staffer in a recent mayoral election.

Bill Rouselle – Chief Strategist. A veteran communications specialist and political strategist, Rouselle has worked on several successful mayoral campaigns and is known for his community ties throughout the City.

David Winkler-Schmit – Communications Director. A communications consultant, Winkler-Schmit has worked with Cantrell for many years.

Dr. Silas Lee – Research and Polling. A nationally recognized pollster and sociologist.

Jessica Montgomery – Field Director. A veteran field organizer, Montgomery most recently worked as a Regional Field Director for "Hillary for America."

Andrew Sullivan – General Consultant. A founding partner of Hudson Pacific, a political and public affairs consultancy, Sullivan first worked with LaToya at the Broadmoor Improvement Association, concentrating on an effort to restore blighted housing post Katrina.

Ryan West – Finance Director. An experienced fundraiser, West's most recent experience involved successfully electing Sharon Weston Broome as Baton Rouge Mayor.

In June, Cantrell will hold neighborhood listening sessions to make sure that all neighborhood and City issues are accounted for and addressed.

"You need to meet the people where they are and that's in our neighborhoods," Cantrell said. "I'm not interested in a lot of fanfare. I want to listen to our people and find out what they need so everyone in New Orleans can reach their full potential."

Delaney's Armoire

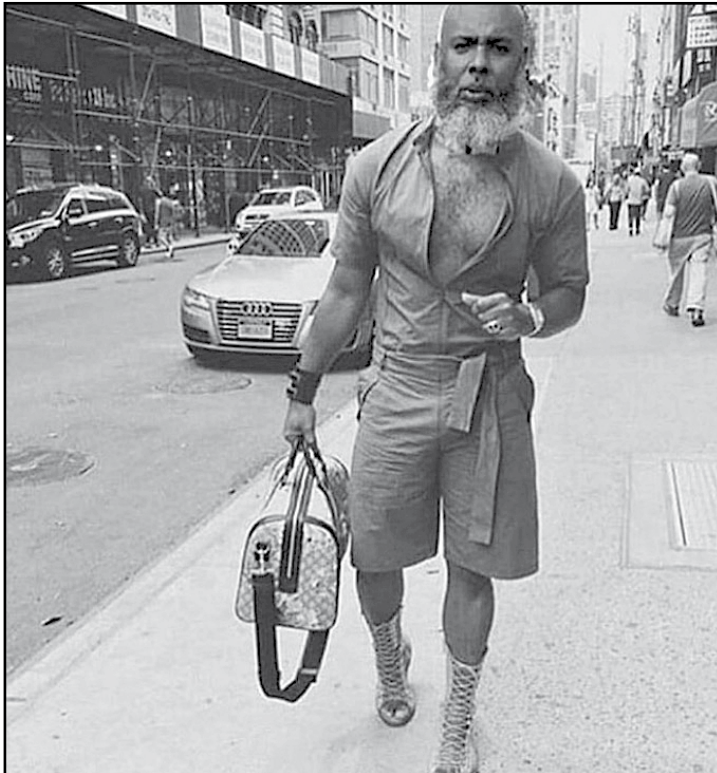
Are Male-Rompers in Style?



Delaney George
Fashion Columnist

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



Male model rocks the Romphim street style, with a Gucci Bag and strapped sandals via @Karo_Kal/Instagram.



Mike Tyson wears an all white Romphim via @K_parham/Instagram.



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Left: Model wears an all black shorts Romphim with a deep V-neck via @DebonairPierre/Instagram. ----- Right: Model wears a loud orange Romphim with long pants and a deep button down style V-neck via @DebonairPierre/Instagram.



Celebrity NFL star Cam Newton rocks a multi colored floral Romphim at Coachella paired with all red sneaker and a weaved straw hat via @DebonairPierre/instagram.

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, Syrajh 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.

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The Curly Corner

Embracing Your Fine, Thin Natural Hair



Destiny Johnson
Natural Hair Columnist

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



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

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!

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We can't wait to hear from you!

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 Marsiglia, Anne and Kind Milling, JP Morrel, Mark Moses, Caroline and Bo Reilly, Paul Simoneaux, Poco Sloss, Allison Stouse, Lizette Terral and Kendall Winingder.



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