

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

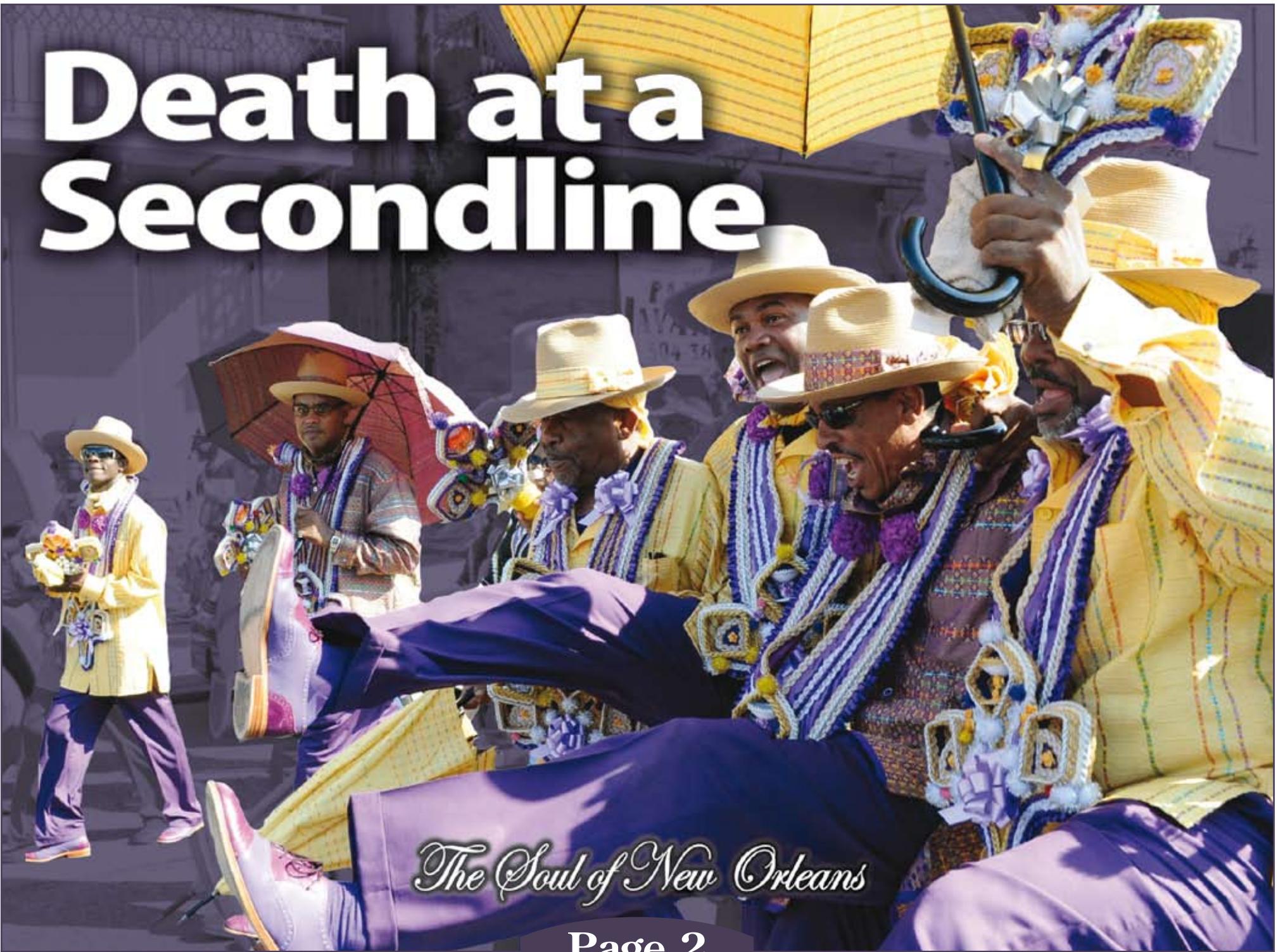
"The People's Paper"

**Party
with
Purpose**
Page 6
DataZone

FREE
COPY

September 18 - September 24, 2010 45th Year Volume 16 www.ladatanews.com

Death at a Secondline



The Soul of New Orleans

Page 2



State & Local

Obama Endorses
Richmond

Page 5

State & Local

Enrollment up
at Xavier



Page 4

Death At A Second Line



The 17th annual Black Men of Labor second line hit the streets, starting and ending at Sweet Lorraine's with stops in the Tremé and Seventh Ward along the way. Black Men of Labor is one of the biggest second lines of the fall

By Gary Estwick

Glennon Bazzle stood on the corner of Rampart and St. Bernard, taking a break from the Black Men of Labor parade route. Then he heard shots.

"People started running," said Bazzle, a 66-year-old New Orleans native and longtime Second Line enthusiast in town for his organization's annual stroll around town.

A few minutes later, a Black male stumbled past Bazzle with his T-shirt in his hand, grimacing as he covered an open wound. "Man, they grazed my head... Anybody driving, anybody driving?" he said, continuing down the street. Minutes later, another man walked past Bazzle. Trouble was still in the area, he said, and it's coming this way.

It wasn't until later that Bazzle learned that a total of four people were shot along the parade route - after the procession had passed - including Kaamilla Muhammad, who died from a gunshot wound to the head. And so began a sequence of events that challenged the reputation of one of city's oldest cultural traditions and reignited racial tensions.

