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New Orleans

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

# THIS IS HOW YEP EMPOWERS YOUTH IN LOUISIANA

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# How the Youth Empowerment Project Positively Impacts At-Risk Youth in Louisiana



Youth Empowerment Project serves as an organization dedicated to developing soft and hard skills for at-risk youth. Photo courtesy of the Youth Empowerment Project.

**Eric M. Craig**  
Editor

While many organizations make it their mission to empower the youth, this organization particularly focuses on helping underserved youth in Louisiana by providing opportunities for both soft-and hard-skill development.

**What is YEP?**

New Orleans-based Youth Empowerment Project helps young people through community-based education, mentoring, and employment readiness programs. Most notably, the organization empowers youth by assisting them in developing hard and soft skills, which include trades, interview tactics and interpersonal relationship management. YEP commits itself to devel-

oping respect, accountability, integrity, progress, and kindness.

Started in 2004, YEP assists the State of Louisiana by providing entry programs for at-risk youth. The organization utilizes community-based reintegration, mentoring, prevention and intervention, and a team of YEP youth advocates.

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



Jerome Jupiter, Deputy Director of the Youth Empowerment Project. Photo courtesy of the Youth Empowerment Project.

YEP has impacted a large range of age groups, with the average age being 22 years old. Roughly 70 percent of incoming YEP participants have an annual household income of under \$10,000, and 72 percent of YEP's adult education students report being unemployed when they arrive at YEP.

The organization has a series of programs including New Orleans Providing Literacy to All Youth (NOPLAY), which is an adult literacy program for out-of-school youth between the ages of 16 and 24; The Village, which is a self-contained class that provides necessary support for development; After school and summer camp enrichment programs; The Trafigura Work and Learn Center, a critical job training program for youth ages 16 to 24. At the Work and Learn Center, students work during a six-week training cycle in design works, thrift works, and bike works.

### YEP Learning Exchange

While the organization had learned a lot from Louisiana's youth, it had the opportunity to partner with a similar organization in Brazil.

Earlier this year, The International Youth Foundation, an organization dedicated to assisting youth develop the leadership, technical, and life skills globally, chose YEP to participate in its initiative called (Re) Connecting Youth: Exchanging Global Lessons, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Part of the initiative funds a

peer-to-peer learning exchange between YEP and its Brazilian youth employment organization counterpart, Rede Cidadã, located in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. In the exchange, The YEP team spent July 10th to 14th learning from and sharing with Rede Cidadã.

While different, the two teams will be able to learn new ways to develop more robust youth employment programs.

"The team at Rede Cidadã put young people through soft skill training, but their approach is different than ours," said Jerome Jupiter, Deputy Director of the Youth Empowerment Project.

"They teach soft skills through dance and interaction. They try to really build confidence in their group and hone the skills they really need to be successful."

Jupiter and his team spent time with at-risk youth in Brazil, visiting a juvenile detention facility, interacting with advocates and at-risk youth, and learning metrics and tactics from Rede Cidadã's re-entry program.

In return, leadership from Rede Cidadã, and staff from the International Youth Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation will join YEP August 28th to 31st to resume the learning exchange.

"I'm looking forward to YEP highlighting our work for them, and keeping this relationship going," Jupiter said. "We think a lot of metrics and evaluations are strong, and we want to share them with them and have them take away from the process."

## Gerald's Story

Primary Program: Community-Based Mentoring  
Secondary Programs: Trafigura Work and Learn Center's Creative Digital Media Program, Age: 16 Teen SET Program, Afterschool Program

When you find a place that makes you feel at home and part of a supportive family, you stick around. Eight years ago, Gerald came to YEP as a middle school student and now he is a high school senior. Gerald says he found out about YEP from a brochure during a time when he was struggling with managing his anger. Fast forward to today and the 16-year-old says his



Gerald

life has changed for the better. Gerald acknowledges he has made major milestones and he credits YEP. "Now I'm calm and collected. YEP hooked me up with a job, everything is going so well. YEP has had a

pretty positive impact on my life," said Gerald. Gerald was first introduced to YEP as a child and took advantage of YEP's Community-Based Mentoring Program. He then got involved in our Teen Summer Employment Training (SET) Program, Afterschool Program and most recently he graduated from our Trafigura Work and Learn Center's Creative Digital Media Program. Gerald wants to go to college and study computer science. When he first joined YEP Gerald had his sights set on becoming an astronaut. Now he has different plans: "I want to be a software designer, a game designer."

## Landrea's Story

Primary Program: Trafigura Work and Learn Center

"I would be sitting at home right now," is how Landrea feels she would be spending her time if YEP was not a part of her life. The 19-year-old graduated from YEP's Trafigura Work and Learn Center job training program in November of 2015 and is now a part-time employee at the bike shop. After completing the six-week employment readiness course, Landrea is now well-versed in customer service and bike repair, and says her confidence skills



Landrea

have blossomed thanks to the program. However, it was not an easy transition for Landrea, who had trouble showing up to

class at high school. With encouragement from YEP staff and her teachers, Landrea graduated from The NET Charter High School and today she continues to gain valuable job skills working at YEP. She is also preparing to pursue her postsecondary education. "YEP helps young kids get a job. Sometimes if they go out on a job interview, people tell them they can't get a job and then they give up. But YEP helps them get a job and go back to school," said Landrea. As Landrea looks to the future she is considering a profession in childcare or cosmetology.

