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A Data News Weekly Exclusive



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# Tyler Perry

*An Inspirational Journey to Greatness*



New Orleans native Tyler Perry sat down with Data News Weekly to discuss the impact of growing up in New Orleans and how it helped to shape his phenomenal career path.

By Edwin Buggage  
Data News Weekly Contributor

It has been quite a journey for Tyler Perry, a kid growing up in Uptown New Orleans to a working-class family. The place where many of the characters we have come to know and love originated. Today, this

native New Orleanian is based in Atlanta, and is the owner of Tyler Perry Studios, a full production studio. He is the first African-American to own a major studio outright. In his career which now spans over two decades, he's become an entertainment heavyweight who's conquered the worlds of stage, television and film with an estimated net worth of 600 million dol-

lars, he seems to be gifted with the Midas touch. Data News Weekly recently caught up with Perry to speak to him about his new film "Boo 2: A Madea Halloween" his life growing up in New Orleans, overcoming obstacles, fatherhood and how his life and success can inspire others to dream big.

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## Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

## Reflections from Home

On this day Tyler is dressed casually in black and wearing a newsboy cap and glasses. Sitting in a director's chair, he begins the conversation by talking about how it feels to be home. "It feels good. I don't come back as much anymore, coming back is a little bit different after my mother passed. It's a bit bittersweet because I have so many great memories," with a tone that is serious and reflective as he speaks of his mother Willie Maxine Perry, who died in 2009. Continuing, he speaks of transitioning to a place of peace which will allow him to come home and enjoy himself, "Right now I am trying to get to a place where I can have a good time when I return, but I cared so much for her."

But true to our culture, as we mourn we also celebrate those who have transitioned. And in this spirit, his somber tone and expression is replaced by a smile as he laughs and recalls celebrations and the importance of family growing up in New Orleans. "Boo 2: A Madea Halloween" is a movie about celebrating the holiday, but I don't remember a favorite one growing up because we didn't celebrate much, but I remember one year coming



Data News Weekly Editor Edwin Buggage and Tyler Perry sit down to discuss his career and growing up in New Orleans and squeeze time for a selfie.

out of the house in a sheet." Then switching to his Madea voice he says quoting his mom. "If you don't get that damn sheet off your head and having all these Black folks wondering what the hell is wrong with you. You look like the KKK."

The holidays are a great time for

the people of the City who always find a reason to celebrate as only New Orleanians do. Growing up near St. Charles Avenue where the parades roll during Carnival season he recalls, "We celebrated all the time; Mardi Gras, every holiday, we got together and had a great time

this is the great thing about being from here is that we always find a reason to celebrate."

## Art with a Heart

While the Franchise is over the top funny, his work is also filled with poignant topics that effect people ranging from physical and sexual abuse, the importance of family and God, single fatherhood, HIV and a host of other important issues. "The Madea stuff is pretty standard; I want a lot of big laughs, big silly stuff; but I also want to put slight messages that people can use in their lives that lead to solutions. In this latest movie I also deal with parenting and co-parenting and having balance when raising kids. I am thinking about that more now that I have my own son."

## Family, Fatherhood and Faith: A Recipe for Success

As the father of a son, Aman Tyler Perry, who counts Oprah Winfrey and Cicely Tyson as his godparents, he says that being a dad has taken his art and life in a new direction. Behind his glasses his eyes beam with pride and his voice strikes a hopeful note, "It has completely changed my life. I am not only seeing the world through my eyes as a 48-year-old, but also an almost 3-year-old." He continued, "every time I think of something in my own life I think of how it will affect him. Every time I think of the state of the world and the challenges in this country, I think about how it will impact him when he gets older. It definitely impacts the work and influences a lot of the things I do because of my love for him."

We laugh as I tell him how relatable Madea and her humor is being from New Orleans. In her I see my own aunts and uncles at family

gatherings. And that while funny in general, there are things about these characters that are particularly specific to New Orleans and its people. Speaking on the Madea Phenomenon and the other characters he creates he says, "They are real people and people know them. They know Madea, they know Joe." Smiling and shaking his head he says, "Man, Joe is out of control in this new film, people know them like people in their family, that's why they can relate to them so much. That's why they've been around all these years."

