New Orleans Commemorates Juneteenth

Newsmaker

Anthony Davis is out! Zion Williamson gives new hope to the N.O. Pelicans

State & Local

NOLA Caribbean Festival - June 20th-23rd
By Renetta Burrell Perry

It’s perhaps the most important date in African American history - June 19, 1865. On the heels of the agony and turmoil of the recently fought Civil War - still historically ranked as the bloodiest American war - slaves’ lives hung in balance. Though President Abraham Lincoln had written The Emancipation Proclamation two years prior, freeing slaves in 11 states, the document’s vision, power and credence would take two more years and a Constitutional Amendment to reach full fruition, abolishing slavery throughout the entire United States. Juneteenth commemorates the fateful day in June when the first group of slaves, in Galveston, Texas, heard the news of their freedom, thus loosening the literal and figurative chains that had bound them to the most horrific experience faced by any other race of people the world-over. The enslavement of African peoples hauled to the United States via the Middle Passage and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is fully

New Orleanians commemorate the African slaves who lost their lives during the Transatlantic Slave Trade at an annual Maafa event.

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Celebrating Juneteenth
and those who continue to uphold the values of freedom and justice in our community.
Anthony Davis Traded as Pelicans Rebuild with First Round Draft Pick Zion Williamson

By Edwin Buggage

Anthony Davis who has been the face of the Pelicans for the past seasons will now join LeBron James as a member of the Los Angeles Lakers. This ends what has become a soap opera around the NBA after he demanded to be traded.

The Pelicans who just secured the overall number one pick in the NBA Draft will without a doubt select standout player Zion Williamson, who is being compared to a young LeBron James.

The City of New Orleans is abuzz with speculation that the Pelicans can become a strong team in the Western Conference and build a team that can be competitive with the acquisition of Williamson along with Lonzo Ball, Brandon Ingram, and Josh Hart coming over from the Lakers and multiple draft picks added to a Pelicans team that already have a great scorer in Dru Holiday.

The team under Coach Alvin Gentry and new GM David Griffin is poised to build a winning franchise without Davis. Griffin, as all know was the GM of the Cleveland Cavaliers and help build a championship team led by LeBron James. Hopefully, this can be replicated in New Orleans and bring an NBA Title to the Crescent City in the near future.

Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

documented as an atrocity which involved generational pain and disparity of epic proportions. No other race had endured the brutal dehumanization and physical and mental torture that the Africans had, and there would be centuries more of brutality, mistreatment, misogyny, and dehumanization to come.

The Juneenth Story & Maafa

Juneenth, which originated in Galveston, Texas in 1865, is observed as the African American Emancipation Day, and is celebrated around the world during the month of June. It is the oldest commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Maafa, a Kiswahili word that means “horrible tragedy,” refers to the Middle Passage or Transatlantic Slave Trade during which millions of captives from Africa were separated from their families and homeland and brought to the New World under the inhumane system of chattel slavery. Of great significance to these commemorations is the year 1619, enslaved Africans arrived at Point Comfort, Virginia. These are facts that are conspicuously missing from our history books which is why organizations like The National Juneteenth Observance Foundation (NJOF), or- ganized here in New Orleans in 1994, are emphatic about educating future generations and keeping an open dialogue regarding modern day issues that continue to plague African-Americans and formulating solutions to the problems faced by today’s youth.

John Mosely of NJOF says the way to continue the Juneenth Story and to further emancipate ourselves as African Americans is ultimately through the education of our youth. “We have got to teach our children who they really are, and from where they come from while telling them about the price that the elders paid for them to be free,” he says, observing why he thinks the commemoration pales in comparison to other celebrations around the nation, even here in the City of New Orleans.

He says we as African Americans continue to carry a stigma stemming from the disgrace we endured during slavery and still endure to this day. He continues to explain that the lack of national locus surrounding commemorations like Juneteenth and Maafa are rooted in America’s deceit and unwillingness to face the facts. For the nation to embrace Juneteenth and Maafa commemorations he says, “America would have to look deeply at itself and admit that it is not the perfect country that it professes to be. And there’s the truth that we as Blacks and people of color have to face. We don’t support our own celebrations such as Juneteenth because we are ashamed of our own history, so a lot of us stick our heads in the sand and support other celebrations like Jazz Fest, and Mardi Gras, Essence Festival because we have become programmed to spend our money with the other man.”

