



Diva hits the Red Carpet

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DataZone

August 28 - September 3, 2010 45th Year Volume 14 www.ladatanews.com

Data News Weekly

44th Anniversary Edition,

Honoring the 2009 Trailblazers



Dr. Doris Roche-Hicks



Rev. T.J. Smith



Capt. Charles Leach



Demetric Mercadel



Pete Rhodes



Wendell Pierce



Dalton Savwoir, Jr



Brandon Spann



Ron Gardner



Terry Scott



Nat Turner



Reginald Stewman

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Nathaniel
Scales

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2009 Trailblazers
of the Month

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Data News Weekly Celebrates 44th Anniversary

*We understand your
struggles because we're
still going through ours.*

By Gary Estwick

Publisher Terry Jones walks through his office on 3501 Napoleon Avenue, pointing to changes at Data News Weekly since Hurricane Katrina swept through his Uptown doors, part of a dark chapter in New Orleans history.

Jones moves to the back of the two-story property, past two small offices. Straight ahead, through an opening is another room, much larger. Once inside, he stops to his right where employees once worked in cubicles. The receptionist desk was ahead on the left. Not far away was a couch which hosted guests.

Five years later, this office is a make-shift storage area for Jones and friends that had nowhere to store items.

Despite the chaos, Jones, the son of Data founder Joseph "Scoop" Jones, says he never considered closing the doors on one of the city's oldest African-American newspapers - even during the days following the Sept. 2005 storm when locals, tourists and politicians questioned if New Orleans would return to any level of its former greatness.

"I thought Data at that point was more important than at any other time," says Jones, his family-owned newspaper celebrating its 45th year.

"During that period, Data wasn't just an African-American information source; it was an overall information source. Any and everybody who needed information on how to get home, how to do stuff, they were picking us up all around the country."

Data returned to print weeks after Katrina with assistance - from basics such as a friendly face in town to living arrangements - from



Terry B. Jones, Data News Weekly Publisher

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347
Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622

editorial: datanewseditor@bellsouth.net | advertising: datanewsad@bellsouth.net

Terry B. Jones

CEO/Publisher

Glenn Jones

VP Advertising & Marketing

Cheryl Mainor

Managing Editor

Edwin Buggage

Editor

Dionne Character

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Melanie Mainor

Copy Editor Intern

June Hazeur

Accounting

Contributors

Edwin Buggage

Dionne Character

Gary Estwick

Gary L. Flowers

Francis Lam

Rev. Al Sharpton

Glen Summers

NNPA Newswire

Salon.com

Art Direction & Production

MainorMedia.com

Editorial Submissions

datanewseditor@bellsouth.net

Advertising Inquiries

datanewsad@bellsouth.net

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New Contact Information and Procedures for Individuals and Businesses to File Claims for Costs and Damages resulting from the Deepwater Horizon Incident of April 20, 2010

The Gulf Coast Claims Facility (GCCF), administered by Kenneth R. Feinberg, has been established to assist claimants in filing claims for costs and damages incurred as a result of the oil spill resulting from the Deepwater Horizon Incident of April 20, 2010. Claims previously filed with the BP Claims Process have been transitioned to the new GCCF Claims Facility for review, evaluation and determination by the GCCF.

You Can Now File Your Claim In One Of The Following Ways:

1) Online: By accessing the GCCF Website at: www.GulfCoastClaimsFacility.com.

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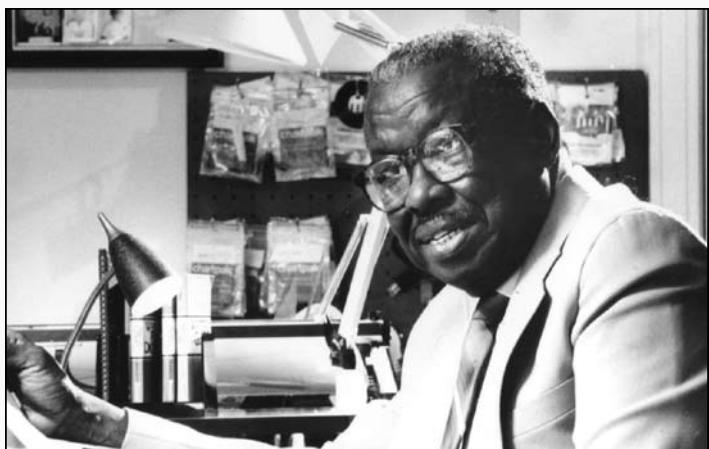
3) By Fax: Complete your Claim Form and fax it to the GCCF at: 1.866.682.1772.

4) Visit one of our Claims Site Offices: Claims offices have been established in **Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.** Visit our website for a complete list of locations. A Claims Evaluator will assist you with the filing process.

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

Joseph M. "Scoop" Jones, Data News Weekly Founder



Terry Jones, far right, stands with NNPA Foundation Chair Dorothy R. Leavell, who honored his father, Joseph Madison "Scoop" Jones, Jr., as a "Distinguished Black Publisher". Jones, publisher of the New Orleans Data News Weekly, is joined by his son Glenn, holding the plaque. Also pictured are Dr. Clarence Muse, Howard University archivist, Moorland-Spingarn Research Center and NNPA Chairman Danny Bakewell Sr.

other black newspapers, especially in surrounding states. It's editions produced in Atlanta, its papers distributed in Atlanta, Dallas, Baton Rouge and Monroe - cities which housed displaced residents. So far away from home, Data gave people a level of familiarity that many were in need of.

Data lost more than \$150,000 in equipment during Katrina, taking on about eight feet of water, destroying the first floor.

"No employees, no equipment, no anything," Jones says.

or months following it's return, Data's Trailblazer, a monthly recognition given to locals in the business community, was awarded to people famous and ordinary for their extraordinary heroics during the city's mightiest crises.

Earlier this year, the newspaper returned to its weekly production schedule, part of a

newspaper which is now more streamlined.

Employees that endured Katrina are now spread out from Texas to Washington D.C. Most have found other jobs. A few now work remotely for Data.

Data's story mirrors that of the city it serves, it's resiliency matching that of its residents.

Vacant houses - some still with spray-painted symbols marking life and death - are

common sights in neighborhoods. Basic services like shopping, eating at a nice restaurant, checking out a book from the library and going to the hospital for an emergency are often a luxury if you live in the wrong area west of the Twin Spans and east of Veterans Blvd.

But like this great city, Data will survive.

GE: How did Data start?

TJ: My dad's vision for this paper was an entertainment guide. He was retired from Seagrams, he wanted something to do. He always loved journalism. So he started this monthly entertainment guide that became weekly within the first year.

Most of the ads were from bars, liquor companies. He wrote about black entertainers - Allen Toussaint, Fats Domino - there was no place to talk about those kind of folks. What happened is it got so popular, when election time came, they started putting in ads in the paper, so he got a push into politics and started broadening out. It kind of grew by itself.

That wasn't what my dad initially wanted. He wanted a little eight-page paper that was his side hustle to supplement his retirement money. He would probably be surprised, proud that I was able to bring it to this level.