## Darren's Story

YEP Staff Member & Alumni  
Primary Program: NOPLAY

Darren Alridge has been an incredible asset to the YEP community since he joined our team in 2009. He joined us at age 18 to work toward earning his GED, upon referral from his judge. Then, in 2011, he joined YEP staff as a para-professional who helps New Orleans youth prepare for the HiSET (formerly GED) exam, as he has "seen the need of some of the youth I work with," and has chosen to work with YEP because it "makes



Darren

me happy to give back to my community."

Darren believes being a YEP Alum-turned-Staff member is important for current YEP participants because some youth do not have close family, or family invested in their lives. YEP is able to help these young people on a day-to-day basis and provide access to resources. His words of reflection: "Stay focused and keep your head up and good will come to you." His favorite experience with YEP has been flying to Washington, D.C. to visit the White House – it is a moment he will never forget.

All stories courtesy of Youth Empowerment Project

# City Increases Funding for Pump and Drainage Maintenance

## Data News Staff Edited Report

For nearly a month, conversations about the City's Pump and Drainage System have been at the top of every conversation. After the events of the August 5th flood, the City has bunkered down on the truth and funding behind the pumps.

On Friday, August 18th, The City of New Orleans announced that it would allocated \$26 million in additional drainage improvements. The upgrades include catch basins, early warning system for under passes, and the maintenance of the current pump and drainage systems.

According to the City of New Orleans, "The money coming from the City's fund balance will include \$7.8 million to the De-



The City expects to clear over 4,200 catch basins every year. Photo via Fauborg St. John Neighborhood Association.

partment of Public Works (DPW) repairs, \$3 million to Homeland Security for disaster prepared-

ness, \$650,000 to Homeland Security for underpass flood early warning system, and \$500,000 to Chief Administrative Office for Root Cause Analysis. Additionally, bond funds that were committed to other road projects will provide \$14.2 million for catch basin and drainage point repairs making the total \$22 million."

As of August 22nd, the City of New Orleans reports that 105 out of 120 pumps are available for use during the event of heavy rain.

Mayor Mitch Landrieu said that he hopes for the Department of Public Works to maintain its average of learning 4,263 catch basins per year. Those basins serve roughly 48 miles of drainage. The City has four vacuum trucks used for Catch Basin Cleaning.

The August 5th flooding heavily impacted Treme', Mid-City, and Gentilly residents and businesses.

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# Big Chief Keith "Keitoe" Jones Seminoles

**Glenn Jones**  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

**Timeline:**  
1984 - 1993 – Big Chief Joe Pete  
Seminoles  
1994 – Present – Big Chief Keith  
"Keitoe" Jones

Chief Keitoe has traveled a long road to get to this point in life as a man, as a Big Chief and as a leader in this culture. As chief will tell you, in his journey he has come across a lot of haters. I'm talking the type of haters that transform from decade-to-decade assisting in the overall iron sharpening iron trials and tribulations one goes through to reach their ultimate goal in life. The unique aspect of Big Chief Kietoe is his resilience. Chief has lost tribal chiefs that have resulted in tribes disbanding. They are Chiefs spirits that are so strong they have held tribes of 40 or more men and woman together when that chief dies the tribe dies. As New Orleansais, we are exposed to a lot of death, but I argue not many have had so many deaths that directly affect the practice of their culture. In a way where it pulls you away, pulls you down and takes your energy. It takes a certain type of individual to lose wife, mother, brother, and more than a few mentors and Big Chiefs and still keep going. Every time he masked he is reminded and empowered by them all at the same time! Big Chief Keitoe has been honored many of times but being honored by your peers is something everyone is humbled by. For all the work and hardship endured to sharpen his iron in order for Chief to produce the Black Masking suits of such intricate beading design and leadership Chief will (has) receive the Crystal Feather Award. An



Big Chief Keith "Keitoe" Jones Seminoles

honor well-deserved. Hopefully this article gives a little insight on the Chief and his road to glory.

Q) When did you start masking?

A) I was 14 years old in the early 70's, I masked as a spy boy for the 9th Ward Hunters under Big Chief Rudy.

Q) Who gave you your style of beading?

A) I really got my particular style from an Old Chief, 2nd Chief of the White Eagles. His name Felton Brown he used to live in the Desire Project. I was going to Carver School than, he taught me the technique of the flat bead work using tens. They are small seed beads. A lot of guys like to use eights which is a bigger bead it helps you get finished faster. But me I like to use tens and eevens because I like to detail my work.

Q) Chief I see your bead work is so detailed and outlined. How do you achieve this?