Photos by Lisa Palumbo

Continued on next page.

INSIDE DATA

Cover Story	2	Commentary	8
State & Local News	4	Health News	9
Data Zone	6	National News	10
Shoot Ya Best Shot	7	Going Green	11

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	Contributors Holly Bailey Dionne Character Gary Estwick Pharoh Martin Christopher Mercadel Marc Morial Lisa Palumbo Zenitha Prince Rev. Al Sharpton Glenn Summers
VP Advertising & Marketing Cheryl Mainor	Art Direction & Production MainorMedia.com
Managing Editor Edwin Buggage	Editorial Submissions datanewseditor@bellsouth.net
Editor Dionne Character	Advertising Inquiries datanewsad@bellsouth.net
Arts & Entertainment Editor Melanie Mainor	
Copy Editor Intern June Hazeur	
Accounting	

Please call (504) 309-9913 for subscription information. Dated material two weeks in advance. Not responsible for publishing or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.

My parents never let me go to the Second Line.

I was about 12 years old. We had just moved on Rocheblave near Martin Luther King Blvd., an Uptown intersection surrounded by churches - one to our immediate right, another across the street and St. Monica's a couple of blocks away.

My dad and his brother grew up here in the 1940s and 50s, raised by their aunt. He returned with our family to take care of her. Until then, we had lived in New Orleans East, not far from Bunker Hill. Might as well have been the other side of the country compared to our new neighborhood.

It started with the horns. I heard them first. Then the drums. I worked my way from the back of our shotgun house, through the kitchen and two bedrooms to the front door and the elevated porch. It was here that I witnesses my first Second Line in 1987, albeit from a distance.

My "boundaries" in that direction were to the end of the block, and my parents refused a temporary exception on this weekend morning. Didn't make sense to me. How could something so exciting and historical be dangerous?

Fred Johnson sat at his desk this week, a pen in his right hand, sketching out the formation for his parade route on a legal-sized notepad - from the grand marshal to the musicians. Behind them and on the sides are the Second Liners.

While it's true that there is no Second Line without the music, there would be no Second Line without the Second Liners. Hundreds, thousands follow parades every summer from Uptown to Treme.

Most of the time, parades pass without problems. At times, though, the events, which draw locals from surrounding neighborhoods and their share of regulars, are utilized as tools to find enemies and punish them with what Johnson termed, "a message killing."

Problem was, Johnson said he didn't like how local media outlets blamed his organization for the shooting, going as far as to question whether the tradition had outlived its usefulness.

"You don't have a parade problem," Johnson said. "You have a society problem. You got to recognize that you live in an environment that perpetuates violence, guns. The interesting thing about this is you live in a society that loves violence. Black men and Black boys get killed every day in every major metropolitan city in America, with or without a parade. Who do you wrap that around?"

We moved back to the New Orleans East after two years Uptown. I had to wait until my late teenage years to attend my first Second Line.

Believe it was on Bourbon Street.

I always thought it represented a rights-of-passage for the city's Black youth - like going

to the old Skate Country on Chef Menteur or Club Rumors. Like hanging out on the Lakefront on a Sunday. Or Monday night at The Bottom Line. Even Fat Tuesday on Orleans and Claiborne or walking the Quarters for the first time.

Each place is just as safe, or just as deadly, as the Second Line. The same can be said of most of the New Orleans. I would not hesitate to attend a Second Line. But like many things I do in the city, I know that you have to be aware of where you are and who is around; after all, violence can erupt at a Second Line, a Saints game, a coffee shop, a church.

Lisa Palumbo, an Uptown native and marketing professor at the University of New Orleans, has been a regular at Second Lines for the last two years. She has brought her daughter, now 14. Her friends bring their children. To her, the Second Line is the closest thing to church without stepping into a service. Everybody is happy, enjoying the music, the sense of community, even the sun's glaze. Nobody trips if you step on their shoes - enough to start words if not a fight anywhere else.

Palumbo isn't naive either; she stays near the band, not too far from the back. Any trouble she's ever heard that took place at a Second Line happened behind the band, long after the police had passed. "How do you control somebody who has a domestic argument with another person?" she asked. "If they're angry and they go to the mall because some person works there, they shoot someone at the mall. It's one of those things that... I don't know. It doesn't happen all the time."

"In a way, I think it keeps every tourist and fearful person away from the Second Lines. That's fine with me."

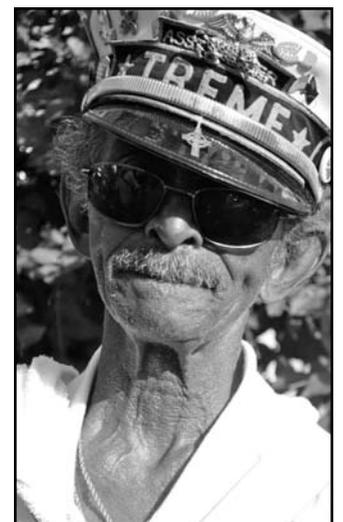
Johnson said he was at Sweet Lorraine's Jazz Club, the end of the route, when he learned of the shooting later that night. He felt the initial media coverage blamed The Black Men of Labor for the shooting.

"How can you get away with that, when there are shootings at Carnival parades on Canal Street," he said. "You don't say that the Carnival group's responsible, or that you should stop the Carnival groups when there's a shooting on St. Charles Street with Endymion or Bacchus."