## Spreading Your Wings and Getting Over a Fear of Flying

Tyler Perry's life is one that will be always connected to the City of his birth. Through these characters and his stories, it seems wherever he goes, the experiences that shaped him will always be influencers as he shares them with the world. The young boy, who overcame adversity, grew wings and is now flying to new heights. While loving his City, he wishes more people would look at life beyond their neighborhood or city. Perry feels that it's ok to grow and experience new things; something he says was key to him becoming the success that he is today. "There's a whole world out there; New Orleans is a great town and great City but I would beg my people here at home to expose themselves to other situations in life. Like, just don't be limited by the block you came from. That was part of the problem with me and a lot of my friends when I was young. We were limited by the block we came from, we didn't get out and explore; we didn't meet other people, so our vision was limited of what we could do and achieve. But I realized after meeting people from different backgrounds that life has so much more to offer than what's was around me and that through hard work, perseverance and prayer that it is possible to make my dream a reality."

Perry has been upfront about many of his life struggles, but today he stands triumphant as his life and art serve as inspiration for many to emulate. "Just the very fact I made it out of all I've been through. That should be inspiration for anybody who's going through anything. Just knowing that a lot of faith, a lot of prayer and a tremendous amount of hard work brought me out of situations that I thought I could not make it through. I want that to be an example for anyone who is trying to get out of something difficult or has a dream. I want people to look at my life as an example of overcoming strife to life a better life. If I can do it anybody can."

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# Don't Let 32% Determine 100% of Our Future

By Terry Jones  
Publisher, Data News Weekly

## Voting and Keeping the Drive Alive

New Orleanians went to the polls last Saturday and we are now poised for the run-off that will take place on November 18, 2017, determining who will be elected in several races for the New Orleans City Council, Judges seats and the one everyone is talking about...who will be the next Mayor of the City of New Orleans.

The race is on between Desiree Charbonnet and LaToya Cantrell. This is an historic election much like in 1977 with election of Ernest "Dutch" Morial, which toppled the barriers of race in New Orleans' City Hall. In this election, another such barrier will be toppled as the City elects its first woman mayor. I remember the excitement around electing the first African-American Mayor, and his re-election campaign with the slogan of "Keep the Drive Alive." Today, I ask the citizens of this City where is your drive, what is going on that so few people turned out to vote? It seems that while conversations are taking place about the election of our first female mayor online and offline; it is not translating to people getting to the polls. What is the deal?

## Do Not let Dark Money Discourage You from Voting

In the primary, only 32% of the 258,000 registered voters cast their ballot. We have to ask ourselves why did this occur when we are on the cusp of such a historical moment in this City? Is the significance lost on us that we will be celebrating our 300th Anniversary and also electing our first female mayor? It is my opinion that in primary there were those who tried to taint the Mayor's race, something that unfortunately took a lot of the focus off of what the candidates and their agendas for our City would be if they were elected to the City's highest office.

Instead, conversations centered on fliers, controversy and false accusations taking up air space, keep-



History is in the making and the race is on between Desiree Charbonnet (left) and LaToya Cantrell (right) as the two highly respected candidates face off in the November 18th Election. The winner will become the first woman and first African-American woman to hold the highest office in the city as she will be named Madame Mayor. The barrier was broken for African Americans in 1977 with the election of New Orleans' first African-American Mayor Ernest "Dutch" Morial. We owe it to our legacy to make sure to vote on November 18th.

ing us from having a healthy dialog about the issues and the candidates running for mayor and other seats.

In the run-off we cannot allow these things to keep us from going to the polls. In fact, I believe that the way

we defeat this negative tide which has entered our politics, is to go out and vote. We must, in record num-

bers, get out and vote because our future depends on it. It is we who have our hands on the levers, we who have the ability to determine who will be in power and who will shape our history moving forward. We have the responsibility to exercise our right that so many fought and died for. So, on November 18th we cannot have 32% determine how 100% of us are affected.

While there are some who feel that the reality-show drama of our last presidential election has seeped into our local election via Sidney Torres. VOICE PAC and Nottforsalenola.com may be entertaining for some, but it does nothing to unify as a City that is dedicated to having public policy initiatives that work for all the people. If this is the direction we want to head in, then we need all hands-on deck. We need people to get involved, get educated on the issues and most importantly, get out and vote.