GE: Your father had a background in journalism?

TJ: He was a war correspondent in New Guinea. He told a story that he was in an all-Black troop. The commander asked if anybody could type and he raised his hand. He couldn't really type, he could only peck, but he could do better than most of them. So he got the job! From that point on, he started working in the office

and writing stories to New Orleans about the Black soldiers. They started being picked up by Black newspapers around the country. He put in to be a warrant officer, and since he was well known around the country for his writing he became an officer.

GE: He worked as a salesman before starting the newspaper?

TJ: When he retired from Seagrams he made a deal with them to put an ad in Data. His partner, this guy name Sonny LaQUA, worked for City Wholesale Liquor. He had connections with the bars. So folks bought ads through Sonny and my old man, "Scoop" - that's what we called him - he came in with money from Seagrams and they worked it like that. Got something to deliver the papers. My dad laid the whole paper out by hand with a board because back then, we had typesetters - you had to put the strip down on the board and set up the columns. If you had the wrong word you had to cut it out with an exacto knife and replace it. And we never missed an issue. [One day] my old man got sick and he made me bring the board to the hospital to lay out the paper from his bed.

GE: Give us a peak into the future of Data?

TJ: We're revamping our web site to integrate the print product with the Internet through blogs, for example. We also want to increase our circulation to west of the city. From our numbers, a lot of African-Americans since Katrina have moved there, bought houses and settled in Westwego and that area, so we're going to concentrate [future distribution] there.

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Rethink Possible



trailblazer

Nathanael Scales

A Cut Above the Rest

by: Edwin Buggage



Some would consider growing up in the 17th ward of Uptown New Orleans a disadvantage but Nathanael Scales saw it as an opportunity to prove that "roses do grow from concrete," instead of being a falling victim of his violent surroundings. He is a young man who has not let growing up in adverse circumstances deter him to shoot for success. He is young but is wise beyond his years and leads by example. Besides being a successful entrepreneur he works with young people giving them the tools to be their best selves. He does this by teaching leadership or motivating others to use positivity to create their own path to reach their goals and achieve their dreams.

Scales is a sought out public speaker who has shared his inspirational

story with people from all walks of life. Although he has touched many lives he is passionate about the plight of young boys. One of the many places he has spoken is Boys Town of America in addition to children in his community, adults in prisons and many others.

Not only talking the talk, but walking the walk he teaches the importance of education and stresses building good character, he mentors young business entrepreneurs by advising them on business plans and funding. Through his work in the community Scales has exposed disadvantaged youth to new surroundings that has broadened their horizons. He has also sponsored extracurricular activities for the children around the Crescent City.

Nathanael is a civic minded young man who is

a member of various local and national organizations including National Black MBA Association, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the National Urban League, NAACP and the Buffalo Soldiers Riding Club of New Orleans, an organization that stresses the importance of community service and teaching youth their history.

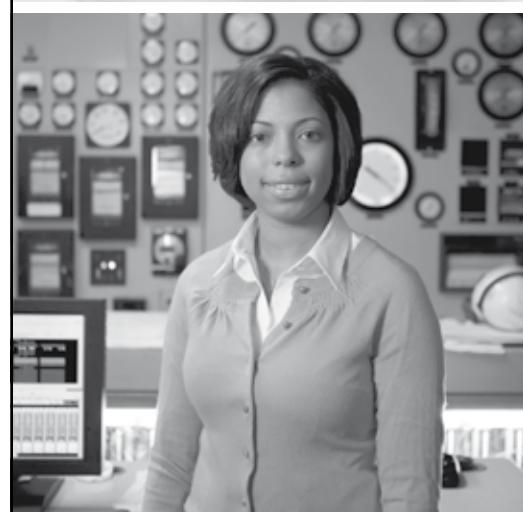
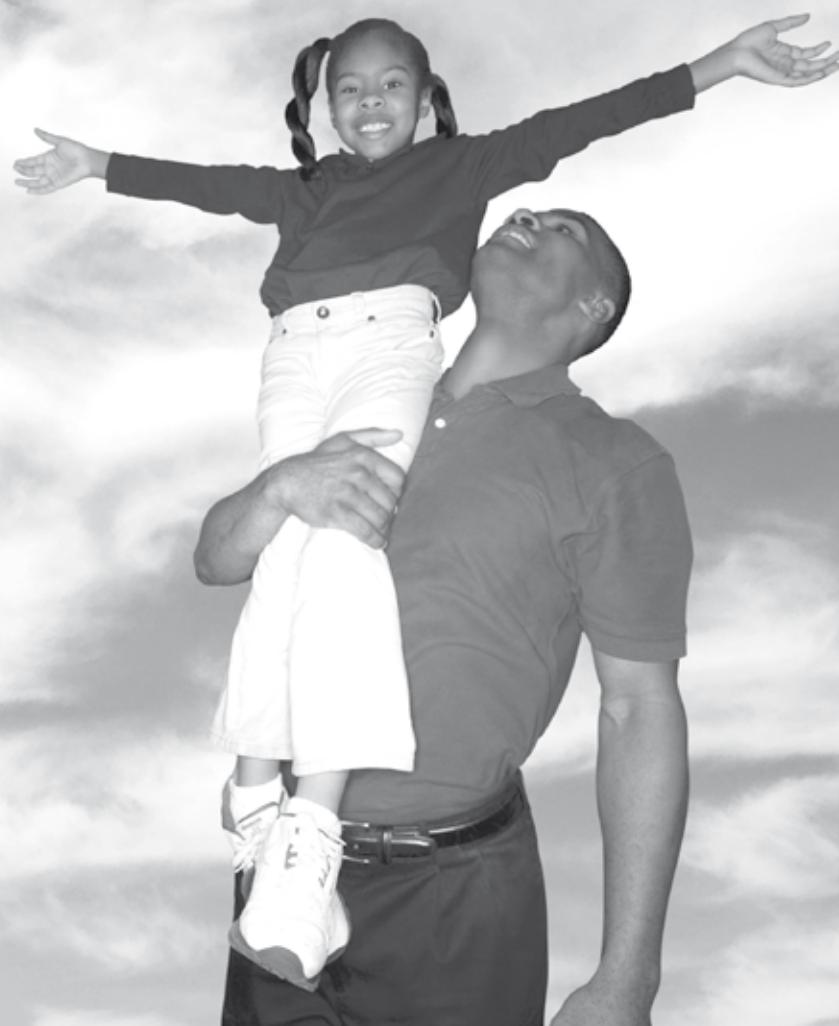
On the 5th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina as the city builds for the future Scales is an example of the best that the city has to offer moving forward. He has built a successful landscaping business and he is passing on a message of uplift. For his contribution to the city Data News Weekly recognizes Nathanael Scales as its monthly Trailblazer for the month of August 2010.

JMJ
Joseph M. Jones
Continuing Education Fund



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Data News Weekly 2009

Trailblazers of the Month

Introducing the 2009 Data News Weekly Trailblazers of the Month

Forty-four years ago, Data News Weekly opened its doors, and began serving New Orleans, providing a voice to tell the stories that are important to the African-American community, and focusing on the redevelopment of our unique city. This year, we celebrate our 44th year of service;, commemorat-

ing our achievements and the achievements of our community leaders, or Trailblazers, who go above and beyond the call of service to help cultivate the lives of those around them.