"As a journalist, you have to be careful how you open this thing up. Because it's not this little microcosm that you try and play it to be, that you're trying to spin it to be. You don't have the right to tell me my culture is a culture of violence. The nerve of you."

Bazzle emphasizes that the shooting is the problem, not the parade.

"Because even if they stop it," he said, "that won't stop people from shooting each other, parade or no parade. You have to let that roll and hopefully people understand that is not part of the parade, it's not the parade's fault. The parade was long gone."



Fall 2010 Enrollment @ Xavier Reaches New Post Katrina High

Post-Hurricane Katrina enrollment has hit a new high again this fall at Xavier University of Louisiana, thanks to a solid freshman class that exceeded projected levels and a welcome influx of new transfer students.

Preliminary numbers show 781 new freshmen and 151 new transfers, which pushes the university's current overall enrollment to 3,394 students, two percent higher than last fall's figures. Enrollment has grown slowly but steadily in the five years since Katrina had knocked down the student population to around three-quarters of its best pre-storm figures.

Administrators are pleased with the university's progress. "It's very gratifying to see students and parents from across the nation continue to put their faith in Xavier," said President Norman Francis, attributing the sustained interest in the nation's only historically Black, Catholic college to its continuing national reputation for academic excellence and leadership in the math and science fields, as well as its a solid



New freshmen at Xavier University of Louisiana following the traditional capping ceremony.

liberal arts core curriculum.

"Despite the hardships we

have endured following Katrina,

Xavier has never wavered from

its commitment to provide stu-

dents with the academic excel-

lence which people have come to expect," said Francis, pointing out that the university has produced nearly 2,800 graduates since re-opening six months after the hurricane in January '06. "Our students continue to compete and excel."

Admissions had projected an incoming freshman class of 775, so "getting 781 through the door is a very encouraging sign that the Xavier brand is still strong among those who seek a quality education," according to Winston Brown, Dean of Admissions.

"After Katrina we set out on a five-year plan to gradually grow our freshman class back to a sustainable level of around 800 new students each year," he added. "We are pretty much on that schedule," he said. The total enrollment breakdown includes 2,551 undergraduates enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences, 635 students enrolled in the College of Pharmacy, 204 students enrolled in graduate programs and another four students enrolled via the consortium.

New Orleans NAACP voices opposition to NORD Commission Proposal.

The New Orleans Branch NAACP opposes the proposition that will be on the October 2, 2010, ballot to abolish the New Orleans Recreation Department ("NORD") and replace it with a New Orleans Recreation Development Commission ("NORD Commission"). The City of New Orleans has only recently been scandalized by reports of exorbitant spending, waste and mismanagement of public funds by a similar commission that oversees the Public Belt Railroad. The proposed NORD Commission could result in another agency like the problem plagued Public Belt Railroad Commission.

Like the Public Belt Railroad Commission, the NORD Commis-

sion will not be directly answerable to the public or any elected official. The NORD Commission will have the ability to make decisions regarding which NORD playgrounds and facilities will be closed and which playgrounds and facilities will receive maintenance. The NORD Commission will have the ability to make decisions as to who will be able to use the playgrounds and facilities and when the playgrounds and facilities can be used. Booster clubs and the public will not have a voice in those decisions. The NORD Commission will control the millage revenues, donations and federal, state or local funds. The NORD Commission will have the authority to generate funds us-

ing the NORD facilities and from the operation of NORD programs. The spending of the NORD Commission will not be controlled by the public or any elected official. The NORD Commission members will have unlimited terms. The public will not have a direct voice in the selection of Commission members.

Like the ill defined Master Plan proposition that was approved but its implementation delayed for months due to its defective nature, the proposition for the NORD Commission lacks key details. The NORD Commission proposition does not contain key details defining "the powers, duties, functions, administration and operation" of the NORD Commis-

sion. According to the proposition, those details will be defined by "ordinance of the Council and any Cooperative Endeavor Agreement that may be entered into for that purpose." The voters will not have the ability to vote on said Council ordinance or Cooperative Endeavor Agreement that will control such key issues as the duties, powers, functions, the amount of staffing, the salary of staff, and the spending parameters of the NORD Commission.

A major component of the proposition that has not been a part of the public discussion is the proposition's mandate of the creation of a New Orleans Recreation Foundation ("Foundation") that will be in charge of fundraising

for the NORD Commission. The proposition contains no guidance as to how the Foundation will be formed, who will control the Foundation, who will control the money raised by the Foundation, whether the Foundation's meetings will be open to the public, who will be on the Foundation, the salaries of the Foundation members and staff, or who will control the spending of the Foundation. Another Public Belt Railroad situation.

For all the above reasons, and more, the New Orleans Branch NAACP opposes the proposition on the October 2, 2010, ballot to abolish NORD and create a NORD Commission and Foundation.

Renovation begins on new LSU Clinical offices St. Charles Hospital Building

Renovation of the former St. Charles General Hospital for the clinical practice of LSUHSC faculty will begin with a groundbreaking ceremony on Wednesday, September 15, 2010 in the green space next to the facility. Participants included Dr. John Lombardi, President of the LSU System, Dr. Larry Hollier, Chancellor of LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, Jim Montgomery, President of Touro Infirmary, Steve Worley, President and CEO of Children's Hospital and Louisiana Children's Medical Center, Dr.