## What Side of History Will You be On?

We at Data News Weekly in our role as "The People's Paper" feel that we cannot let those who try to suppress the vote and turn people off from getting to the polls. It is simply unacceptable. We cannot allow dark money and negativity to get in the way of our bright future. We need our citizens to get out and let their voices be heard. It is our history that is at stake in this election. Which way will we go as a City? Citizens ask yourselves, what side of history do you want to be on? And do not allow 32% determine 100% of our future.



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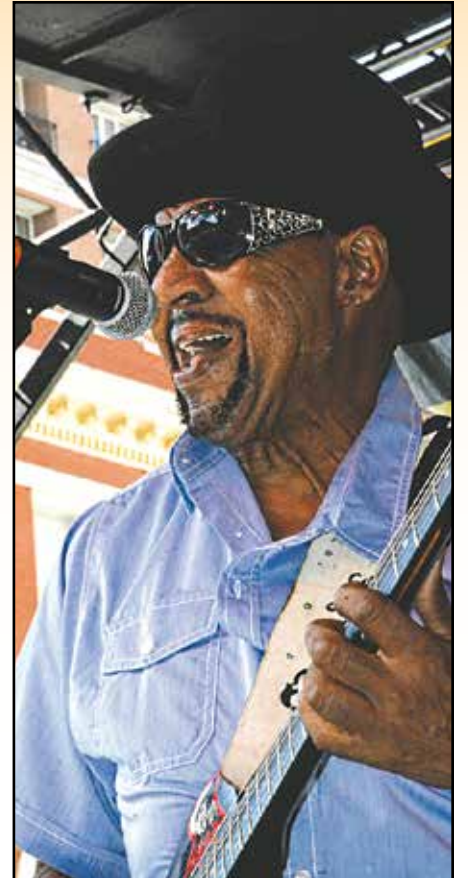
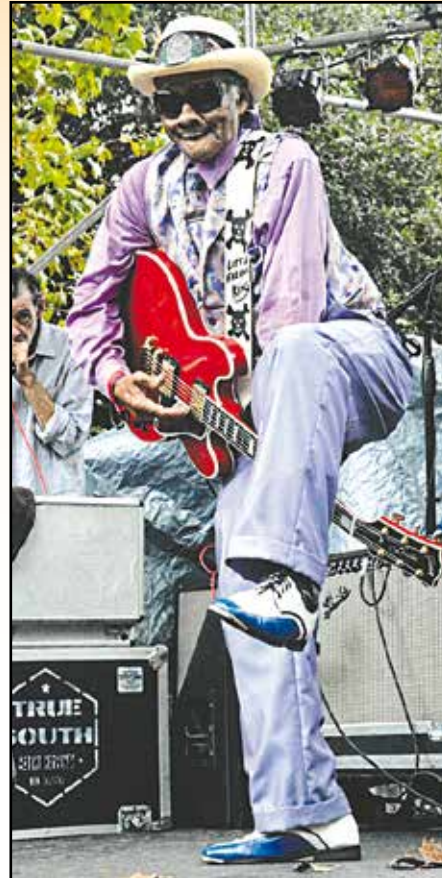
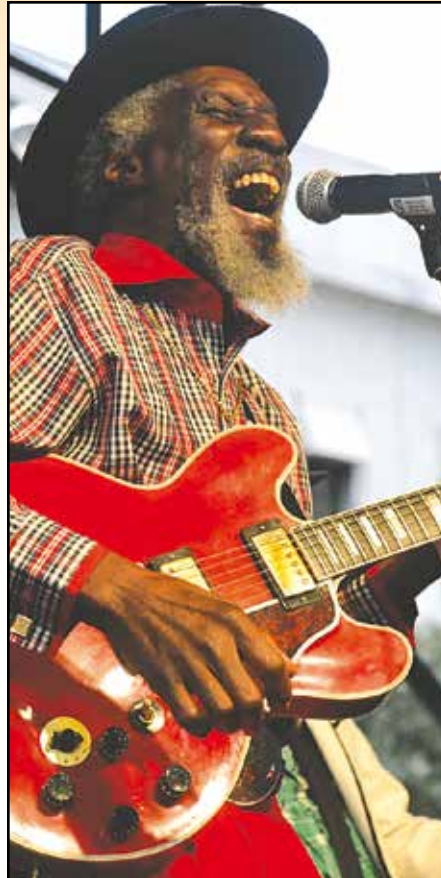
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# 2017 Crescent City Blues & BBQ Festival