In issue, we recap our 12 unsung heroes, or Trailblazers of the Month, and publish again their uplifting stories of incredible commitment to the betterment of this city and its residents. This year as always, we will be naming the Trailblazer of the

Year at our Annual Celebration which will be held on Thursday, August 26th. We will present in next week's edition, that superstar in the world of selfless giving, and recognize them as the 2009 Data News Weekly Trailblazer of the Year. We want to congratulate all of our Trailblazers and thank them for making New Orleans a better place for all of us who live here. We salute you Trailblazers

trailblazer
JUNE 2009



Dalton Savwoir, Jr.

Dedicated to Giving Back

Dalton Savwoir, Jr., MPH has pursued his professional career based on the belief that one who has benefited from an excellent education is obligated to give back to his community for the benefit of others.

A proud New Orleanian, Savwoir said he feels education is important if one is to be successful in life.

"I look around at some of our young people and I see some who are not pursuing education and for me that is distressing. I [also] see a lot of young people

enrolled in school and a lot of young people who are serious and focused about being the best they can be and that is encouraging," said Savwoir.

Savwoir's was as a harbinger in the field of public health where he created and implemented the first School-Based Program at Carver High School in New Orleans (1977-88, City Health Dept.) and the first statewide Louisiana High Blood Pressure Control Program (1977-81, Dept. of Health & Hospitals, Office of Public Health).

For 30 years Savwoir has served the New Orleans community in a number of capacities. "In whatever I have done in my professional life, it has always been about giving back to the community in some way. I feel that it is important for those who have some level of success to reach back and give people a hand up and help them up the ladder to live a more productive successful life," said Savwoir.

trailblazer

JULY 2009

Wendell Pierce

An Artistic Visionary

He is a versatile talent who has graced us onstage, and in television and film. Wendell Pierce is a New Orleans native who has made his mark on the screens big and small, but today he is preparing for another role with his sights set on doing something more, serving his community.

"I felt it was necessary to get involved in the rebuilding of the city of New Orleans. It is where my roots are and [what] made me the person I am, so I felt it was important to come back to my city and use my visibility to help a city I love," says Pierce.

Pierce has come back, and with residents in the Pontchartrain Park, is developing a non-profit entity working with the city and the state to acquire homes in the community, redevelop them and put them back into commerce.

"After Hurricane Katrina there was a buzz that there were plans to redevelop the area as an upscale golf community," says Pierce. "But this was and is a viable community and an important part of Black New Orleans and must continue to be part of the city's footprint as we move forward in rebuilding the city."

While jetting between both coasts he still considers New Orleans home and is committed to its recovery. "Regardless of where my career takes me this will always be home for me. My family is still here and the people who are important to me, so I will always be connected to the city," Pierce says.

"Every time I get an opportunity I try to talk to young people and commit my time to try to give something back and to be an inspiration. Sometimes all some of our kids need is someone to tell them that they can do and be whatever they want to be and for me that is what I have always done—tried to inspire people to be better at whatever they choose to pursue," says Pierce.

trailblazer

AUGUST 2009

Nat Turner's

Ninth Ward Resurrection

Nathan "Nat" Turner is a native of Minnesota whose journey has taken him to places as far away as the continent of Africa to New York and now to New Orleans with his mission always being helping people help themselves. "I am concerned about people in Africa and the African Diaspora receiving justice," said Turner. "I have made documentary films about child soldiers in West Africa, I have been a teacher in New York and now I am here in New Orleans doing work I feel is significant and will help the people of this city." says Turner

He has taken a storefront grocery on the corner of Benton and North Roman Streets in the lower ninth ward and is working with young people from New York and New Orleans transforming this barren piece of land and vacant building into an urban farm. "It is about providing opportunities for young people to learn about service." An advocate for hyu7children he says, "We should begin to look at youth as a constituency and not a problem; as valued members of society, and that's what I am doing with this project."

Turner taught for seven years in New York City in a school that was cited for excellence and a model for what a viable, functional school should be. Turner felt upon seeing the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina his skills could be better utilized helping the youth of the Crescent City. "It is about helping young people realize their full potential, and get involved in positive activities, and as adults it is our job to guide, educate and encourage them giving them the map to how to be a success in life," says Turner. Nat Turner is making a way out of what some people thought was no way in his efforts in the Lower Ninth Ward.

trailblazer

SEPT 2009

Dr. Doris Roche-Hicks

A Principal's.... Principle



Dr. Doris Roche-Hicks is a woman who has lived her life to serve people. Presently, she is the principal of Martin Luther King Jr. Charter School located in the Lower Ninth Ward. It lies as a beacon of hope among barren streets in what was once a bustling vibrant community. "This was a neighborhood full of people before Hurricane Katrina and it will be once again," says Roche-Hicks.

Raised in the Ninth Ward she always had a desire to serve her community. "Growing up I always felt that I wanted to work in the community in some capacity," says Hicks. For over three decades she has made children a priority, making herself available and impacting the lives of young people.

Roche-Hicks has been featured in the Atlantic, Essence, CBS News and many other media outlets. She has also been given an award for her community service by People Magazine for the work she is doing in the Lower Ninth Ward. She says although she is glad that her efforts are being recognized, it is a joint effort between her and her dedicated staff.

"It hasn't been me, it is the entire staff. We never set out to do what we are doing to be recognized. We are doing what we do because we know it needed to be done," says Roche-Hicks. Adding with passion ringing in her voice, "We know the kids of the Lower Ninth Ward deserve a quality education and we were going to make sure they received one by any means necessary."

"The Lower Ninth Ward is a true community where people are genuinely concerned with one another and are trying to rebuild," Roche-Hicks says of her neighborhood. "There is a lot of help needed, and we are not giving up."

trailblazer

OCT 2009

Demetric M. Mercadel

Living In the Spirit of Giving



Demetric M. Mercadel is a woman filled with the spirit of giving back. Mercadel dedicates her time to service; where family, community service and political activism are the cornerstones of her life. Her story has been truly a collection of diverse experiences that have not only contributed to her development, but enhanced the lives of hundreds of people she has touched along the way.

Her list of civic activities includes serving as a coordinator of the development of the Corpus Christi-Epiphanie Neighborhood Community Center in the 7th Ward; Secretary on the Board of Directors of the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, Inc., President of the Development Board of the Sisters of the Holy Family, Treasurer of the American Association of Blacks in Energy Louisiana Chapter, and Parent of the Alumni Association of St. Augustine High School.

She is also accomplished in business working in regulatory affairs at Entergy New Orleans. Women of Color magazine honored Mercadel as a 2005 Women of Color Technology All Stars and Rising Stars.

As the city recovers, Mercadel is on the frontlines of rebuilding the city. And as many citizens have, she is investing her time, energy and resources into improving on what the city was pre-Katrina.