Speaking of the mentality embedded in us as a result of the effects slavery has systematically imposed upon us, he says, “In a word we suffer from a lack of unity. The elders say we are like crabs in a barrel, when we see one of our brothers or sisters going up, we pull him or her back down.”

New Orleans Commemorates Juneteenth and Maafa

The NJOF recently celebrated its 25th-Year Anniversary in February and it continues in its efforts to educate and commemorate. NJOF in unison with Ashe’ Cultural Arts Center have organized a schedule of events to commemorate Juneteenth and Maafa.

Ashe partners with the 400 Commission, Congo Square Preservation Society, and United Culture Bearers of Louisiana, joining others around the country for “Let’s Talk –The International Day of Drumming and Healing.” In New Orleans, on June 19, 2019 from 9:00 AM until 9:00 PM, the sound of drums and the sacred vibration of healing prayers, chants and songs will fill the air. Drumming will start at North Claiborne at 9:00 AM. Other locations will be The Donald Harrison Senior Museum, Ashe’ Power House, Algiers Ferry Landing, Black Star Books & Cafe, Community Book Center, King & Queen Cover Story, Continued on page 10.
NOLA Caribbean Experience
10 Events in 4 Days!
June 20th - 23rd

Data Staff Writers

NOLA Caribbean Festival has quickly transformed into a regional destination event with attendees coming in from 30+ states. The biggest single event of the weekend is the NOLA Caribbean Festival on Saturday, June 22nd (5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.) and Sunday, June 23rd (5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.) at Central City BBQ, 1291 South Rampart St. The second biggest event is the Colour Me Krazy Carnival Parade, complete with Caribbean Carnival Masquerade Costume Bands, dancers, Caribbean DJ trucks, and a truly unique paint VS powder experience. The parade starts on Saturday, June 22nd for 4:00 p.m. on Canal St. and ends at the festival grounds.

The NOLA Caribbean Festival showcases Caribbean cuisine, music, dance, and culture while highlighting New Orleans’ deeply rooted cultural connections as the Caribbean’s northern-most city. In only its third year, the festival has grown tremendously. 2019 will feature international artists, bands and DJs on 3 music stages with over 50 vendors. Featured this year will be top international talent from Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Cuba, Honduras, Bahamas and of course, New Orleans. A slew of top restaurants will be serving up an eclectic array of delicious dishes, deserts and drinks from all around the Caribbean, including vegan/vegetarian options.

In addition to great music, art and food, the NOLA Caribbean Fest will have a Kids Corner for all ages including the Baby Base Camp from NOLA Family Magazine, African drum lessons, and indoor dance stage featuring salsa and Afrobeat.

General admission tickets are only $10 or $15 for a 2-day pass. VIP tickets are only $40 or $70 for a 2-day pass. Advanced tickets are available on the website. For additional information, updates and offers, visit NOLA Caribbean Festival on the following platforms: Event Web: www.nolacaribbean-festival.com; Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/nolacaribbeanexperience; Instagram: @nolacaribbeanexperience

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Irene Burrell’s 85th Birthday Celebration

By Renetta Perry

Family and friends came together last Saturday to celebrate Irene Alex- cee Burrell’s 85th Birthday at St. John Institutional Baptist Church’s Reception Hall. Guests dined on cuisine provided by caterer Michelle Cressey, and enjoyed music from Leo Jackson and The Melody Clouds. Mrs. Burrell, a retired educator who worked in the Orleans Parish School System for 36 years, credited her longevity to blessings from God.

Family members surround Mrs. Irene Burrell at her 85th Birthday celebration.

Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events
Funk Diva 2020 Vision Brand Launch

By Renetta Perry

Funk Diva held its 2020 Vision Brand Launch last Sunday at Miracles Event Hall. Founder Dr. Bionca Shy bestowed the honor of Funk Diva upon local Female Entrepreneurs and trailblazers in their respective fields of expertise and also on the honorees of The Funk Diva 2020 Vision Calendar Project. Vendors displayed their products at the event and the panel of progressive Divas shared their success formulas with the audience.

The scene was elegant at the Funk Diva 2020 Vision Brand Launch.

First Gentleman Jason Cantrell came together with the community to celebrate NOLA Dads at the city’s Father’s Day Fest. The event took place at Joe Brown Park last Sunday, and included food, games, arts and crafts and what most dads consider fun - a car show!