Steve Nelson, Dean of the LSUHSC School of Medicine, and Dr. Cathi Fontenot, Interim CEO of the LSU Healthcare Network.

The 7-floor, 70,000 square-foot facility will house 95 exam rooms and 15 procedure rooms for the primary care faculty, specialists, and sub-specialists of LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans's schools of medicine, dentistry, and allied health professions. Specialties include OB/GYN, Comprehensive Medicine, Oncology, Psychiatry, Surgery, Neurology, Urology, Ophthalmology, Psychi-

atry, Podiatry, Family Medicine, Maternal Fetal Medicine, Rheumatology, Orthopaedics, Thoracic Surgery, Internal Medicine, Plastic Surgery, Immunology, Allergy, Pulmonary, Nephrology, Vascular Surgery, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Hand Surgery, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, General Dentistry, and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

"This is another step forward in rebuilding the health infrastructure in New Orleans," notes Dr. Larry Hollier, LSUHSC Chancel-

lor. "This facility will serve as the home of our faculty's clinical practice so we can function as a true integrated multispecialty group. Patients will benefit from having a single point of contact for a broad array of academic medical, dental, and allied health specialties, and the neighborhood will enjoy a renovated, repurposed facility that will once again contribute to the health and economy of the area."

The \$7.8 million project will produce hundreds of local construction jobs.

"The renovation of the former St. Charles Hospital will transform the existing building into a state-of-the-art medical office facility and will offer convenient access to quality healthcare care for this community," said Jim Montgomery, President of Touro Infirmary.

The estimated completion date for the renovation is September 2011.

President Barack Obama Endorses Richmond for Congress



United States President Barack Obama has endorsed State Representative Cedric Richmond for Louisiana's Second Congressional District.

"To receive President Obama's endorsement is an honor of the highest degree. I am incredibly humbled by his support," says Richmond. "I look forward to being an ally for our President as he continues to guide this country in a positive and progressive direction, it is important to be with the President not only when it's easy but also when it's hard."

AFTSU shows its support for Cedric Richmond



George E. Bordenave Jr. presented a check to State Representative Cedric Richmond this Labor Day weekend in the amount of \$5,000 on behalf of the American Federation of Teachers Staff Union (AFTSU). "What an appropriate time to assist a brother who has been loyal to working men and women in Louisiana through his tenure in the Louisiana House of Representatives. Cedric's voting record while serving in the House has been consistent with meeting the needs of working people in Louisiana. It's an honor to support Cedric's candidacy for Congressional 2," said Bordenave.

Mike McKenzie's 34 Ways Foundation A Tailgate Party With A Purpose



Dionne Character, Author
Entertainment Editor & Columnist



The evening was full of excitement as Saints goers gathered in black and gold wearing number 34, ready to celebrate with Mike McKenzie, who launched his first tailgate party with a purpose at Ernst's Café for 34 Ways Foundation.

Food, music, a second-line led by

Big Herc, World of Wheels 34 Hot Rides, signings with Mike McKenzie and Rickey Jackson, along with live entertainment by Mario Abney and The Abney Effect and Troy Lazures featuring Bryce Neville, all who got the party started while many chanted "Who Dat" to the countdown to another hype year

of football, with Super Bowl Champions, The New Orleans Saints.

The show was hosted by Shelton "Shakespear" Alexander, who will be hosting future tailgate parties throughout this football season. Proceeds from the night were donated to support Teaching, Reaching, and Educating

Youth 4 Life!

For more information on The Official Charity of Mike McKenzie, visit www.34waysfoundation.com.

Dionne Character can be reached at www.dionnecharacter.com.



att.com

It's all about connections.

At AT&T we know access to the Internet is no longer a luxury. It's how we learn, find jobs, and connect with family and friends. It drives innovation, creates investment, and builds a stronger community. We believe in endless possibilities for all. That's why we are investing in America, bringing broadband access closer to you.

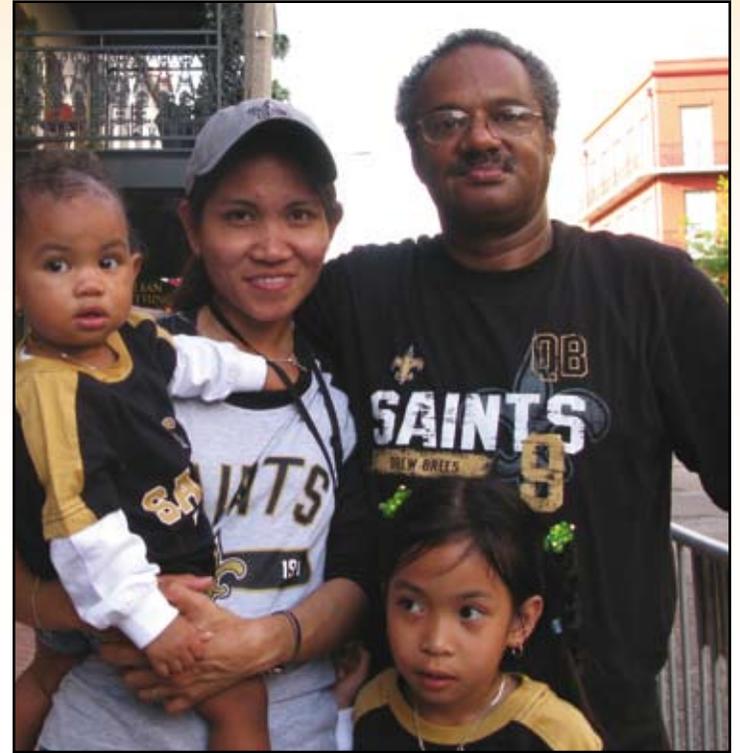
Rethink Possible



Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Data Around Town

Lots of celebrating last week for the Saints season opener and Data photographers were there. Photos by Glenn Summers and Chris Mercadel