"It means everything to me to help work to build this city better than it was before," she said. Although what happened was tragic, I think it is a great time to improve the life, lifestyle and quality of life of the city. To tear down, build up and start anew," said Mercadel.



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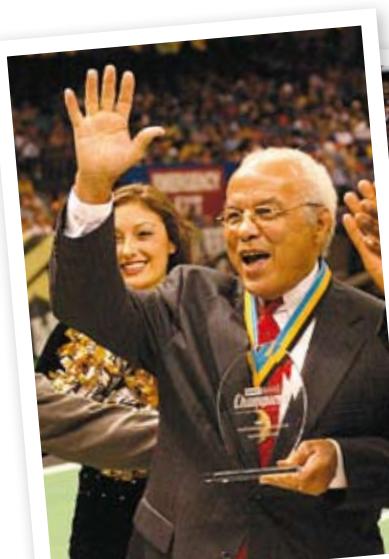
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On The Red Carpet of Spike Lee's Premier, If God Is Willing And Da Creek Don't Rise



Dionne Character, Author
Entertainment Editor & Columnist

What a Glorious Night! I walked the Red Carpet, received my HBO Press Pass and shared an evening with the Stars.

New Orleans Rocked the House at the Premier of HBO's "If God Is Willing And Da Creek Don't Rise" on Tuesday, August 17 at the Mahalia Jackson Theatre as the lights, cameras and all the action embraced the lives of familiar faces seen in Spike Lee's 2006 HBO documentary "When The Levees Broke."

Shelton Alexander, Gralen Banks,

Calvin Mackie, Phyllis Montana-LeBlanc, Terrance Blanchard, Spike Lee and a host of others ignited the "Red Carpet" sharing brief stories, as we embrace The Rebirth of New Orleans some five years later.

Breathtaking, funny, real and raw, scenes from Lee's four-hour "If God Is Willing And Da Creek Don't Rise", took many of us to a place we never want to recall but will for the rest of our lives simply because we are survivors who continue to amaze the world with our resilience and faith.

The night ended with an "After Party" at Sweet Lorraine's Jazz Club, where all the stars shared in Gralen Banks' B-Day Party, Open Mic Poetry hosted by Shelton Alexander and myself, New Orleans style, on a regular Tuesday night, how we do it in The City of New Orleans.

"If God Is Willing And Da Creek Don't Rise" will air Monday and Tuesday 8 p.m. on HBO. Sweet Lorraine's will be hosting a live viewing on both nights at 1931 St. Claude Street.

Scott Management Team, Inc. dba McDonalds salutes Data News Weekly on their 44th Anniversary.



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As one of the nation's leading employers, McDonald's® provides opportunities for professional growth from our restaurants to our corporate management. Working at McDonald's can also lead to owning your own restaurant, and joining the ranks of the other 1,200 African-American owned restaurants that generate billions of dollars in annual sales. To help our communities grow even further, we sponsor organizations like the United Negro College Fund and the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, which provide millions of dollars in scholarships each year. We think it's safe to say we are truly rooted in the success of our communities.

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What to know about the great egg recall

By Francis Lam / SALON.com

With a half-billion eggs tainted, how to keep safe from salmonella, and what this mess means

The incredible edible egg is starting to seem like a cup of poison these days, with a recall of half a billion of the poor things. At this scale, all the numbers that fly around the stories are staggering: The recall is tiny compared to our total production of eggs, which close to a hundred billion. Still, as many as 39,000 people may have been sickened with salmonella ... and this is where most brains will usually do two things – turn to mush trying to imagine what these numbers mean, and flash a big red X on eating raw eggs. I'm trying to make sense of it myself. But, first off, if you're concerned about your egg safety, there are some easy things you should know.

Salmonella and its discontents

All the eggs recalled so far are from two



massive farms in Iowa, although they've been sold under dozens of brands. Check to see if your eggs are on the recall list by going to eggsafety.org, which has a list of brands and production code numbers, and a handy diagram on how to read the numbers on your carton.

You can't tell if your eggs are tainted with salmonella by taste, appearance or odor.

Salmonella can cause nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea, fever, chills, headache, muscle pains, blood in the stool.

The bacteria can incubate for several hours to two days before manifesting symptoms, so it's hard to pinpoint where and when you may have eaten the tainted eggs. But if you're feeling these symptoms, get in touch with your doctor immediately.

Salmonella can be killed by heat, by bringing both the whites and the yolks to 145 degrees Fahrenheit for 15 seconds. This means no over easy, sunny side up, soft-boiled or soft-poached; these eggs will be cooked all the way through, hard yolks, dry scrambles and all.

Eggs labeled "pasteurized" are safe to eat undercooked or raw.

Organic, free-range and farmer's market eggs are not inherently safe from salmonella, but none are implicated in this recall. (Still, there are lots of reasons to prefer them anyway, not least flavor and the fact that outbreaks of this scale are almost impossible on a local level.)

Finally, the numbers are really in your favor, so no need to be paranoid, just be conscious and careful of your choices. It is, realistically, a tiny portion of eggs that are affected.

Francis Lam is a Senior Writer at Salon.com

CEDRIC RICHMOND #12
CONGRESS



The Courage to Lead

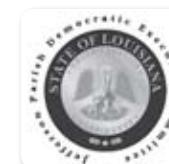
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Katrina Revealed Race and Poverty



Gary Flowers
Data Guest Commentary

(NNPA) - Much as the Emmitt Till murder did 55 years ago Hurricane Katrina pulled back the cultural curtains and revealed the intersecting roads of race and poverty in the United States of America. In both cases, America's egalitarian myth of civility to all her citizens was shattered by the photo of Till's open casket in Chicago (Jet Magazine) and news images (CNN) of African Americans treated as animals and "refugees" in New Orleans.

Before and after Hurricane Katrina the City of New Orleans has been a case study in the oppressive confluence of race and poverty on African-Americans. Prior to Katrina New Orleans had the highest per-

centage of public housing residents in the nation, many of who were allowed to live poorly policed, sub-standard living conditions.

Three days before the Category 5 hurricane named Katrina came ashore from the Gulf of Mexico those who could to evacuate New Orleans made plans to do so. However, the most vulnerable citizens—nearly all Black and/or elderly—were left to negotiate the storm and its aftermath on their own. Despite the presence of a fleet of public buses no provision was made to direct poor people of pigment to higher ground. With no credible evidence city officials would later contend that the Black poor ignored directions to evacuate because the storm arrived at the end of they month and two days before government (public assistance, social security) checks arrived. Fact is, there were no buses deployed and the fleet became submerged under water.

With no plans for the poor, the days immediately following Katrina and the levees were compromised Black students at Xavier and Dillard University were stranded in dormitories. In fact, while vice president to Reverend Jesse Jackson and Rainbow PUSH Coalition I remember assisting in rescuing African American students with the help of privately funded buses.

As people found their way to the New Or-

leans Superdome and Morial Convention Center no guidance or direction was provided by city and state officials. Predictably, conditions worsened and over 1,300 people died (by official numbers), some African American men shot by police for attempting to flee to the higher ground of Jefferson Parrish. There was no government for the people. People were treated as animals.