Data Staff Writers
Photo credit: City of New Orleans

First Gentleman Jason Cantrell with Mayor LaToya Cantrell at Father’s Day Fest, which took place last Sunday at Joe Brown Park.

Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events
Why is the Insurance Industry Pushing Repeal of Discrimination Protection?

Marc Morial  
President and CEO  
National Urban League

"As long as the color of a man's skin determines his choice of housing, no investment in the physical rebuilding of our cities will free the men and women living there. … A nation that aspires to greatness cannot be a divided nation--with whites and Negroes entrenched behind barriers of mutual suspicion and fear." – President Lyndon B. Johnson, letter to Congress, April 1966

Racial discrimination in housing harms not only families who struggle to find homes, but communities still plagued by segregation. Housing segregation reinforces racism and diminishes us as a nation. So why is the insurance industry fighting to tear down one of the most important tools we have for preventing discrimination? Under pressure from the insurance industry, the Department of Housing and Urban Development is considering revising its regulation on "disparate impact" claims in the Fair Housing Act, the landmark legislation that bans housing discrimination on the basis of race and other factors. Other federal agencies are considering similar action.

Under the concept of disparate impact, actions can amount to discrimination if they have an unequal effect even if that was not the intent. The Supreme Court affirmed the principle of disparate impact in its 2015 decision in Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs v. Inclusive Communities Project. Writing for the majority, Justice Anthony Kennedy said "recognition of disparate-impact liability under the FHA also plays a role in uncovering discriminatory intent: It permits plaintiffs to counteract unconscious prejudices and disguised animus that escape easy classification as disparate treatment."

That case resolved around the tax credits the federal government provides for developers who build low-income housing. The Inclusive Communities Project sued the Texas agency responsible for administering these tax credits for allocating too many tax credits "in predominantly Black inner-city areas and too few in predominantly white suburban neighborhoods." The policy effectively kept Black families out of predominantly white neighborhoods.

But even though the disparate impact principle is settled law, the insurance industry continues to challenge it.

Economic justice is dependent upon fair housing. Moving from a high-poverty neighborhood to a low-poverty neighborhood raised incomes, improved college attendance, and reduced teen-age pregnancy, a Harvard study found. Zip code is a better indicator of life expectancy than genetic code. To stand in the way of fair housing is to oppose racial equality itself.

As a civil rights organization devoted to fair housing for more than 100 years, the National Urban League will not tolerate the erosion of the provisions of the Fair Housing Act, or the failure of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to fulfill its duty.

By Charles Dickerson  
Data News Weekly Contributor

Why Mentor?  
We Must Put Children First

When I look around and see what is going on with some of our young people getting involved in crime and violence it is something that distresses me. As a career educator and mentor, I believe it is important that we as a community do more for our young people; especially our young men.

I have run several programs aimed at helping both young boys and girls here in New Orleans and in Houston Texas. I have seen the impact of what taking a little bit of time with a child can do in turning their lives around and turning a negative into a positive.

It is something that does not take a lot of time; I am simply asking adults at every level from parents, to schools, and community and faith leaders to put children first. Because this is not happening, we see the results of neglect every day in the streets of our city where many of our young men are committing crime, being gunned down or falling through the cracks of society. We must decide as a city that we will not accept mediocrity when it comes to our children. We must expect excellence from them and by our example show them that it is possible. We cannot continue to make excuses for why our children fail. I have witnessed as a Science Teacher seeing my students being turned around because of the structure, order and discipline they receive in my classroom.

Further, it is something I've done running mentor programs for over a decade and on the frontline as a parent. It is on this eve of Father's Day that I wanted to pen this because I believe it is necessary to have a call to arms to all my brothers to accept the challenge and become mentors, and in some cases that only means being responsible for the kids you bring into the world.

Step up to the plate because in many instances the kids who receive the least amount of investment and guidance are the ones that contribute the least to our city. This must change; we have to do something about the school to prison pipeline. The one way we can do this is through mentoring. It is time for us to come together and contribute to solutions to the problems that plague our city.

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Mayor Cantrell Celebrates Renovations To NORD’S Bodenger Playground In Algiers

Data Staff Writers

Mayor LaToya Cantrell today joined other officials and neighborhood leaders to celebrate the nearly $500,000 worth of renovations to the New Orleans Recreation Development (NORD) Commission’s Bodenger Playground in Algiers’ Real Timbers neighborhood.

“I am just so excited about this facility coming back, redeveloped and restored. It truly is a new day in Algiers,” Mayor Cantrell said.