Our Responsibility to Vote Didn't End With the Obama Election



Rev. Al Sharpton
NNPA Columnist

place prior to hitting the voting booth; the momentum that literally changed the course of this country that truly transformed us. It was, after all, the people that organized and mobilized for change. It was the record-breaking number of voters that turned out on Election Day '08 and stood in line for hours in order to exercise one of their most basic rights as Americans that resulted in this change.

And it was the enthusiasm and intense involvement of the body electorate that created one of the most engaging Presidential elections ever. It is time for us to reinvigorate those very sentiments.

Labor Day in political terms is chiefly marked as the unofficial start to the fall campaign cycle.

Less than two months away from the coveted mid-term elections, we are guaranteed to witness an up in the ante of hate rhetoric, attacks against the President, vitriol hurled at Democrats and an overall hostile environment. In an attempt to garner as many seats in both the House and Senate, Repub-

licans will and already are pulling out all the stops to discredit President Obama and those that push for progress.

Engaging in fear-mongering and other disruptive tactics, many of these politicians will say just about anything in order to rile up their base and get voters to the polls. Therefore, those of us that choose to progress and not regress, cannot sit idly at home come November.

Imagine for a moment if the youth of America weren't actively involved in organizing and voting for change in '08. What would have happened if there wasn't a historic voter turnout on Election Day? Just try to picture if you will, what our country would be like if John McCain was President and Sarah Palin Vice President? No one is saying that we should never question President Obama or any other elected official; critiquing those in authority is one of our duties as Americans. But we must remember that there is a massive difference between critiquing and between becoming unengaged in the entire process.

Last year, we witnessed the dangerous effects of remaining apathetic and uninvolved in elections. The state of NJ – a long time Democratic state – elected Chris Christie for Governor and hence went Republican for the first time in a dozen years. Elections have serious consequences. Campaigns signify the sentiments of their respective Party. With so many seats up for grab across the country in November, we cannot afford to sit at home. We may have elected the first African-American president, but we cannot think that our responsibility as citizenry ends there.

At a speech in Milwaukee the other day, the President reminded us not to relive the past. I echo that sentiment. We must continue progressing. But we cannot simply demand progress, we must push and fight for it ourselves. So why not do so in the biggest battlefield we have – the voting booth.

October 2nd One Nation Rally

Demand the Change We Voted For



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

tions, the American people are in a restless mood and rightfully so. The latest employment report shows that the economy lost another 54,000 jobs last month. Overall unemployment has climbed to 9.6 percent, with African American unemployment rising to 16.3 percent and Latino joblessness now at 12 percent. While much of this is the result of the persistent great recession which began in 2007, unfortunately there is a faction in the Congress that has repeatedly refused to pass job creation legislation which could alleviate the suffering of millions of middle class and working Americans.

In addition to the economic woes, the nation is also experiencing deep social divisions, fanned by hateful anti-Muslim sentiment, self-serving Tea Party vitriol and constant cable news and conservative talk show bluster. The prospects for our young people are especially bleak, with a staggeringly high 45 percent unemployment rate for African American teens, a million students dropping out of school each year and recent college grads finding it more difficult than ever to land that first job.

Clearly, this confluence of crises calls for a unity of purpose and action that has defined the American experience through most of the past 234 years, but which has been sorely lacking in recent times. The

One Nation rally is intended to rekindle that spirit and to demand the change we voted for in 2008.

Millions of Americans want to know - if we can bailout big banks and investment firms on Wall Street, why can't we bring good jobs to Main Street? Are we a nation that believes in shared prosperity for all who are willing to work for it, or are we a nation that favors only the privileged few?

The American people want to know – if education is the gateway to prosperity and a life of meaning, why are so many of our schools failing so many of our children?

And do we believe in the religious plu-

ralism and freedom that first brought our founders to these shores, or will we remain silent in the face of faith-based bigotry? These are some of the issues that have defined the National Urban League movement for the past 100 years.

The October 2nd rally at the Lincoln Memorial will give the majority of us who believe we must be One Nation again the chance to make our voices heard. I hope you will join us. To find out more about the rally log on to www.onenationworkingtogether.org.

One Nation Working Together
Demand the changes we voted for

To Be Equal:

On October 2nd, the National Urban League will join a coalition of more than 150 progressive organizations and tens of thousands of Americans at a national rally for jobs, education and social justice at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC. The goal of the One Nation Working Together (ONWT) rally is to galvanize Americans of every race, religion and walk of life to demand swift action that will put America back to work and pull America back together. I will be a featured speaker along with a number of other human rights, civil rights, union and progressive thought leaders.