In the ensuing weeks, state officials refused to utilize vacant military bases within Louisiana and forcibly removed the Black poor to 44 states around the nation.

Predictably, according to a report by the Greater New Orleans Community Data Center, five years after Katrina New Orleans is a smaller and richer city per capita. Duh: most of the poor were removed.

In fact, today:

- The nearly all-Black Lower Ninth Ward seems conspicuously passed over for reconstruction
- Louisiana residents remain located in 55,000 cities across the nation (59% of who are female headed families)
- 75 percent reduction in the number of public housing apartments available (formerly 98 percent African-American)
- 5,000 people remain on waiting list for public housing
- 28,000 people remain on waiting list for public housing vouchers

- 58 percent of New Orleans renters pay more than 35% of their pre-tax household income for housing
- The number of public school students (90% African American) have decreased by half

For those who contend that race did not play a major factor I say: seriously?

Truth be told, if the students, residents, and poor in need were White, the federal, state, and local government would have treated them better. Moreover, if private real estate developers had not influenced government policy decisions, more people of color would have returned to their homes in New Orleans (see Washington Post 08-22-10).

Therefore, the Black Leadership Forum, led by the Hip Hop Caucus will return to New Orleans on Sunday, August 29—the fifth-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina—to raise righteous voices of indignation for the right of return and the rebuilding of housing for the poor.

For more information visit www.HipHopCaucus.org or email Darryl Perkins at Darryl.Perkins@HipHopCaucus.org. Join us.

Gary Flowers is executive director and CEO of the Black Leadership Forum.

Untold Stories of Recovery: The Nonprofit Effect

New Orleans, LA – As we mark the fifth anniversary of Katrina, we need to acknowledge the role that non-profit leaders have played in the region's recovery. They helped save their neighbors and their neighborhoods. They've marshaled armies of volunteers to help rebuild the fabric of our city. Five years later, they're still at work.

"You can't tell the story of the region's recovery from Katrina without focusing on the efforts of individual citizens working through voluntary associations and not-for-profit organizations," said Albert Ruesga, President & CEO of the Greater New Orleans Foundation. "These heroes have led the charge and their impact has been felt in every one of our neighborhoods."

A few examples:

Cindy Nguyen, Vietnamese Initiatives in Economic Training (VIET)

When the post-Katrina levee failures inundated the Vietnamese community, Nguyen helped thousands of evacuees meet their basic needs and assisted them with navigating the complexities of the FEMA and Road Home programs. VIET is now focused on its children's programs

and has formed partnerships with organizations within and outside of the Vietnamese community.

Patricia Jones, Ninth Ward Empowerment Association (NENA)

Jones was a tax accountant who had never thought of starting a non-profit organization. After Katrina she set up shop in a heavily damaged building and helped elderly residents register online for Road Home funding. When a funder approached her about forming an organization to help her neighborhood, the Lower Ninth Ward, Jones was everyone's choice to run it.

Tim Williamson, Idea Village

"The day after Katrina, every person in New Orleans became an entrepreneur," says Williamson, co-founder of the Idea Village, an organization that promotes entrepreneurship in New Orleans. "MBAs used to come here to help New Orleans, but now they come here to learn and to look for opportunities."

Martin Gutierrez, Catholic Charities

"We have a level of civic engagement in the community that I don't think we ever

saw before Katrina," says Gutierrez, Executive Director of Neighborhood and Community Centers. "If we play our cards right, if we do what we need to do, I think New Orleans is going to be a very exciting place to be."

Jeff Schwartz, Broad Community Connections

How do you create a place where people want to be? Schwartz, Founder and Executive Director of Broad Community Connections, believes it's tied up with simple things, like garbage cans, trees, bike lanes, and benches. Broad Community Connections is working to shape a commercial corridor on Broad Street in New Orleans that fosters economic, residential, and cultural development.

Carol Bebelle, Ashé Cultural Arts Center

"Artists and culture bearers are some of the best neighbors," says Bebelle, Executive Director of the Ashé Cultural Arts Center. The Ashé Cultural Arts Center has ensured artists' places in Central City by creating permanent affordable housing for them, in addition to hosting cultural workshops to help the community heal after the

devastation of Katrina.

The Greater New Orleans Foundation has been supporting non-profit organizations in the New Orleans area since the 1980s, but after Katrina, the Foundation's role expanded almost overnight.

"National foundations, corporations, and individual donors came to us for advice on how to best direct philanthropic dollars," said President and CEO Albert Ruesga. "We became the conduit through which funders were able to channel precious resources to those organizations and projects that would best support the recovery and rebuilding of New Orleans."

According to the Urban Institute, there are 4,007 non-profit public charities in metro New Orleans, up from 3,562 in 2004.

The Greater New Orleans Foundation has tripled its grantmaking from \$6.1 million in 2005 to \$18.6 million in 2006, and averaged \$17.7 million in grants per year since then.

To read the full stories of these non-profit leaders in their own words, please visit www.gnof.org.

trailblazer

NOVEMBER 2009

Captain Charles Leach

On the Ones and Twos of Life



He is someone who is a well known personality throughout the city who has brought many people together. Whether it has been at a party or through his business and philanthropic efforts, Charles Leach, who is also known to the world as 'Captain Charles,' is a man on a mission to make the place he calls home a better city.

Many people know him as one of the premiere deejays for the smart set, but what they do not know is that he is involved in uplifting his community. "I live in the Broadmoor area and I am committed to helping rebuild and revitalize it. I am reinvesting, buying properties in the community and rehabbing them because it is important that we do what we can to bring our community and city back," he said. "Our community is coming back because we have an active community association, and I see some wonderful things about to happen in Broadmoor. I will be on the frontlines doing whatever I can to contribute something positive to its revitalization."

His work does not stop there; Leach has also committed his time to and resources to become an entrepreneur as well. He has operated a snowball shop, and is now embarking on opening a cafe. "I wanted to be an example for our community that we can rebuild it from within and that we do not have to wait for others. We can begin by investing our own resources and doing it ourselves," said Leach.

Leach is well known for his work with young people, and has been honored by the Early Childhood Association for his community service leading the way for children.

"It is about giving back and inspiring our kids. I came out of the Magnolia Project where people didn't have a lot in material things, but they were a close knit community that gave me love and the will to want to better myself and give back. And that's what I am trying to do."

trailblazer

DECEMBER 2009

Terry Scott:

In the Spirit of Giving



Terry Scott is a man who has dedicated his life to being an example of success and giving back. Terry Scott is a native of Woodville, MS, but has made his mark on the city of New Orleans in the civic and business community. He has always been a person who has felt it was important to serve those in need.

Currently, Terry is the President/CEO of Scott Management Team, Inc. which owns and operates 2 McDonald's Restaurants in New Orleans and Metairie, LA, along with Lorraine, his wife and business partner. They are a power couple who have empowered themselves and others.