Renovations to Bodenger Playground include a new basketball court, a renovated and freshly painted clubhouse complete with restroom facilities with motion-sensor lighting, a new kitchen, new air-conditioning units, and storage space. Ongoing improvements to the baseball field include new bleachers, dugouts and fencing, connected walkways and new water fountains.

The Department of Public Works also performed drainage improvements, including sidewalk paving, on one end of the playground.

“The half-million dollars’ worth of work we’ve put into Bodenger Playground underscores our commitment to add, update, upgrade and maintain our parks, playgrounds and recreation facilities across New Orleans for all of our residents. We recognize the need to build up our facilities in Algiers, and the value Bodenger Playground brings to the Real Timbers neighborhood and surrounding communities,” said NORD CEO Larry Barabino, Jr. “We’re excited to provide a place that can present year-round athletic programming and recreation for the whole family. Thank you to the Mayor, NORD Commissioners and Councilmember Giselson Palmer for their leadership in supporting our kids.”

“I’m excited that Mayor Cantrell is prioritizing funding to improve public parks in Algiers, and the work at Bodenger Playground is an example of that. For many years, our parks have been neglected, and residents have made it loud and clear they want a renewed focus on neighborhood parks. I look forward to continuing to partner with Mayor Cantrell to invest in the Algiers community and its parks” said District C Councilmember Kristin Giselson Palmer.

The Bodenger Playground renovations are part of increased investments on the Westbank, according to Deputy CAO for Infrastructure Ramsey Green – $12 million worth of Joint Infrastructure Program Projects, one of which is under construction now (West Bank Group A Project), with work in the Memorial Park neighborhood; and $2.5 million in bond funds for projects kicking off this year, including roadwork on Lawrence Street between Shirley Drive and the dead end at the park, and on General Meyer Drive between Ernest and Bacchus.

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New Orleans Mourns Death of Legendary Musician “Dr. John”

By Renetta Burrell-Perry

The legendary and colorful songwriter, producer, collaborator and ingenious musical force known as Dr. John passed away on June 6th, from a heart attack according to a statement released by his family. Born Malcolm John Rebennack, Jr., and raised in the City of New Orleans, Dr. John was renowned for his unique style of Funk Music which he adopted as a student of Professor Longhair, Papa Celestin, Dave Bartholomew, Walter “Papoose” Nelson. Coupled with his love and respect for the City’s Voodoo Culture, his signature style and his gritty voice earned him a space in music royalty in the City of New Orleans.

Known as Dr. John, passed away and the ingenious musical force songwriter, producer, collaborator and performer, known for his unique style of Funk Music which he adopted as a student of Professor Longhair, Papa Celestin, Dave Bartholomew, Walter “Papoose” Nelson. Coupled with his love and respect for the City’s Voodoo Culture, his signature style and his gritty voice earned him a space in music royalty in the City of New Orleans.

Mac Rebennack, who told us all to call him ’Dr. John,’ was truly one-of-a-kind. He was a beautiful soul, a powerful pianist, and one of the cultural icons that helped make New Orleans what it is,” said Mayor Cantrell of his life. “We say goodnight to the Nite Tripper, and goodnight to the one-of-a-kind. He was a beautiful soul, a powerful pianist, and one of the cultural icons that helped make New Orleans what it is,” said Mayor Cantrell of his life. “We say goodnight to the Nite Tripper, and goodbye to a unique talent. May he rest in God’s perfect peace.”

New Orleans with student-centric, teacher-centric, and community-centric leadership. Among those honored were Einstein High School Principal Nathan Stockman; Quality Control Analyst Nakeveya Anthony and Einstein IT Director Long Nguyen. Einstein is accepting students in all grades, PK-12 for its three campus locations in east New Orleans: Sherwood Forest, Sarah T. Reed (6-12 grades) and Cannes Street in Village de L’est. For more information: www.einsteincharter-schools.org or apply directly at the Sherwood Forest campus, 4801 Maid Marion Dr., before July 3 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.; Phone (504) 324-7459.