A) Small Beads a lot of color because that's what the streets is

looking for, the people looking for something to see. I'm always trying to bring a new look to the streets. When you see me, you gonna see that work. I'm always bringing something to the table for you to see.

Q) What award are you receiving this year?

A) I'm bout to receive the Crystal Feather Award which will induct me into the Mardi Gras Indian Hall of Fame. Crystal Feather Awards is one of these prestigious awards that all the chiefs get together and vote for you. It's the Chiefs in New Orleans that pick the next Chief out to be honored for the award...and bruh I've been waiting so long! I just can't understand how they took so long. They skipped over me, and I'm the baddest Big Chief in New Orleans other than Tootle Montana son Daryl. Like I'm said they got them hater but I just stayed humble and I'm still humble. I feel good about it, it let me know I've gotten somewhere. I've been somewhere and I've gotten some-

where. It's a good thing for me to receive that wonderful award and put up with the rest of my regalia. I'm gonna suit up and gonna go up there grateful and humble and just enjoy myself. It's a long time coming.

Q) Why do you keep this culture and tradition going?

A) It was introduced to me as a child but I think it's in my blood. I kept it going more so cause of my brother Dick. My brother introduced me to this game. Than my brother got slain in 1989 on the other hand my Dad died in the same year. My brother got killed in October my father died of a massive heart attack in December. Then all my brothers and sisters used to mask but they got out of it and I just kept it going. When I thought about some of the things that were said in the street and thought about how they drug my brother name and my name through the mud, well imma keep this thing going! To show them that Dick might be gone but imma keep the gang living for me and my family. Imma show yawl, ain't none of yawl badder than me. And they not!

Q) How do you feel about Caucasians trying to mask in this Black Masking Culture?

A) As far as White people masking in our culture, some people let them do that. That's not supposed to happen bro because already we have a problem with them snapping our pictures us, going overseas selling our work.

Q) How does your tribe give back?

A) My ex-wife (deceased) and I did a lot of stuff. Food to the homeless and hygiene bags. My (ex) wife had an organization called "Mothers and Fathers of a broken puzzle" and we gave back a lot to the community to the City also when I had my hall on Claiborne and Frenchmen. Still to this day if anybody need anything from me they can come to me, I'm humble, I'm peaceful.

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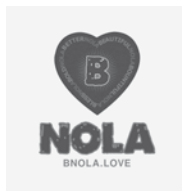
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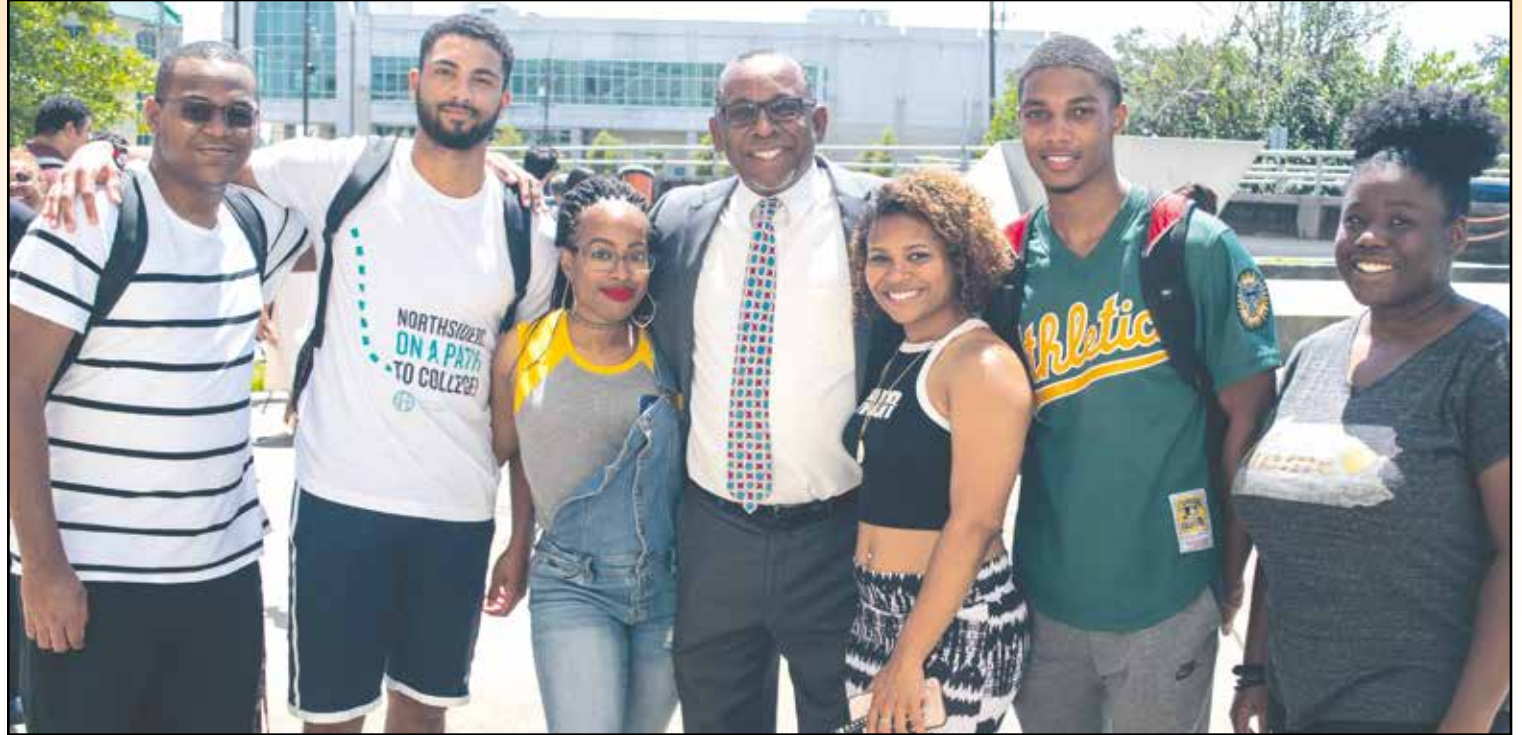