Seven weeks before the mid-term elec-



Clinical Trials: A Legacy of Shame and Fear Being Addressed in 2010

By Pharoh Martin
NNPA National
Correspondent

PART I: Long After Tuskegee, Blacks Still Leary of Clinical Trials

(NNPA) – The general distrust that African-Americans have of clinical trial research goes back a long way. History tells them that it would be in their best interests to not participate but the reality is that Black participation in clinical research is critical because African-Americans disparately suffer from some of the highest disease rates and respond differently to many treatments. Researchers like Dr. Claudia Baquet, Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine at the University of Maryland School of

Medicine and Director of its National Bioethics Research Center, wants to not only foster public trust among African-Americans for research, but also stress the importance of participating in such research.

“The reason that this is so important is that we know that the public has a lack of trust in research and also in academic institutions,” said Baquet, one of the few Black clinical researchers in the country. “We know that African-Americans and other under-served communities do not participate in medical research or clinical trials at the same rate of the general population. We feel that the lack of diversity in clinical trial participation contributes to health disparities. Plus, it affects our ability to develop new ways



Participants in the University of Maryland Bioethics Research Center-NNPAF Bioethics Fellowship (Left to right): Linnie Frank Bailey, Black Voice News; Dr. Margo Hall, Bioethics Fellowship Program consultant; Elaine Hegwood Bowen, Chicago Crusader; Pharoh Martin, NNPAF; Dr. Claudia Baquet, director of the University of Maryland National Bioethics Research Center; Joan Allen, the New York Daily Challenge; Gordon Jackson, Dallas Weekly; Rhetta Peoples, the Florida Sun. Standing in back is James Alexander, National Cancer Institute public affairs specialist.

to prevent, diagnose or treat illness.”

The National Center of Minority Health Disparities, which is a part of the National Institute of Health, provided Baquet a \$2.5 million dollar grant to establish a national bioethics research center at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore and attempted to remove the stigma and mysteries associated with medical research within minority and under-served rural communities. The two-year grant is funded by the stimulus funding passed by the U. S. Congress last year.

Among the educational programs, Baquet established a partnership with the National Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation in order to encourage Black Press Reporters to explore the issue of clinical trials and report on the impact of the issue in 2010. Six reporters participated in the exploration. That includes five from around the nation, who applied and was selected as fellows, who spent two days at the University of Maryland. They were: Joan Allen of the New York Daily Challenge; Linnie Frank Bailey of Black Voice News in Riverside, Calif.; Elaine Hegwood Bowen of

the Chicago Crusader; Gordon Jackson of the Dallas Weekly; and Rhetta Peoples of the Florida Sun in Orlando.

NNPA National Correspondent Pharoh Martin, the writer of this story, also participated.

The reporters studied how African-Americans could benefit from clinical trials and the fear that still prevail.

Baquet has also been setting up community educational programs on bio-ethics in Maryland called “mini-medical schools”. The community attends a four-week medical school. They are taught some core research methods involving ethics, its history of scandals and tragedies, the federal regulations that came about to protect participants and the application of those protections such as the importance of informed consent, the knowledge level of a person participating in a clinical trial.

Students also receive lessons on health care problems that affect their communities such as HIV/AIDS, hypertension, diabetes and the need for vaccines. The approach is multi-level; so in addition to educating the public researchers also educate community physicians and nurses. “There is

still the persistent concern about research abuses and scandals that have happened in the past such as the Public Health Service’s study of untreated syphilis in Tuskegee, Alabama, which recruited African-American men in Tuskegee, who were promised treatment for syphilis,” Baquet said. “Even after penicillin was identified as a cure the treatment was withheld from them by the federal government. So there is still the persistent fear and concern about being treated like a Guinea Pig and not understanding that research has a role to play in improving the health of the community.”

Because of the historical concerns of events like the Tuskegee experiments and others, lecturers go through intense efforts to explain how federal regulations resulted from such scandals to protect individuals who participate in clinical trials so that similar incidents are not repeated.

Baquet said, “By promoting research literacy, it breaks down those barriers and the historical distrust that the literacy it breaks down those barriers and the historical distrust that the African-American community has had of research and of researchers.”



These homeowners were helped by the program. To hear their story, go to MakingHomeAffordable.gov

If you're struggling to keep your home, there is help.

Today, many people are at risk of foreclosure through no fault of their own.

Making Home Affordable is a free program from the U.S. government that has already helped over a million struggling homeowners.

The sooner you act, the better the chance we can help you.

MakingHomeAffordable.gov | 1-888-995-HOPE (4673)



Find us on facebook
Data News Weekly

History-Making 'Little Rock Nine' Member Dies

by Zenitha Prince

Special to the NNPA from the Afro-American Newspaper

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - On Sept. 4, 1957, then-high school sophomore Jefferson Thomas walked a gauntlet of hate – a boiling-angry White mob spewing spit and jeers, taunts and threats of lynching and an impenetrable barricade of armed soldiers blocking his way into Little Rock, Ark.'s Central High School.

Inside the school's walls – breached with the help of the Army's 101st Airborne Division, which provided protection to Thomas and eight other Black students – the persecution grew worse: daily insults, humiliation, destroyed property, beatings and attacks with knives, broken glass, dynamite and even acid.