Photos by Kichea S. Burt  
Data News Weekly Contributor

This year's 12th Annual Crescent City Blues & BBQ Festival was hotter than ever, with a lineup featuring Grammy winners Robert Cray and Bobby Rush at the top of the bill and including some NOLA favorites the incomparable Deacon John's Jump Blues, plus the longtime King of Bourbon Street, Luther Kent & Trick Bag and Walter "Wolfman" Washington and the Roadmasters and many others. Of course the BBQ was amazing, after all it is a barbecue festival, so the event also featured the best assemblage of regional meat smokers to be found anywhere – including some of the hot new barbecue restaurants that have lit up the New Orleans culinary scene. The Crescent City Blues & BBQ Festival was presented by the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation, and if you missed it this year, make sure to put it on your calendar for next year. Of course, food, music, good times, Data was there!



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



# S.W.A.T. Reboot Takes Contemporary Look at Policing and the Community

By Langston Bowles-Fulmore  
Data News Weekly Contributor

What happens when Blue lives matter as much as Black lives. That's the dilemma faced by Los Angeles-born Lt. Daniel 'Hondo' Harrelson, played by Criminal Minds Actor Shemar Moore. 'Hondo' is loyal to both his S.W.A.T. Team and to the community he comes from, as he seeks to curb crime on the streets. Moore's character embodies this dilemma during a scene in a stealth operation gone wrong.

"Situation gone south, bullets flying. Our neighborhood is torn." Harrelson explains to Jessica Cortez, his boss, played by Actress Stephanie Sigman, as they lay in bed together, looking back at the events of the day. Cortez responds: "...and not from our bullets, what about the bullet in the kid?"

These and other scenes of the crime drama gripped Xavier University students who were among the first viewers given exclusive access to screen a premiere of the reboot of S.W.A.T. on Oct. 4, 2017 in the University Center. Xavier's Chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists organized the event. Subsequent screenings of the first few episodes of S.W.A.T. will take place at other Historically Black Universities around the country.

S.W.A.T., which is short for Special Weapons And Tactics, is a remake of the 1970's S.W.A.T. series, and will air on Nov. 2nd on CBS. The reboot will shed light on modern day law enforcement challenges such as police brutality and racial injustice. Moore reached out to HBCUs to premiere the series as it focuses on topics that reflect the concerns of young Black students.



Actor Shemar Moore stars as Lt Daniel 'Hondo' Harrelson in the CBS revived series S.W.A.T.. Recently, Moore joined the Xavier University chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists for a special on campus screening of the show, and a vigorous discussion surrounding the show, and the real life Black Lives Matter / Blue Lives Matter debate and the role of media from a Black perspective. Photo courtesy CBS Studios

"If you want to change the police, join them," Moore said, during the exclusive screening.

In the real-life police shootings of young Black men, such as Michael Brown, Tamir Rice and even in Louisiana, of Alton Sterling, cops do not always face the ultimate penalty. However, in S.W.A.T., the notion of consequences for cops is a narrative part of the series.

The message behind the first few episodes of S.W.A.T. is to make the community the cops work in – family. Honest dialogue, even though media narratives, is a useful way to bridge the gap between cops and their communities.

"We must continue to tell the story.

The good that happens and the ugly things that happen," said Tia Smith, an Assistant Professor of Mass Communication at Xavier, who teaches about race and media. "The police and Black communities must also listen to each other; over-policing in the Black community is fueled by negative stereotypes of Black women and men. Television can help dispel myths; however, voting to strengthen educational opportunities and economic empowerment may be useful," Smith added.

This statement hit home with the Xavier students who saw the screening.

"It's good that the media is taking African-American perspectives into consid-

eration by giving us a show to relate to," said Prinsey Walker, a Xavier student who helped to organize the event.