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# Solar Eclipse Viewing at Xavier University

**Harvey Brown**  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

On August 21st, a partial solar eclipse was visible in New Orleans. In celebration of the natural phenomenon, the Xavier University of Louisiana Physics Department held a group viewing in front of the Norman C. Francis Academic Science Complex. Several students had the opportunity to view the eclipse through special telescopes and provided solar glasses. The next solar eclipse visible in the United States will occur on April 8, 2024.



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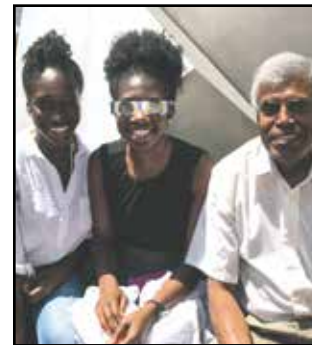
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# What Kind of Slide are You?



Gucci bumble bee slides.



Rihanna and Puma collab on fur slides. Photo by: tisfortay on Instagram



Adidas slides, sports slides come in basic colors typically.



Delaney George  
Columnist

The world of comfort and fashion collide in the form of slides: a flat cushion like shoe that's as simple as sliding your foot through. Slides have been around for quite some time as workout, comfort, or house slippers. Today, you may find them with bows, diamonds, and even fur. Common brands, such as Nike, and even the most high fashion of brands, such as Gucci, have jumped into the slide game. So which slide are you?

**Fur Slides:** Fur slides are one of the coziest slides and the most popular. However, the grip on the fur slides aren't as tight as a sports slide. The fur on the slides comes in all different colors—even tie die. They can be found at beauty supply stores for cheap. And, for the more high-end fur, look

at designers such as Rihanna for more of a stylish touch.

**Sports Slides:** Sports slides won't be the most fashionable but they will be the most comfortable. Fur slides have a strong grip thanks to its ridges and tight flaps. While Nike is your go-to brand for sport fits, places like WalMart and KMart sell sports non-name brand slides for less.

**Designer Slides:** Gucci, Fendi, and Kim Kardashian all have custom slides of their own. Most designer slides are extremely expensive but are commonly the perfect mixture of stylish and comfort. Most have cool writing and designs on them, some just have the brand logo. Gucci slides have increased in price after Rapper Future advertised them in a song referencing "Gucci Flip Flops".

Slides are for anytime of the year. They can be worn with or without socks as long as they're the perfect pair for you. So what type of slide person are you? Email your favorite slide to Delinkey@yahoo.com for a chance to be posted on Data's social media. For more information email Delinkey@yahoo.com.

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# Diary of a Katrina Survivor Twelve Years Later

*A Tale of Two Cities and Building Bridges of Understanding*



By Edwin Buggage  
Features Writer

## Katrina Reflections

It is again that time of the year when we reflect on the days that changed our lives forever. It was a dozen years ago that we experienced Hurricane Katrina and the aftermath of the levees breaching leaving many stranded on rooftops, the Superdome, and the Conven-

tion Center drowning in a sea of misery and facing an uncertain future. As I look around 12 years later much is changing in our great City; and these are truly as stated in the "Tales of Two Cities" the best of times and the worst of times. Walking, driving or biking around the City we are witnessing a renaissance where we see pockets of progress, but conversely only a few blocks away there is often wreckage as if Hurricane Katrina happened yesterday; reminding us that we still have a long way to go in our recovery.

## New Orleans: A Divided City

As we are on the verge of the eve of the New Orleans Saints begin-

ning their season and the unity and camaraderie that we have around the boys in black and gold; this fall we will have our local elections. This October is important because we will decide who will lead us and hopefully help bridge the historical divide between Black and White and rich and poor in our City. In these times we are living we must ask ourselves how far we have come since the days of Ray Nagin and his Chocolate City remarks, which some considered divisive? And unfortunately accept the stark reality that today much hasn't improved as we are still facing a racial divide in our City over Confederate Statues and a host of other issues that's keeping citizens separate and unequal.