Their efforts toward philanthropy and community service have always been a part of their lives. But five years ago they started Yes We Can! Human Services, which specialize in free tutorial services for children in low performing schools. Terry says it is important to be an example for the next generation of entrepreneurs and business persons.

He is Co-Owner of Scott & Smith Investments, LLC. specializing in but not limited to real estate investments; he and his wife also owns and operate Scott Management Team, Inc. Business & Training Center. This is the location of their corporate office.

Terry Scott is dedicated to the city of New Orleans and has taken on and completed many projects directed at the improvement of the city before and after Hurricane Katrina. And for all his success in the business and civic community he says his passion is and always will be the development of our youth.



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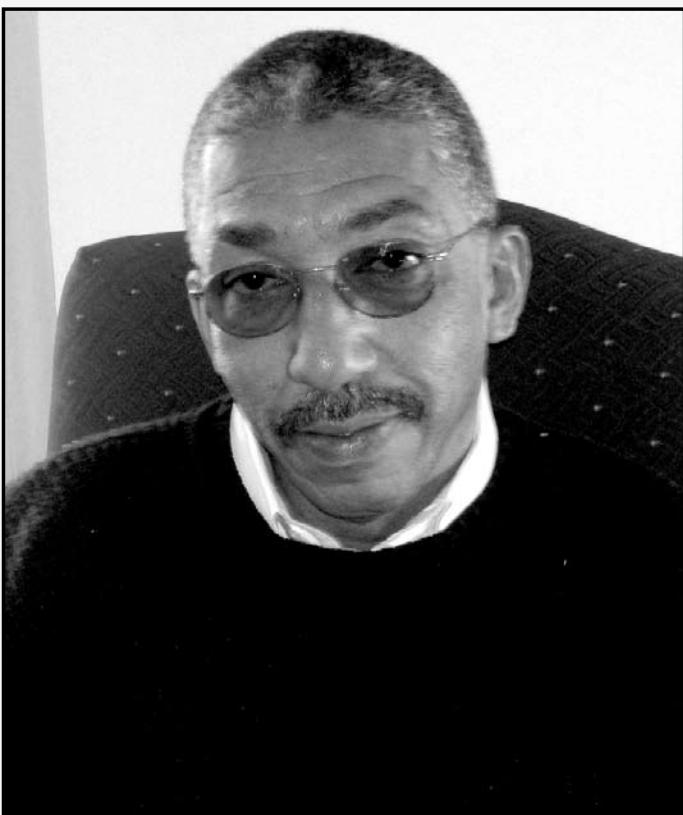
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trailblazer

JANUARY 2010

Pete Rhodes

Commitment to a Tradition of Service



Pete Rhodes is someone who has throughout his life been committed to making his city a better place to live. His commitment to service began early in life, "I was taught from a young age by my parents that service and giving back is very important," says Rhodes.

Through their family company, "The Rhodes Family of Businesses" that includes funeral services, a limousine service and real estate among other endeavors they have become a vital and viable part of the city for over 125 years. Although the ravages of Hurricane Katrina devastated their homes and businesses, Rhodes felt the will to come back and be an inspiration for the city was very important. "I believe that with us rebuilding our businesses, it could give people hope that they too through hard work can put the pieces of their lives back together," says Rhodes.

As a business leader he feels some of the skills necessary to run a successful business can also apply in life, in his everyday experience he passes this on with his example. "I tell people all the time that sacrifice, discipline and staying committed to your goals is the most important things to become a success in business and in life."

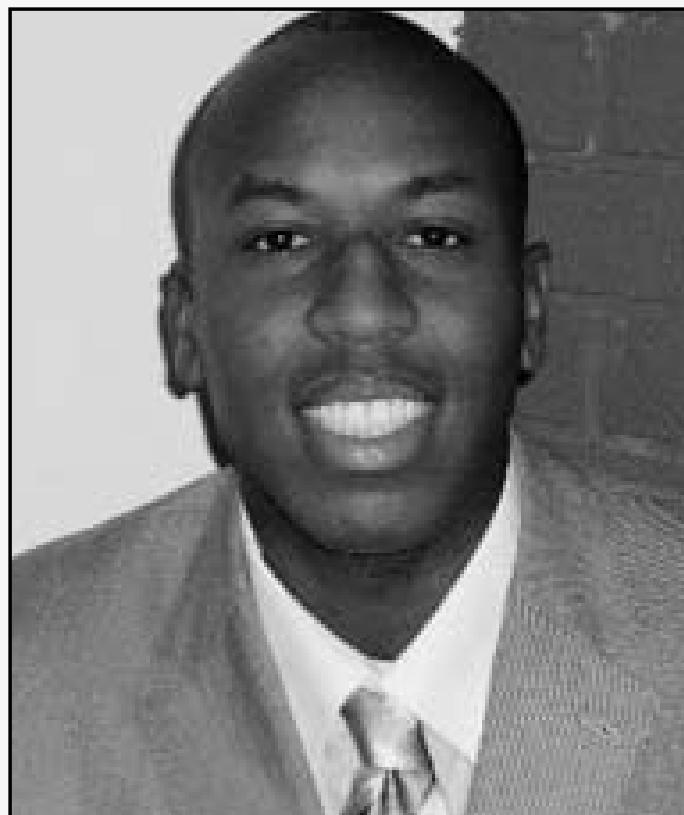
Pete Rhodes says the company is also interested in training young people in the field of Funeral Services. "We are excited about young people and giving them the things they need to be a success at what they do, we partner with Delgado Community College giving students an opportunity to gain real world experience with us." "We train them in the way we do things, and hopefully give them the foundation to go into the work world with skills that can take them where they can reach their full potential in their work lives whether it is with us or another company," says Rhodes.

trailblazer

FEBRUARY 2010

Brandon Spann

Life and Basketball



He is a young man who has used sports as a bridge to connect with kids and encourage them to reach their full potential.

Brandon Spann is the Executive Director of The New Orleans Sports School. Its mission is to provide mentors and guidance for youths aged 5-14, involving them in sports and supplemental educational activities that give them a roadmap to success. "We have a program that has four components, one is we use sports training as an entry point to engage students and teach them life lessons through basketball; then there is a science and technology component that teaches young people not just about science, but to expose them to new things that can broaden their horizons," says Spann.

He continues explaining the program saying, "We also provide life skills, character building and conflict resolution training." "Because I feel it is important that our young people learn how to conduct themselves in situations when they are at odds with something or someone; they now have the capacity to resolve it without doing something that could be detrimental to their lives." "Our fourth component is homework assistance, where we have tutors from college to high school students, and people from the community, The New Orleans Sports School is where everybody can come together to help our children be better citizens tomorrow," says Spann.

He has given his time and is dedicated to his community and challenges others to selflessly give their time to invest in the future, "I think what we are doing at NOSS is very important, we are planting seeds of positivity, we wanted to reach young people between the ages of 5-14, says Brandon." Continuing he says, "At that time they are still able to be molded; they haven't been hardened by others to become menaces to society."

trailblazer

APRIL 2010

Ron Gardner

An Inspiration for the Next Generation



Ron Gardner is a man who has dedicated his life to serving his community, he says the seeds were planted very early in life, "I was nurtured by the men and women of Gretna, and it's hard to remember when I wasn't doing something."