Being a police officer is not an easy job, some students said after watching the screening. Sometimes people don't agree with the decisions cops make, or arguments about policing get boiled down to picking a side, either Blue Lives Matter or Black Lives Matter, the students said. "A show like this lets people know that they are being heard and it is just the kind of show America needs right now," said Derek Dixon, a sophomore Public Health Major from Oakland, Calif., who attended the screening.

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# Hey, Dope Feind. Put That NFL Crack Pipe Down

By Jeffrey Boney  
NNPA Newswire Columnist

Hey, dope fiend? Yeah, I'm talking to you. Don't look around. We need to have a serious talk about your addiction to the National Football League (NFL).

The truth is that, consuming the NFL on all of its various platforms, is like a drug for many of us (it's just the plain truth)...and it's extremely hard to get the "New Jack City" 'pookies' of the world to put down that NFL pipe because it's calling them every day, all day.

These NFL dope fiends can't get enough of watching their favorite NFL team play, or watching any team play, for that matter, because that NFL pipe has become so addictive to them that nothing will get in the way of them getting their fix. These NFL dope fiends can't stop subscribing to their favorite NFL TV package; or tailgating in the parking lot; or going down to their favorite sports bar to watch the game; or constantly checking on the NFL scores on their social media newsfeed or their downloaded sports app. NFL dope fiends just can't help themselves. This is what

happens when you're addicted to a drug like the NFL.

Trust me...I know this from personal experience.

I, like most of you, have been addicted, too, but I have chosen to put the NFL pipe down this year and sober up. The NFL had become so powerful, that it was forcing me to choose between accepting things about the NFL that I knew were blatantly wrong and staying true to my convictions and the things I strongly believe in—fighting for equality and justice. I could not, in good conscious, allow the addiction I had, regarding the NFL, allow me overlook the truth and stay silent about the hypocrisy displayed by the NFL as it relates to quarterback Colin Kaepernick. That's why I had to put the NFL pipe down, cold turkey.

If it isn't clear to the rest of you NFL drug addicts out there by now, let me make it real plain for you.

The NFL, and the NFL team owners, who have been leading the charge, have shown their true colors by proactively colluding together to deliberately blackball Kaepernick and keep him out of their league, by any means neces-

sary, while simultaneously attempting to silence his voice and seeking to make him out to be an example that no other NFL players would want to follow.

Thankfully, the momentum (started by Kaepernick's bold stance to take a knee) has started a movement that has accomplished the complete opposite of what the NFL, and its owners, had intended. More and more NFL players, as well as people all across the country, have gotten on board with Kaepernick's original message of taking a knee to bring attention to the injustices experienced by people of color in this country, carried out by rogue members of law enforcement.

From the very beginning, Kaepernick indicated that his protest was never about disrespecting the flag, the military or our veterans; he made it clear that his protest was strictly motivated by what he viewed as a failure by America to address the oppression that people of color have been experiencing in this country. Nothing more, nothing less. So, for some people, especially people like President Trump, to push a false narrative that the

protests are about the American flag or the American military, while continuing to support the NFL's deliberate blackballing of Kaepernick, it's clear to me that those fans have hit the NFL pipe a little too hard and are high as a kite.

Here you have a man in Kaepernick, who was named the Week 1 NFLPA Community MVP for his outstanding community service and commitment to making America's communities better places to live, even though he wasn't on any team roster. Then, as we see this false narrative about Kaepernick permeating the minds of many people like a drug epidemic, we see yet another rogue cop get away with murder in America, after St. Louis Circuit Judge Timothy Wilson chose to acquit Jason Stockley—the police officer who murdered Anthony Lamar Smith in 2011.

Here you have a police officer who chased Smith down and is heard on police dashcam video saying, "going to kill this motherf\*\*\*\*r, don't you know it," before getting out of his car and firing five shots into Smith's car, subsequently killing him. A handgun was then suspiciously found in Smith's car, but had no evidence of Smith's DNA on the gun. The gun did, however, have 100 percent of Stokely's DNA on it—all but proving that the gun had to have been planted in the car by Stokely after the murder. And how did Judge Wilson rule? I'm glad you asked. In his ruling, Judge Wilson said, that the dashcam audio and video proved that the pursuit was stressful, and that, "people say all kinds of things in the heat of the moment or while in stressful situations." Judge Wilson also wrote the following about whether the gun, that had none of Smith's DNA on it, was planted or not: "Finally, the Court observes, based on its nearly thirty years on the bench, that an urban heroin dealer not in possession of a firearm would be an anomaly."