## Measuring Progress: The Ballot and Your Bank Account

With a smaller population post-Katrina of 391,000 New Orleans is still a majority Black City at 60% according to the U.S. Census. And while this can equal political power it does not always translate into economic opportunities for African-Americans. This is something that must be placed on top of the agenda for those we elect this fall. As a community, we must move away from the politics of symbols and more to substance. This is not to suggest that we are not competent to lead for we undoubtedly having people more than capable who are fit to lead. But no longer can we consider progress as simply hav-

ing an African-American Mayor, majority Black City Council etc.; while the economic reins of power continue to lie in the hands of a few that in many instances happen to be White. So, the question we should be asking ourselves as a community moving forward is where do African-Americans fit into the power equation of the "New" New Orleans and how do we measure success?

## Education and the Future of New Orleans

Also after Hurricane Katrina what we have seen is a dismantling of public education and our children being made into pawns for profit. Yes, there was undoubtedly a

Commentary, Continued  
on page 9.

# A Civil Cold War Is Here



John Slade  
WBOK 1230AM

Some of you may remember the Cold War between the superpowers as a real thing. The threat of nuclear war was something that worried adults and scared children. A few days ago, I was at my favorite watering hole discussing current events with a young lady who was serving me. She happened to mention as a child she saw this movie about a nuclear attack on the United States and how it scared her. I remarked that the movie she saw was The Day After and that it was a broadcast with one of the highest television ratings in history. That film is a relic of bygone era.

Of course, we all know about the

Civil War of the 1860's and how it was all about slavery. Well, I guess we all don't know that considering the fight over the Confederate Monuments we see today. The Civil War split the country along regional and racial lines that still persists to this day. The Confederate Statues should be a relic of a bygone era too.

Now why would I use the term, Civil Cold War? Just look at what happened two-weeks ago in Charlottesville, VA where Nazi and pro-Confederate demonstrators came face-to-face with Ant-Racists protestors and unfortunately violence took place. This violence by racist Nazis culminated in the death of 32-year-old Heather Heyer when she was run down by a car driven by one of the supposed to Nazis. Now this exploded into controversy when President Donald Trump opened his mouth to say there was violence and hate with his now famous "many sides" remark. About two days later Mr. Trump gave a half-hearted pre-scripted, yeah, I guess Nazis and racists are bad, I

guess remarks. No one outside of FOX News believed him and sure enough a day later he was back to form repeating the same gibberish he spewed on that awful Saturday. The modern-day racist truly believes that Trump is their deliverer to the land where they can now party like it's 1899.

Even David Duke in front of a microphone and cameras reminded Trump that it was White people that put him in the White House and not the liberals. Now, what is David Duke doing talking to any President like the President is supposed to listen to him, yet there he was. Now we have seen violence in the streets and I would suggest that your dear reader, should expect to see more.

Now when I say Civil Cold War I don't mean armies, bombs, roaring jet fighters overhead and cannons, no it won't be like that but more like the Cold War between the Soviet Union and the United States. A conflict with skirmishes and bouts of violence but compared to a genuine hot war, amazingly peaceful. An

even better idea might be the social unrest of the 1960's. In the 1960's, you know about the non-violent protests for social justice and the right-wing violence in response such as terrorist bombs set off in Birmingham, Alabama to intimidate the Black community there. So much so, that the city was informally nick named by Black people Bombingham. But again, no giant armies with tens of thousands of men ready to clash between the Interstate highways. At that time fifty years ago, assassinations such as the two Kennedys, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King along with tremendous riots summer after summer every year from Watts in 1965; until Kent and Jackson State were protesting students were killed by law enforcement. Things were so bad that social unrest was part of the reason that President Johnson refused to run in 1968. In the first term of the Nixon Administration, over a thousand bombings took place plus the radicalization of both Black and White youth of the country. You may remember the Black

Panthers but do you remember the Weather Underground?

I look at the near future in which two sides see themselves in existential conflict and on top of that if the Republicans keep meddling with the vote I fear the side that gets it into their head that no matter how fair they play, it they can't win or lose fair and square. At that time, there will be blood in the streets. In the 1960's and early 70's when the youth of America got it in their heads that no matter what they did, racism and the Viet Nam War was just going to continue, that was when the violence and terrorism started. Such as blowing up ROTC Buildings on and off college campuses. Such as constant airplane hijackings, way before 911 that was a regular thing. So much so that comedians made jokes about being high jacked to Cuba on Greyhound buses. I am old enough to remember those times as newspaper headlines and not just history. I fear this Civil Cold War might have us heading back to the future.