In his over six decades of life he has seen the world change around him and continues to pass on life lessons to future generations as a mentor, civic and business leader sitting on several boards. He has lived through the time when the nation and city grappled with issues of race that defined a generation during the tumultuous civil rights era when the nation's racial landscape began to change. Today he is still drinking from the well of life looking for the light that lies at the perimeter of darkness sharing his experiences with others.

"We had an extended family where people looked out for each other in our times even the criminal elements in our community had some sense of etiquette." He reflects on those times by quoting his mother, "If you can't help don't hinder," "and that is something that is not present today that there are those who stand in the way of progress that the spirit of togetherness is not as it had been."

Mr. Gardner is a man who is a positive force in times that seem bleak. He is someone who sees the silver lining behind the clouds, and always seems to find a maxim to match the moment. "I have chosen to take what is good from life to move it forward and that's what I do to pass it on to youth," says Gardner.

He sees a city with a bright future for the next generation, he foresees New Orleans moving forward into a progressive 21st century global place abundant in opportunities, "This city will experience a renaissance that is unbelievable." Further he says of the resilience of New Orleans and its people, "After Katrina we are still here rebuilding, we're the little engine that could and it is proof positive of what we're made of in this town."

trailblazer

MAY 2010

Reginald Stewman

Healing and Rebuilding Lives



Reginald Stewman has touched the lives of many in their time of need through his company Louisiana Re-Entry and Rehabilitation Services. A company that's purpose is to assist persons with substance abuse problems as well as those afflicted with issues surrounding mental health. "I think post Hurricane Katrina one of the most important issues facing people affected by the storm is mental health," says Stewman.

As Louisiana's largest African-American owned mental health facility with locations throughout the state Stewman feels he is servicing a community that sometimes get overlooked when it comes to mental health. "I think sometimes there is a stigma attached to being in counseling in our community but it is time for this to stop, particularly as it comes to people affected by Katrina, which was a devastating event that for many still has not found a constructive ways to cope with."

Stewman is dedicated to his mission of uplift by being a successful model and an example of a thriving African-American businessman. "I want to be an example of someone who is being part of the solutions in our community and be a positive force for change." Reginald Stewman has lived a life that has been about serving others. And as the city reconstructs itself for a renaissance, Stewman is like an architect that is helping to heal and rebuild lives.

trailblazer

Rev. T.J. Smith

LEGACY AWARD



Rev. T.J. Smith is a person who has made an indelible mark on society coming from a small town in Louisiana during the period of segregation to overcome adverse circumstances to become a great man in his family and community. Living during the tumultuous times of segregation he endured many injustices that inspired him later to be a fighter for the rights of the disenfranchised. In April 1945, T.J. was drafted into a segregated United States Army serving in the South Pacific. In December 1947, he returned to St. Joe and began working

as a farm hand and laborer in the swamps of St. Tammany Parish. Despite always loving his birthplace, St. Joe, he also acknowledged many unpleasant memories of racial segregation and the cruel treatment of Blacks in Slidell and Pearl River. These events, coupled with unforgettable experiences in a segregated army, were the catalysts that motivated him to return to school.

T.J. was elected President of the 1st NAACP-St Tammany Chapter in 1951 under Chairman J.W. Wilson, serving under Justice Marshall inspired T.J. on to greater

civil rights activities.

During that same period, the Louisiana State Legislature officially outlawed the NAACP in the State of Louisiana. T.J. and the NAACP local chapter members established the St. Tammany Parish Voters League in order to continue their civil rights activities.

Amid T.J.'s growing civil rights activities, he also began his career as an educator, accepting his first teaching assignment in 1952, at ChataIma Jr. High School, located in Lacombe, Louisiana. With C.O.R.E.'s assistance, he sued the St. Tammany

Continued from page 22..



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How Can We Sit Back and Watch Such Catastrophic Events Take Place?



Rev. Al Sharpton
NNPA Columnist

We often see the images of starving children and impoverished families flashing across our TV sets. Many times, they are huddled in massive groups waiting for food handouts, safe housing or any other basic necessity.

Whether it's following a devastating natural disaster, civil unrest or sheer poverty, the scenes of chaos remain imprinted in our minds despite the fact that they are occurring in distant lands. Until recently, most of us here in the United States remained lucky enough to never even fathom such desperation. But last week, when some 30,000 people near Atlanta, Ga. braved the tumultuous heat for hours just for a slim shot at housing relief, the rest of the nation watched on in horror as these acts of despondency occurred right in our own backyard. And just like all moments of human despair and misery, just a few minutes of that footage highlighted grave challenges that many wish would be swept under a rug somewhere.

The city of Atlanta is often referred to as the city of paradoxes. Comprised of the fastest growing millionaire population, it simultaneously has one of the highest child poverty rates in the country. Last week, just outside Atlanta in East Point, Ga., these 30,000 folks gathered – many of them nights before – just to receive an application to be placed on a waiting list for Section 8 housing. The East Point Housing Authority currently has 455 vouchers that are all being

utilized, so everyone who showed up last week can only hope to get on this list for a chance at affordable housing, and many will remain on the list for years.

The massive explosion of folks left over 60 in need of medical attention, and 20 transported to a hospital – including a baby who went in to seizure because of the excessive heat. There was yelling, screaming, pushing, cursing and chaos as the throng of folks fought to merely garner an application. And in order to receive these section 8 vouchers, a family must not make more than 50% of the areas' median income, which stands at just around \$31,847. In the end, about 75 percent of the housing vouchers will go to those who make less than \$9,500 a year.

Now, let's put this in perspective. Thousands convene in the extreme heat and fight their way to receive an application for just a chance at survival. This wasn't a group of people fighting over mundane things, or even attempting to get a shot at the American dream. These were mothers, fathers and families who have fallen on hard times and make barely enough money to put food on the table.

How can we sit by idly and watch such catastrophic events take place? When Black unemployment rates are more than double the national average in many areas, how can we be complacent? When foreclosures have left our families homeless, how can we not speak up? When scenes of utter despair like East Point play out on our

TV screens, how can we not do something? When the dream for freedom, equality, opportunity and advancement is yet to be fully realized, how can we not take a stand?

Join the National Action Network on August 28th in Washington, DC. as we RECLAIM THE DREAM that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. envisioned nearly 47 years ago. Enough is enough. We can no longer choose to ignore the harsh realities right before our eyes – for the tragic scenes like East Point, GA are now etched in our minds.

Join us on the 28th as we seek sustainable solutions to our housing crisis, economic woes and unemployment epidemic. Stand with us as we march for unity, freedom, justice and humanity.