Wow...just wow! And you have the nerve to ask why Kaepernick is taking a knee?

Ever since Kaepernick began his protest during the 2016 NFL season, countless unarmed Black men and women have died at the hands of trigger-happy members of law enforcement, with the majority of those rogue law enforcement officials getting away with murder, with no accountability for their ac-

tions. According to a report by the law enforcement watchdog group Mapping Police Violence, police killed at least 336 Black people in the U.S. in 2015 and at least 309 Black people in the U.S. in 2016. In addition to these startling figures, the report also shows that Black people are three times more likely to be killed by police than White people, with 33 percent of those Black victims being unarmed, compared to 18 percent of Whites. So far in 2017, police have killed approximately 207 Black people, and sadly the number is climbing.

Based on their past decisions regarding select players in their league, the NFL is seemingly okay with endorsing, and having a nonchalant attitude, regarding drug abuse, domestic violence, murder (alleged), racist comments, DWIs, animal abuse, etc., but clearly doesn't seem to care about a Black man exercising his first amendment right to protest unjustified police brutality and the legally sanctioned police killings of Black men and women all across this country.

That is why I had to make myself put down the NFL pipe. No drug in this world is strong enough to keep me that addicted, to the point where I lack conviction, willpower and moral principles. I can only imagine how hard it must be for you to put that NFL pipe down, because I know how addictive it is, but there's hope for you. You can be free and kick this addiction if you really want to—just like I did.

The first step is acknowledging that there is a problem that must be fixed. Let's start there. Let's acknowledge the real reason Kaepernick started taking a knee, and let's start supporting him and his efforts wholeheartedly and with conviction. This is bigger than Kaepernick getting signed to a contract or being back in the NFL. This is about addressing a problem that is bigger than Kaepernick and bigger than you and I. So, what will it be? Will you be sucking on that NFL pipe this week, or will this be the week you officially kick the habit? Let me know how things are working out for you, and please know that I'm always here to help you deal with the withdrawal symptoms that come along with kicking the habit, so that you won't relapse.

So, go ahead, dope fiend. You can do it. Go ahead and put that NFL pipe down.



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# Big Chief Otto “Fiyo” DeJean - Hard Head Hunters

By: Glenn Jones  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

Tribe Timeline :  
2004 - Present Big Chief Otto  
“Fiyo” DeJean

## The Training

When I met Chief Fiyo his profile and mannerisms reminded me of a prize fighter. My father is a fight fan so I've seen a lot of boxers and their profiles. His body stocky, like Tyson, his voice smooth like Smokey Joe Frazier and his image and swag, Ali. Just like those legends, so too were his teachers in the Black Masking culture.

Two of them were his uncles, Second Chief of the red white and blue, Joseph Allen and Merlin DeJean of the Flaming Arrows. The third teacher was Walter Cook, Former Big Chief of Creole Wild West. “My uncle Joe sat down with me and taught me how to put the beads down, that's his thing. My uncle Merlin, was the dancer and trash talker. We'd get together in my grandmother's kitchen and go back and forth. The first person to stutter, choke or take too long to deliver a message that rhymed, it was over for you. It was like training to face Ali or for an interview with Howard Cosell. Lil' Walter is the best builder I've ever been around. In my opinion, he's the best builder. So, the lessons I got from Lil Walter were how to put the suit together. How to build an apron, how to decorate it. How to put the foundation and crown together; put the feathers on and make the crown stand at 12 o'clock, which is straight up on your head. The combination was ridiculous!”