Yet, Thomas and the other members of the "Little Rock Nine" – Minnijean Trickey Brown, Carlotta Walls LaNier, Ernest Green, Elizabeth Eckford, Gloria Ray Karkmark, Thelma Mothershed Wair, Terrence Roberts and Melba Patillo Beals – bore it all and the heavy hopes of a nationwide community on their shoulders, taking the first courageous, though treacherous, steps on the road to desegregation. Their courage

inspired a nation. And Thomas' death on Sept. 5 – 53 years and a day after he made history – has inspired an outpouring of grief and remembered gratitude across the United States.

"[First lady] Michelle and I are saddened by the passing of Jefferson Thomas, who as one of the 'Little Rock Nine,' took a stand against segregation and helped open the eyes of our nation to the struggle for civil rights," said President Barack Obama in a statement.

Arkansas Democrat and U.S. Sen. Blanche Lincoln said Thomas represented "the best of our state."

"Jefferson bravely stood up for what he believed was right, at a time when it wasn't easy or popular to break against convention," she added. "His courage set an example for future generations, who learned that education and equality go hand in hand. His desire to follow his educational dreams inspired countless Arkansans and Americans, and we all suffer his loss."

Barbara R. Arnwine, Executive Director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights under Law, echoed those sentiments. "The Lawyers' Committee joins the

nation in mourning the loss of Jefferson Thomas, who, along with eight classmates courageously integrated Arkansas's largest public high school, Central High School, in 1957," she said in a statement. "We commend his outstanding sacrifice and example in testing the federal government's resolve to enforce the U.S. Supreme Court's 1954 ruling rendering racial segregation in American public schools illegal."

Previously a student at the all-Black Dunbar Junior High, Thomas joined the other Black students in volunteering as agents in the NAACP's long-fought efforts to integrate schools – a plan that segregationists, including Arkansas' then-Gov. Orval Faubus, fought tirelessly.

"We feel that they have done the almost impossible job of facing the camera, enduring thousands



Jefferson Thomas

of questions from newsmen and holding on through some pretty terrifying days," said the Little Rock NAACP's then-Field Director Clarence Laws in an AFRO Oct. 5, 1957 article.

Thomas would often buoy the group's spirits with laughter. "According to those who knew him best, Jefferson's humor and light heart helped fellow members of the "Little Rock Nine" stay strong as they pursued their studies.

Jefferson maintained that strong sense of humor even in his final days," Lincoln stated.

In 1960 – though Faubus closed Little Rock high schools to stymie the steady march of integration – Thomas became one of the three original "Nine" to graduate from Central High.

He joined the military, serving as a Staff Sergeant and infantry squad leader in Vietnam and later became an accounting clerk with the Department of Defense.

This past weekend, Thomas, now 68, died from pancreatic cancer, Lanier told The Associated Press.

And while many mourn his death as a sign of the passing of an era, his place in the annals of history will not soon be forgotten. "America is an infinitely better place because of Jefferson Thomas and the other members of the "Little Rock Nine," said Congressional Black Caucus Chair Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Calif. "Mr. Thomas will be remembered for his courage, and his legacy is a reminder that we must remain vigilant in the fight against those eager to turn back the clock to a time when equal rights and justice were denied to many Americans."

Tea party victory endangers GOP's goal of retaking the Senate

By Holly Bailey

With polls showing significant GOP momentum this fall, Republicans in recent weeks began to believe they had a real chance of retaking control of the Senate in November. But a major primary upset at the hands of a tea party insurgent on Tuesday may have put the Senate GOP's dreams of a majority at serious risk.

In the biggest electoral surprise of the night, conservative activist Christine O'Donnell defeated longtime GOP Rep. Mike Castle in Delaware's Republican Senate primary. Castle, a moderate who once served as the state's governor, had been so favored to win in November that his decision to run had reportedly influenced Democrat Beau Biden, son of Vice President Joe Biden, to abandon plans to seek his father's old seat.



But with O'Donnell's come-from-nowhere win Tuesday night, top Republicans in Washington now see virtually no chance the GOP will be able to pick up the Delaware seat this fall. As a result, they admit their already slim chance of winning back Republican control of the Senate is likely dead.

"It's hard to see a path for us," one senior Republican official, who declined to be named while

discussing party strategy, told The Upshot. "Never say never, but it has become much harder for us after tonight."

According to Public Policy Polling, just 31 percent of Delaware voters believe O'Donnell is "fit" to hold office. She trails Democrat opponent Chris Coons by 16 points, according to the latest PPP survey. On Tuesday night, the National Republican Senatorial Committee issued a tepid statement of congratulations to O'Donnell, but a GOP official told Fox News the party has no plans of putting money into the race.

Still, O'Donnell's surprise vic-

tory was significant win for the Tea Party Express, which spent \$250,000 at the last minute to boost O'Donnell's campaign. Since the first primaries in early spring, she's the eighth tea party-endorsed candidate to defeat an establishment-backed GOP contender in an election cycle that has been dominated by voters choosing change over experience. Two weeks ago, Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski lost her primary race to Joe Miller, who was backed by Palin and the Tea Party. Other surprise tea party wins among Senate candidates this year include Sharon Angle in Nevada and Rand Paul in Kentucky. In Florida, Marco Rubio was also endorsed by tea party activists, although he's tried to move toward the middle since winning the primary last month.