Modern day dancers and drummers celebrate in Congo Square, continuing the tradition of the ancestors. Independent Scholar and Author Freddi Williams Evans is this year’s Grand Griot. During the Maafa Commemoration, hundreds of people attired in white clothing come together as one to pay tribute to those ancestors who died during the Middle Passage, as well as those who survived. The ceremony includes multi-denominational words of healing, ancestral songs, and the releasing of white peace doves. This year, we will also memorialize those enslaved Africans who were brought to Louisiana on the first slave ships. Drummers, dancers and Mardi Gras Indians will then lead the Maafa Procession from Congo Square through historic Tremé and the French Quarter, to the Mississippi River ending with the release of flowers in tribute to the ancestors. Along the way, brief stops will include the Tomb of the Unknown Slave (St. Augustine Catholic Church) and historic markers to the slave trade. Shuttles will be available to return participants to Congo Square.

Emporium, Historic Congo Square and LeMusée de t.p.c. Dr. Flint D. Mitchell’s play, The Other Black History, also a part of the kickoff, will be on stage at The Ashe Power House at 7:00 PM. The Maafa Season culminates with the 19th Annual Maafa Commemoration on Saturday, July 6, 2019 at 7:00 a.m., in Congo Square within Armstrong Park in New Orleans. The community, Essence Festival goers, and visitors from around the world are invited to participate in this sacred ceremony where we remember our African ancestors. Independent Scholar and Author Freddi Williams Evans is this year’s Grand Griot. During the Maafa Commemoration, hundreds of people attired in white clothing come together as one to pay tribute to those ancestors who died during the Middle Passage, as well as those who survived. The ceremony includes multi-denominational words of healing, ancestral songs, and the releasing of white peace doves. This year, we will also memorialize those enslaved Africans who were brought to Louisiana on the first slave ships. Drummers, dancers and Mardi Gras Indians will then lead the Maafa Procession from Congo Square through historic Tremé and the French Quarter, to the Mississippi River ending with the release of flowers in tribute to the ancestors. Along the way, brief stops will include the Tomb of the Unknown Slave (St. Augustine Catholic Church) and historic markers to the slave trade. Shuttles will be available to return participants to Congo Square.

For more information on events, contact Ashe’ Cultural Arts Center at (504) 569-9070 or visit their website at: www.ashecac.org
Chevrolet Drives Into Fourth Year of Fellowship for HBCU Journalism Students

Data Staff Writers

Chevrolet and the National Newspaper Publishers Association selected six students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities for the 2019 Discover the Unexpected Journalism Fellowship. With the help of NNPA editors and reporters, the fellows will travel the country to discover and share positive, inspirational and relevant stories from African American communities during their eight-week summer internship.

The 2019 DTU Journalism Fellows are Telarius Abrams (Bethune-Cookman), Tyla Burns (Hampton University), Elae Hill (North Carolina A&T), Miana Massey (Howard University), Emani Nichols (Morehouse College) and Sharon Joy Washington (Florida A&M).

Chevrolet will award each DTU Fellow a $10,000 scholarship and a $5,000 stipend. The students will form two teams of three people, and each team will have access to an all-new 2019 Chevrolet Blazer during their reporting assignments.

The Annual DTU Program has awarded more than $330,000 in scholarships and stipends since 2015. The program started with a select number of schools and, based on the overwhelming response, the online submission process was opened to all HBCU students in their sophomore through senior years with an interest in journalism, communications, mass media or visual arts.

“Chevrolet and the NNPA selected six students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities for the 2019 Discover the Unexpected Journalism Fellowship,” said NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. “Having these young journalists in our newsrooms working side-by-side with our editors and writers is inspiring and we are committed to including young storytellers’ voices in our reporting.”

The DTU Fellowship takes place June 6 - August 1, 2019. DTU Fellows will work with the Atlanta Voice, Chicago Crusader, Houston Forward Times and The Washington Informer. The fellows’ journey begins in Atlanta, where they will participate in two days of journalism training with Chevrolet and NNPA leadership before they hit the road to begin their reporting assignments. Their stories will be featured on the NNPA website (www.nnpa.org/chevydtu) throughout the summer.

Disc Jockey and Music Producer DJ Envy, a co-host of the syndicated Radio Show “The Breakfast Club,” will be the program’s national spokesperson. Musician and Author Fonsworth Bentley will serve as the fellows’ Road Trip Advisor. Both are HBCU alums - DJ Envy graduated from Virginia’s Hampton University and Bentley is a Morehouse College graduate.

Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

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

We can’t wait to hear from you!
Blazing a Path for HBCU Achievement

Join six future Black media stars as they begin their journey.
Head to www.nnpa.org/chevydtu and be there at the beginning.

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