# RTA to Implement Complete Closure of Canal & City Park Ave Intersection on August 28th

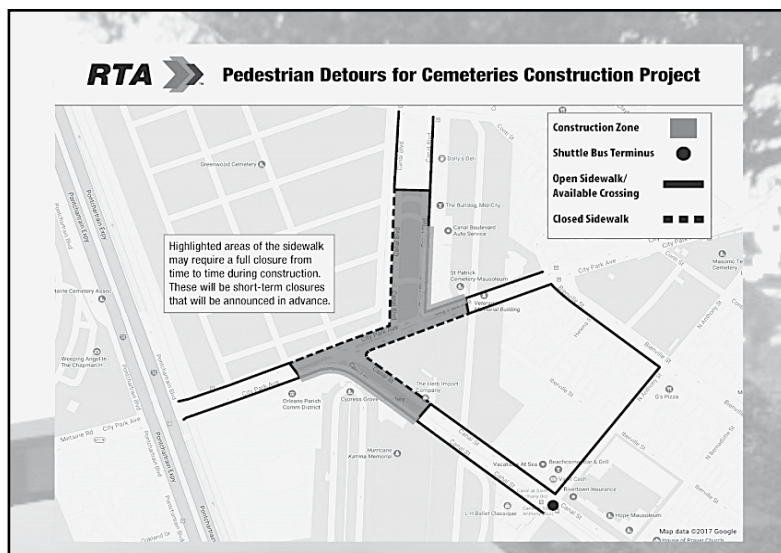
## Data News Staff Edited Report

The RTA is currently constructing the Cemeteries Transit Center to build a greatly improved transfer center on Canal Boulevard north of City Park Avenue. Effective August 28, 2017 the two lanes of downtown bound Canal Street traffic currently available to motorists will be completely closed.

### Lane Closures Effective August 28, 2017 thru November 2017

No thru downtown bound traffic lanes will be available from City Park Ave.

No eastbound thru traffic lanes will be available on City Park Ave between the I-10 Ser-



RTA expects to complete its Cemeteries Transit Center by November 28, 2017.

vice Rd. and Canal St.

No lake bound thru traffic lanes

will be available on Canal St. beyond the intersection of N. Anthony

and Canal St.

No westbound thru traffic lanes will be available on City Park Ave beyond the intersection of Bienville St. and City Park Ave.

No thru downtown bound traffic lanes will be available on Canal Blvd beyond the intersection of Canal Blvd and Rosedale St.

### Suggestions for Motorists:

Driving from Metairie to downtown New Orleans on I-10, to avoid construction site closures avoid City Park Ave exit, instead continue to Carrollton/Tulane exit.

Driving from Metairie to downtown New Orleans on I-610, exit at Canal Blvd/West End and continue to destination.

Driving from Downtown New Orleans to Metairie on I-10, avoid

I-10 entrance on City Park Ave.

Driving to Canal Street on Metairie Road, avoid Canal St and City Park Ave intersection. Turn right or left onto I-10.

Driving to Canal Street from City Park, use N. Carrollton Ave/Tulane Ave exit to get onto I-10. Use Canal Blvd/West End exit to get onto I-610.

For any questions about the project or assistance on how to navigate around #NOLA during the construction, please call the Cemeteries Transit Center Project Hotline at 504-620-0036.

We encourage citizens to get general RTA information from the only official sources by calling our Rideline at 504-248-3900, visiting [www.norta.com](http://www.norta.com), or following us on social media @NewOrleansRTA.

## Commentary, Continued from page 8.

problem with the Public Education System in New Orleans prior to Katrina, but firing all the teachers was not the solution; when many other societal problems had as much as if not more of an impact on students' performance in the classroom. And one thing for certain, the answer definitely does not lie in our City becoming a petri dish for experimental approaches to education, where teachers are not much older than students and are transients who are not fully invested in our City and our children. And I say this in taking nothing away from them and their efforts, for they are simply pawns as well, but in the end, it is our children who suffer by getting an inferior education leading many kids to never reach their full potential. Where hope dies before they get a chance to dream or aspire to reach higher, and in my view, this is a crime worse than the violent crime we see on the streets, where young people are not supported and given the tools they need to become successful.

### How to Build Bridges: All Zip Codes Matter

But in spite of all the problems with the politics, the inequality, corruption and lack of progress, New Orleans still retains one of its greatest assets. It is not the buildings, the food, music and culture alone that make this a great place. It is the people whose resilience fought back after the storm knocked it to its knees. It is the citizens of this great City and those who came to help and some even planting seeds and moving here. This is the reason New Orleans is where it is today and it again is up to the people to take a stand and make a difference. It is time to get out and be civically engaged and understand that true power is in our hands. It is time to build bridges of brother and sisterhood and recognize and work for the betterment of everyone and realize that all our zip codes matter. And when that day comes we can celebrate as only we do in New Orleans, second lining together in the direction of progress for all.

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# Hear from Several Mayoral and City Council Candidates in Upcoming Forum

**John McAdams**  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

City Government Elections are only weeks away. In preparation for voting, The Baptist Pastors Conference of Greater New Orleans and Vicinity will hold a Mayor and City Council Candidate forum at Second Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church. The forum will take place on Friday, September 1st. Door open at 6:30 p.m., and the event is free and opened to the public.