The difference between

O'Donnell and other tea party-backed Senate candidates is she's running in a state that traditionally elects moderates. O'Donnell, a perennial candidate who once argued against masturbation on a MTV special, is not likely to move toward the middle, as Rubio has, and she doesn't look to benefit from the same anti-incumbent wave that's driven Angle's poll numbers against Harry Reid in Nevada. That's the key reason why national Republicans are so loathe to embrace O'Donnell's candidacy. Not that she cares.

"They have a losing track record," O'Donnell told CNN Tuesday night. "If they're too lazy to put in the effort that we need to win, then so be it."

(Photo of O'Donnell by Mark Wilson/Getty Images)

Congressional Black Caucus Honored for Dedication to Building America's Clean-Energy Economy

WASHINGTON DC — On Wednesday September 15th, several leading national environmental organizations honored the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) for its dedication to building America's clean-energy economy. Meet the Browns's Lamman Rucker acted as emcee for the luncheon event, titled "New Energy in the Congressional Black Caucus."

"The Congressional Black Caucus was instrumental in a number of advances in the effort to bring good, green jobs to America this year," says Pheadra Ellis-Lamkins, CEO of Green For All, one of the groups hosting the event. "As we look forward to keeping the EPA strong,



Congresswoman Barbara Lee on an AC Transit Zero-Emissions Fuel Cell bus

passing a Renewable Energy Standard, and including green jobs in the Transportation Bill, we know the Caucus will rise to the occasion again in 2011."

The luncheon highlighted the Congressional Black Caucus's role in crafting the Green Construction Careers Demonstration Project. This provision of the House climate bill would have required certain construction projects to hire local workers, allowed for the creation of community workforce agreements, and created training opportunities to help everyday people achieve the American Dream.

"We must go green. And we must be inclusive and create jobs for those most in need,"

says Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA).

"New Energy in the Congressional Black Caucus" honored six individual U.S. Representatives for their extraordinary leadership on these issues: Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, II (D-MO), Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), Rep. G.K. Butterfield (D-NC), Rep. Keith Ellison (DFL-MN), Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA), and Rep. Bobby Rush (D-IL).

Event sponsors were: Green For All, the Sierra Club, Greenpeace, Natural Resources Defense Council, National Wildlife Federation, League of Conservation Voters, and American Rivers.

8 Easy Projects for Instant Energy Savings

With these inexpensive ideas you can reduce your carbon footprint and slash your energy bills. Spend \$400 once to save \$900 a year!

Reducing your home energy use is the best of win-win deals — not only does it reduce your carbon footprint, it also saves you big bucks on your energy bills. That's especially exciting when you consider that many home energy improvements are fast, easy and inexpensive. Often, the savings from an individual project are small, but when you start putting them together they add up quickly.

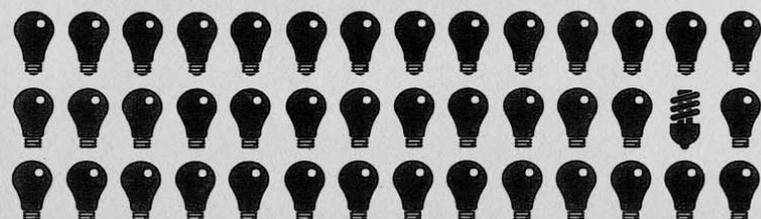
Top Eight Projects	Initial Cost	Savings per Year	Energy Reduction per Year	CO2 Reduction per Year
Personal Computer Power Management	\$20	\$178	1,780 kWh	3,560 lbs
Install Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs	\$50	\$117	1,170 kWh	2,340 lbs
Seal and Insulate Heating Ducts	\$20	\$75	940 kWh	480 lbs
Seal Leaks	\$50	\$156	1,980 kWh	1,010 lbs
Vent Dryer to Inside During Winter	\$5	\$63	630 kWh	286 lbs
Insulate Windows With Bubble Wrap	\$38	\$75	960 kWh	490 lbs
Eliminate Phantom Electrical Loads	\$70	\$57	570 kWh	1,140 lbs
Use an Electric Mattress Pad	\$128	\$186	2,320 kWh	1,150 lbs
Totals	\$378	\$907	10,350 kWh	10,456 lbs

Energy Saving Projects For \$50 or Less

Even if you don't have a lot of money to spend on home energy improvements, you can do many things around your home that are cheap or even free! For example, you can wrap your hot water pipes with pipe insulation, and if you have an old hot water heater, put an insulating blanket on it. (It's easy to tell whether your water heater needs a blanket: If you touch it with your hand and it feels warm, it does.) Another quick and easy strategy is to lower the set point for your thermostat. It doesn't cost you anything and can result in instant savings. Below are more suggestions for low-cost green energy upgrades along with typical price ranges:

- Energy-efficient lighting: \$3 to \$15 per bulb
- Power strip: \$12 to \$35
- Water heater blanket: \$25
- Foam pipe insulation: \$4 to \$5 for 6-foot length
- Programmable thermostat: Starts at \$25
- Door sweep: \$3.50 to \$20
- Clothesline: About \$10
- Timers for lights: \$7 to \$13

CAN YOU SPOT THE ENERGY-SAVING BULB?



WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?



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

For help or information: (866) 448-5816

restorethegulf.gov

Facebook: [BP America](https://www.facebook.com/BPAmerica)

Twitter: [@BP_America](https://twitter.com/BP_America)

YouTube: [BP](https://www.youtube.com/BP)

For claims information visit: bp.com/claims

louisianagulfresponse.com

© 2010 BP, E&P