## The Fight

It is apropos that we reference prize fighters, as Big



Big Chief Otto “Fiyo” DeJean - Hard Head Hunters

Chief's early attempts to find a 7th Ward tribe to mask with was met with great resistance. To the extent that his first tribe was an Uptown gang. The fight was real. The Golden Blades Tribe under Big Chief Derrick Hulin gave him his first shot to get in the ring. He would mask “Wild Man”, and “War Chief” for two years. Then, as Chief says “I'm a 7th Ward baby”, he was ready to come home and bring his own tribe. Fighting to get permission from the Indian Council was just round one. Bringing a tribe in the traditional and culturally rich 7th Ward with Uptown-style patches, while not coming out of a downtown tribe was like, let's just say, like the 17th round of the 15-round prize-fight between Tyson and Holyfield, bloody ear and all. Going on 14 years later, with one of the largest tribes in the 7th Ward and giving bless-

ings for two of his Indians to start other tribes which have grown to great prominence in their respective wards, the victory is obvious.

Like all young bull champions rest is not their goal and love for their craft and culture is everything. Chief Fiyo's next fight and maybe greatest opponent, was the thing he loved and the very mentors and traditions he cherished.

## Super Sunday

In April 2006, Chief decided it was time for him to try to unify his generation. The culture bearers at the time, fell under the Mardi Gras Indian Chief Council. Chief Fiyo called a meeting to rally the youth of the culture. The response to that call was overwhelming. More than the youth showed up. Elders and some chiefs drove in. Out of that meeting came the Circle of Chiefs and a directive to the

newly elected president to bring consistency to the Downtown Super Sunday. Guess who head was on the chopping block as president? Guess who was elected to unravel Pandora's box? Yep, Big Chief Fiyo. If only he had that overwhelming response to the meeting, carry over too support in the Super Sunday fight ring. No, he didn't. But, as all eventual champions or chiefs will tell you with the right training, Spirit (the Most High) and an “Invictus” manifesto you will be victorious. Now, Downtown Super Sunday is the largest Black Masking event amongst the West Fest, St. Joseph Day and Uptown Super Sunday events respectively. Regardless of sabotage, rumors and rumors of war, Chief Fiyo maintained. The fruits of his labor are a result of his love, respect and passion for his fellow chiefs and Indians in this culture.

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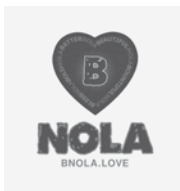
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# Xavier to Host Resistance and Redemption in Black New Orleans: Past and Present

Xavier University of Louisiana (XULA) will host a special program, Resistance and Redemption in Black New Orleans: Past and Present Sunday, Oct. 22, at 2:00 p.m. in the Xavier University Center's McCaffrey Ballroom, 3rd floor. This event is hosted and sponsored by XULA's own Dr. Michael White, Keller Endowed Chair in the Humanities' with Xavier University in Louisiana as part of the Culture of New Orleans Series.

The program, which will include a musical presentation by Dr. Michael White and the Original Liberty Jazz Band, is free and open to the public.

This presentation will examine various forms of black resistance to racism and oppression throughout New Orleans' 300 year history – from slave uprisings and escape, Reconstruction era turmoil, early 20th century struggles and Civil



Dr. Michael White, Keller Endowed Chair at Xavier University, will serve as host of Resistance and Redemption in Black New Orleans: Past and Present.

Rights era protests into today's battles over issues like police brutality and Confederate monument removal.

The program will feature a special panel of distinguished speakers discussing social, legal and physical resistance throughout the city's existence. Included will be a discussion of black New Orleanians' unique forms of cultural resistance through social club parades, jazz, and Mardi Gras Indian traditions.

Panelists will include long-time Civil Rights activist Rev. Samson "Skip" Alexander; Plessey vs. Ferguson case descendants, Phoebe Ferguson and Keith Plessey; author and son of Civil Rights Attorney, A. P. Tureaud, Jr.; community activist and founder of Take 'em Down NOLA, Malcolm Suber; and Black Panther and historian Malik Rahim.

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## Walmart Opens First Training Academy in Chalmette

*Dedicated training facility at Chalmette  
Walmart is one of only four in Louisiana.*

Walmart opened its first training academy in Chalmette on Thursday, Oct. 12, at 8101 W Judge Perez Drive. Academies are dedicated facilities located in, or adjacent to, a Walmart Supercenter where hourly supervisors and department managers will receive two weeks of hands-on training that combines both the classroom and the sales floor.