"We are excited about this event because it offers the citizens of the Greater New Orleans area a window into the legislative and tactical strategies of each of the candidates in a way that will allow them to vote and support from an informed posture," said Reverend Robert Myers, Moderator of the Baptist Pastors Conference in an official release.



The Baptist Pastors Conference of Greater New Orleans and Vicinity Mayor and City Council Candidate Forum will be held on Friday, September 1st at Second Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, which is located at 2828 Fourth St.

At the forum, Mayoral Candidates will have five to seven minutes to explain his or her platform and City Council Candidates will have two minutes. The Conference will release its official endorsement

proceeding the event.

The upcoming forum will not be moderated and candidates will not pose questions for debate. The forum will be held for informational purposes only.

Candidates confirmed to attend are: Mayoral Candidates Michael Bagneris, Latoya Cantrell, and Desiree Charbonnet, Council District A Candidates Joseph "Joe" Giarrusso, III, and Aylin Acikalin Maklansky, Council District B Candidates Jay H. Banks and Timothy David Ray, Council District C Candidates Kristin Gisleson Palmer and Nadine Ramsey, Council District D Candidate Joel Jackson, Council District E Candidates James A. Gray II and Dawn Hebert, Council-at-Large Division 1 Candidates Joe Bouie and Helena Moreno, and Council-at-Large Division 2 Candidates Jason Coleman and Jason Williams.

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AND DRIVING  
MAKES  
GOOD PEOPLE  
LOOK BAD.**

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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.



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## Person of Interest Sought in Aggravated Battery at Royal and Frenchman Streets

Data News Staff Edited Report

via NOPD

The NOPD is seeking to speak with a person of interest believed to have information on an aggravated battery that occurred on August 17, 2017 at the intersection of Royal and Frenchman Streets.

At about 3:30 p.m., the victim was struck in the head multiple times with a blunt object by an acquaintance known to the victim only as "Dre."

The pictured individual is believed to have information pertinent to this incident, and is known to frequent Jackson Square and the Frenchmen Street and Washington Square Park area. This individual is not wanted in connection with the incident at this time.

Anyone with information on this person of interest is asked to con-



Photo of Person of Interest

tact Eighth District detectives at 504-658-6080. Citizens with information that can help solve crimes are asked to call Crimestoppers at 504-822-1111 or toll-free at 1-877-903-STOP.

# Dick Gregory Dies at 84

Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

**Legendary Civil Rights Activist and Comedian Dick Gregory died on Saturday. He was 84.**

Friends, family and celebrities took to social media to honor the icon and innovator of the Black community.

"It is with enormous sadness that the Gregory family confirms that their father, comedic legend and civil rights activist Mr. Dick Gregory departed this earth tonight in Washington, DC," said Christian Gregory, his son, in a statement posted on Facebook. "The family appreciates the outpouring of support and love and respectfully asks for their privacy as they grieve during this very difficult time."

On Facebook, Roland Martin, a journalist and host of NewsOne on TV One said that he had enormous respect for Gregory.

"He was honest, truthful, unflinching, unapologetically Black. He challenged America at every turn. RIP," wrote Martin.

"He was one of the sweetest, smartest, most loving people one could ever know," said Steve Jaffe, Gregory's publicist of 50 years, according to The Hollywood Reporter. Jaffe added, "I just hope that God is ready for some outrageously funny times."

Singer John Legend tweeted that, "Dick Gregory lived an amazing, revolutionary life. A ground-breaker in comedy and a voice for justice. RIP."

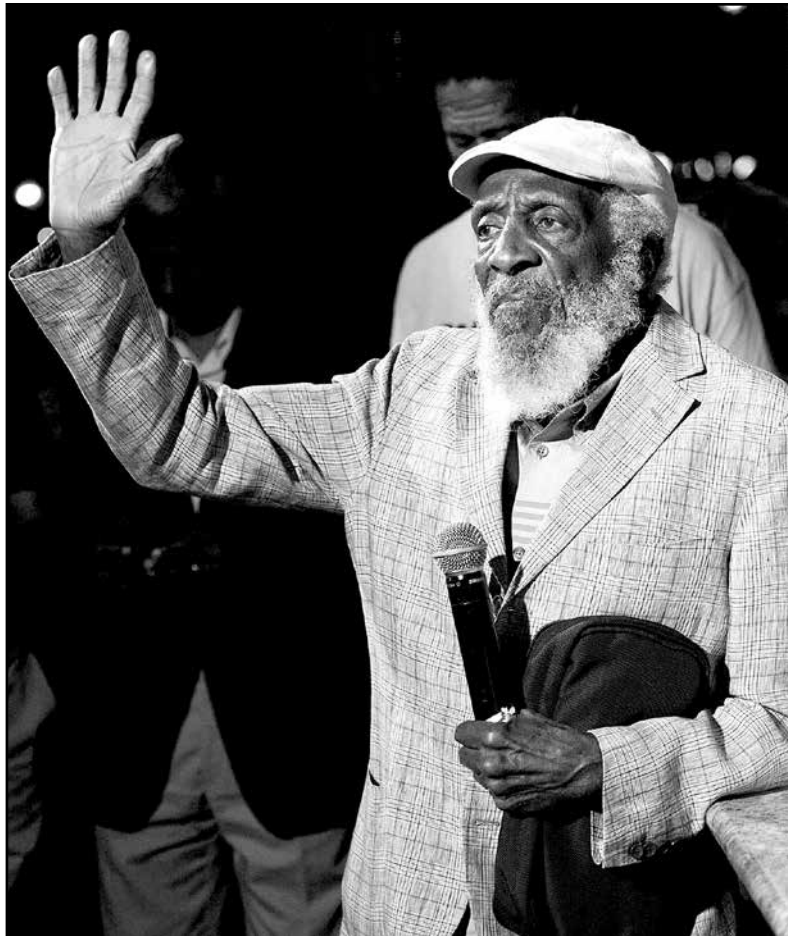
Filmmaker Ava DuVernay tweeted that Gregory "taught us and loved us."