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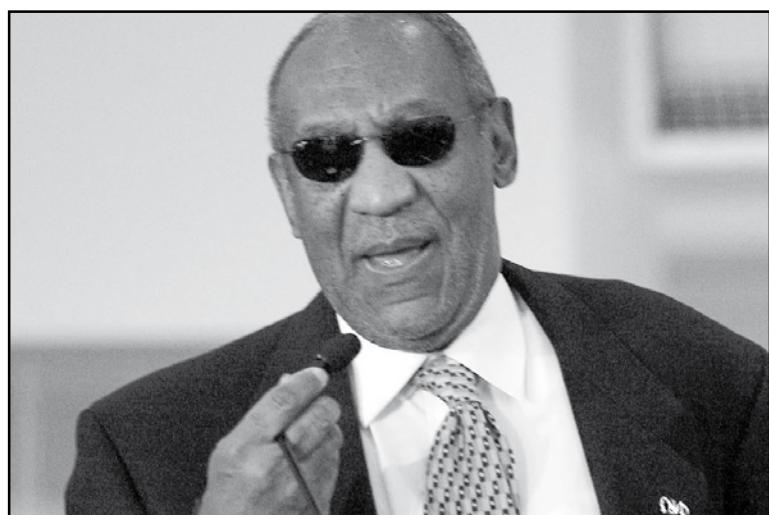
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Bill Cosby Joins The "Men Of Soul" For 3rd Annual Dr. Norman C. Francis Endowed Scholarship Benefit Concert



Bill Cosby

Xavier University is pleased to announce that world renowned comedian, actor and philanthropist William "Bill" Cosby will return once again to perform the opening act for the 3rd Annual Dr. Norman C. Francis Endowed Scholarship Benefit Concert on Friday evening, November 19, 2010 sponsored by AT&T* at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center's New Orleans Theater.

The Friday evening concert, which started three years ago to celebrate Francis' 40th Anniversary

as president of the nation's only Historically Black and Roman Catholic institution of higher education, will showcase performances by four legendary R&B vocalists - Jeffrey Osborne, Peabo Bryson, Howard Hewitt and Freddie Jackson - performing together this year in the nationwide "Men of Soul" concert tour.

The University is also pleased to announce that AT&T Louisiana will be the primary sponsor of the 3rd Annual fundraiser. Sonia Perez, president of AT&T

Louisiana, says, "We are pleased to support Xavier University's important role in educating future leaders of New Orleans, and we also salute Dr. Francis' decades of exemplary leadership in service to our community."

The annual concert serves as a major fundraiser to support the Norman C. Francis Endowed Scholarship Fund. Tickets are on sale as of August 21st through the Ticket Master hot line #1-866-448-7849 or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

Anderson Bates Receives Key Endorsements



Candace Bates Anderson

Candidate continues to rack up key endorsements in the Juvenile Court Judgeship Election

As Election Day approaches, political, civic and religious leaders have united behind the candidacy of Candice Bates Anderson for Judge of Juvenile Court, Section C.

District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro, Sheriffs Marlin Gusman, Jiff Hingle and (former) Paul R Valteau, Jr.; Assessors Erroll Wil-

liams, Claude Mauberret and Tom Arnold; Clerks of Court Dale Atkins, Arthur Morrell and Marty Broussard; Council Members Cynthia Hedge-Morrell and Jon Johnson; and State Legislators Karen Carter Peterson, David Heitmeier, Austin Badon and Jarod Brockett have all endorsed Candice Anderson's candidacy.

In addition, Candice is supported by civic, community and religious leaders such as Delores Aaron, Jay R Banks, Barbara Foundas, Mr. and Mrs. William Detweiler, Mary Joseph, Amy Kern, Donna Klein, Phyllis Landrieu, J. Christopher Pilley, Jerome Smith, Carol Solomon and Pastor Charles Southall to name a few.

Candice also has the support of the AFL-CIO, New Orleans Firefighters Union, United Teachers of New Orleans (UTNO) & the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The Crescent City Democratic Association (CCDA) is also endorsing her.

Trailblazer Legacy Award, Continued on page 21..

Parish School Board to desegregate its schools and the case was won in 1965. He was fired in 1955 along with Leroy Palmer as a result of their civil rights activities. He then taught and studied at Xavier University simultaneously. He later entered the Orleans Parish School system as a long-term substitute teacher, and continued on as a full time teacher of English and Drama at George Washington Carver, John McDonough, McDonough 35, and Booker T. Washington Sr. High Schools, as well as Andrew J. Bell Jr. High School. He also worked with various civil rights organizations, including C.O.R.E., S.N.C.C., the Deacons for Defense and Justice, and S.C.L.C. as follower and sup-

porter of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In 1968, he organized and led a boycott of Slidell merchants seeking and obtaining better job opportunities for minority men and women.

In 1972, he was appointed State Director of Veterans Education and Training for the Louisiana Department of Education. On September 14, 1974, he was ordained as a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ; and on March 15, 1975, he was installed as pastor of Salvation Baptist Church in St. Joe, Louisiana, his home church since childhood. Shortly afterwards he studied and received degrees from the Union Baptist Theological Seminary, Christian Bible College and New Orleans

Baptist Theological Seminary. In 1979 he travelled to Israel to study biblical archeology. He would later teach and mentor many aspiring ministers at Union Seminary and Christian Bible College.

In 1981, he was commissioned as a missionary with the Convention. He accepted this call to serve, which led to an appointment as Director of the Baptist Joint Committee of Greater New Orleans where he became a mediator between Black and White Christians. Former Mayor C. Ray Nagin, Sais of the elder Smith's life and legacy, "he lived his sermon. Who among us will accept the challenge to step up and continue the work?"

www.ladatanews.com





I was born in New Orleans. My family still lives here. We have to restore the Gulf communities for the shrimpers, fishermen, hotel and restaurant owners who live and work here.

- Iris Cross, BP Community Outreach

Making This Right

Beaches
Claims
Cleanup

Economic Investment Environmental Restoration

Health and Safety
Wildlife

No oil has flowed into the Gulf for weeks. But we know this is just the beginning of our work. BP has taken full responsibility for the cleanup in the Gulf and that includes keeping you informed.

Restoring Gulf Communities

We can't undo this tragedy. But we can help people get back on their feet. We have been working with impacted communities since day one.

Partnering with local governments and community organizations, my job is to listen to people's needs and frustrations and find ways to help. We have 19 community centers and teams in four states, listening and helping.

Restoring The Economy

BP is here in Gulf communities with shrimpers, fishermen, hotel and restaurant owners, helping to make them whole.

More than 120,000 claim payments totaling over \$375 million have already gone to people affected by the spill. We have committed a \$20 billion independent fund to pay all legitimate claims, including lost incomes until people impacted can go back to work. And none of this will be paid by taxpayers.

BP has also given grants of \$87 million to the states to help tourism recover and bring people back to the Gulf beaches.

Restoring The Environment

We're going to keep looking for oil and cleaning it up if we find it. Teams will remain in place for as long as it takes to restore the Gulf Coast.

And we've dedicated \$500 million to work with local and national scientific experts on the impact of the spill and to restore environmental damage.

Thousands of BP employees have their roots in the Gulf. We support over 10,000 jobs in the region and people here are our neighbors. We know we haven't always been perfect, but we will be here until the oil is gone and the people and businesses are back to normal. We will do everything we can to make this right.

For general information visit: bp.com

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