"Our training academies help provide associates with the skills they need to succeed and advance, while creating a better and more consistent customer experience," said Robbie Giglio, Chalmette academy manager. "Skills training increases productivity, confidence and knowledge which leads to greater job satisfaction, personal and professional growth and helps make working at Walmart a smart career choice."

Walmart has created a new end-to-end training program, Pathways, for associates at all levels of store operations, from entry-level to Re-



gional General Manager. Hourly frontline supervisors and department managers will attend a dedicated two-week training program at the academy facility as part of Pathways.

The first week is dedicated to retail fundamentals and gaining core retail skills.

The second week is dedicated to training on the sales floor to gain

the knowledge and skills to run the specific department where the associate works.

Areas of study include leadership, merchandising, operations, technology and customer service, in addition to department-specific training.

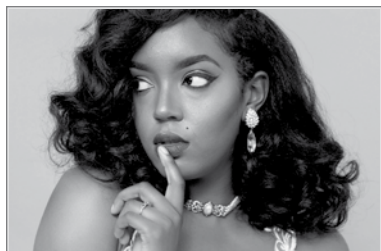
Academy graduates will

have the skills and confidence to run outstanding departments, lead people and deliver a great customer experience.

Walmart plans to build approximately 200 academies in the U.S. by the end of 2017. The Chalmette Academy will train associates from at least 28 stores in the New Orleans and Gulfport/Biloxi areas



# Fun for All Fall Fashion



**Delaney George**  
Data Fashion & Style  
Columnist

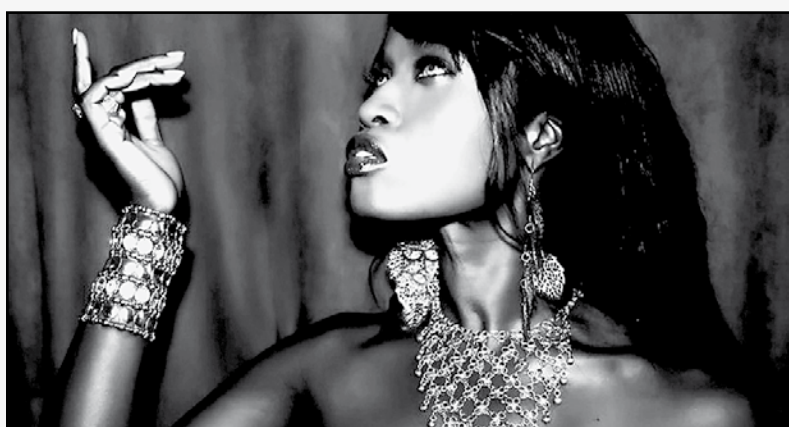
Halloween is right around the corner, and the stores and costume boutiques are selling their spookiest looks fast. For the ladies wondering what their Halloween costumes will be this year, Delaney's Armoire has a few suggestions sure to make you the sexiest creature prowling the streets on Halloween.

## DIY Vampire:

Everyone loves a good vampire. From the exotic eyes, to the shinning skin, to the fairytale stories, vampires are number one on the sexy costume list. You can make your own by simply popping some fake colored contacts in your eyes, adding a golden bronzer to your skin, and racking up on some vintage costume jewelry.

## Return of the Dead:

You can never go wrong with a skeleton or zombie get-up. This costume gives any Halloween aficionado the



Sexy vampire DIY look.



All black dress paired with thigh high boots and a black sheriff hat.

perfect opportunity to play in some body paint, get wild with hairstyles and rip up some old clothing you've been meaning to get rid of. For a sexy skeleton or zombie, all you will need is a good pair of body shaping tights, a distressed tee or two, and some makeup to make you look ghastly. You'll be the only zombie or skeleton who has

people running toward you with this look.

## Sexy Cop:

Although you may have to go out and purchase a sexy cop costume, the sexy perks will be worth the price. You can strut off to your Halloween party with authoritative style in the sexy cop suit. All you'll need is a short



DIY zombie and skeleton costumes.

Photos by Delaney George & LanesLense

dress, a badge, and some high boots. People will know your laying down the law in these ensembles.

For more on the perfect 2017 Halloween costumes, email Delinkey@yahoo.com

For more information on all looks email Delinkey@yahoo.com or direct message @Delannii on Instagram.

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## Job Opportunity

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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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