Quoting Legendary Entertainer Richard Pryor, Sports Writer Myron Medcalf tweeted, "Dick Gregory was the greatest, and he was the first. Somebody had to break down that door."

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. the President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, also paid homage to Gregory.

"We salute and honor the living legacy of freedom fighter Dick Gregory. RIP," Chavis wrote on Twitter.

Gregory had been in a Washington, D.C. area hospital battling



Dick Gregory died on Saturday, August 19th. This photo was taken during a rally against police brutality at the African-American Civil War Memorial in Washington, D.C. (Elvert Barnes/Flickr)

an undisclosed illness. However, as late as Thursday, family members were said to have been upbeat about his recovery and he even had plans to appear at a show on Saturday in the nation's capital.

Born Richard Claxton "Dick" Gregory in St. Louis, Missouri on Oct. 12, 1932, Gregory became a comedian and civil rights activist whose social satire changed the way Whites perceived African-American comedians, according to his biography.

Dick Gregory entered the national comedy scene in 1961 when Chicago's Playboy Club (as a direct request from publisher Hugh Hefner) booked him as a replacement for white comedian, "Professor" Irwin Corey. Until then Gregory had worked mostly at small clubs with predominantly Black audiences (he met his wife, Lillian Smith, at one such club), according to his biography.

"Such clubs paid comedians an average of five dollars per night; thus Gregory also held a day job as a postal employee. His tenure as a replacement for Corey was so successful — at one performance he won over an audience that included

southern White convention goers — that the Playboy Club offered him a contract extension from several weeks to three years," Gregory's biography said. "By 1962, Gregory had become a nationally known headline performer, selling out nightclubs, making numerous national television appearances, and recording popular comedy albums."

Gregory's biography continued: "It's important to note that no biography of Gregory would be complete without mentioning that he and his beloved wife, 'Lil,' had ten children, who have become highly respected members of the national community in a variety of fields. They are: Michele, Lynne, Pamela, Paula, Stephanie (a.k.a. Xenobia), Gregory, Christian, Miss, Ayanna and Yohance."

While a student at Sumner High School in St. Louis he led a March protesting segregated schools. Later, inspired by the work of leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and organizations such as the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Gregory took part in the Civil Rights Movement and used his celebrity status to draw

attention to such issues as segregation and disfranchisement, according to his biography.

"When local Mississippi governments stopped distributing Federal food surpluses to poor blacks in areas where SNCC was encouraging voter registration, Gregory chartered a plane to bring in several tons of food," the biography said. "He participated in SNCC's voter registration drives and in sit-ins to protest segregation, most notably at a restaurant franchise in downtown Atlanta, Georgia. Only later did Gregory disclose that he held stock in the chain."

Gregory's autobiography, "Nigger," was published in 1963 and it became the number one best-selling book in America. Over the decades it has sold in excess of seven million copies. He explained his choice for the title in the foreword of the book, where Dick Gregory wrote a note to his mother, his biography explained.

"Whenever you hear the word 'Nigger,'" he said, "you'll know their advertising my book."

Through the 1960s, Gregory spent more time on social issues and less time on performing, his biography noted. He participated in marches and parades to support a range of causes, including opposition to the Vietnam War, world hunger and drug abuse.

Dorothy Leavell, Chairman of the NNPA and Publisher of the Crusader Newspaper Group said that this was a sad moment and a great loss to America, especially Black America.

This is a sad moment and a great loss to America and especially Black America.

"Dick Gregory was a personal friend, but also a voice for Black America which has now been stilled," said Leavell. "Dick was also a close friend to the Black Press and the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA)."

Leavell continued: "While we mourn this loss we are grateful for the many contributions he made that have helped us all."

Chavis agreed.

"Dick Gregory epitomized the rare combination of being an intellectual genius and one of our greatest social visionaries," Chavis said. "The National Newspapers Publishers Association deeply mourns the passing of freedom fighter Dick Gregory."

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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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