

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

**Data**

**News Weekly**

*"The People's Paper"*

# BBQ And Blues Festival

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**DataZone**

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# Transformation

Winning the Battle with  
**Obesity**

*The Soul of New Orleans*

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# Transformation

*Local model experiences new lease on life, improved health*



Model Monique B is happy with her results after undergoing gastric bypass surgery. She feels better, is healthier and happier than ever

By Gary Estwick

Nearly two decades of embarrassments, torment and unfulfilled aspirations ended with a Saturday afternoon trip to a clothing store. There, in an oversized dressing room, Monique Broussard sat on a bench four years ago, watching her older sister, Laila, try on a black

and white plaid V-neck shirt made of spandex. Silver accents lined the front. Laila danced around the room as she admired her diminishing figure in a mirror. Monique watched, unable to participate - she could not fit any clothes. "Wow, she has so much energy. She's losing weight, she's looking

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## DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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good. I want to feel like that too.”

The sisters, whose frames were once nearly identical, were heading in different directions in a battle against obesity, which affects nearly 40 percent of African-American women, according to the National Health Interview Survey, which has monitored the health of the nation since 1957. Laila had lost about a third of her body weight since her gastric bypass surgery, just six months earlier.

Broussard considered the procedure, but opted against it. Her husband was afraid of complications.

It was here, in the dressing room, that she revised her decision.

“Monique, you’re 23 years old... You’re 324 lbs. You’ve got to do something.”

The next day, she called a doctor, starting a journey that transformed her from the third grader who cringed when classmates yelled, “Earthquake!” as she completed laps in physical education class to a runway diva. The teenager who wanted to be a flag twirler during Mardi Gras, a cheerleader on Friday nights, dreaded wearing shorts in public, forced herself to drink Slim Fast (It didn’t work) and skipped meals (She ate even more when she finally ate) to a seasoned model who enjoys dressing up, and enjoys feeling sexy.

From a woman who couldn’t cross her legs four years ago, dreaded trips to movie theaters and airline flights because she didn’t know if she could fit in the seats to a mother of three who chases her boys, ages, 9, 5 and 1, around their home, and can catch them.

“The most important reason was my children,” Broussard said of her motivation for the surgery. “I wanted to be around for my babies, to do more.”

Even now, she’s adjusting to her body, enjoying every experience, every gift, like a newborn. She can see her collarbone, and feel it. She can walk up and down stairs. Pick a pin off the floor.

She can shop anywhere.

“I see life in a totally new way,” said Broussard, now 5 feet, 7 inches and 172 lbs. “I have energy, and it changed my life because I never knew how it felt to have so much energy. I feel like another person.”

#### A report in

Health Affairs, a journal of health policy thought and research, estimated that obesity-related health spending costs the U.S. Healthcare System an estimated \$147 billion annually, double what it was a decade ago and amounting to nearly 10% of all medical spending.

The implications are more than just costly. Obese adults (Body Mass Index of 30 or more) spend 40 percent more on health care than normal individuals because their conditions are associated with more than 30 illnesses - from Type 2 diabetes and coronary heart disease to infertility and sleep apnea. Meanwhile, obesity is associated with

112,000 U.S. deaths each year.

Broussard’s elective surgery saved her from permanent physical damage.

Her first two pregnancies were high risk because of her weight; she had high blood pressure and early stages of diabetes. She also had to take fluid pills and a daily shot to protect her sugar levels.

“It is a procedure for those who are about 100 pounds or more overweight, and where countless diet and exercise programs have failed. It is not for someone trying to lose 10, 20 or 30 pounds.”

Broussard’s new body and improved confidence allows her to do things she always wanted to do. She volunteered with a friend to help tutor flag twirlers in the New Orleans Recovery School District.

In 2008, her sister, who started modeling a year earlier, encouraged her to take head shots and find an agent. She’s now a regular for a local modeling agency. Her most recent work is featured in the New Orleans Convention Center.

“I didn’t like what I saw in the mirror,” Broussard, 31, said. “Now, I sit and it’s like unbelievable. I didn’t know that this person was under all of that.”

Her eating habits have changed, although she believes it’s for the better.

She eats about once every two hours, albeit much smaller meals. She stops eating when her stomach tells her to, not when her plate is clear of food. Her refrigerator is full of to-go boxes, plates she couldn’t finish.

Buffets are a waste of money.

At McDonald’s, a small order of french fries or a snack wrap fills her up. She can only eat half a cheeseburger at a time. Four to five bites of a salad and she’s full.

At home, she opts for bowls instead of plates so she doesn’t give herself as much food. Breakfast consists of four boiled eggs - no yolk - and orange juice. Scrambled eggs are no longer in her diet. For some reason, no matter how much she chews them, her smaller esophagus cannot accommodate them.

She has an increased appetite for vegetables.

“A lot of people think you have to be on a diet the rest of your life; that’s not true,” Broussard said. “They do have some side effects because everybody’s body is different, but I would recommend it.”



#### STATE SENATE DISTRICT 2

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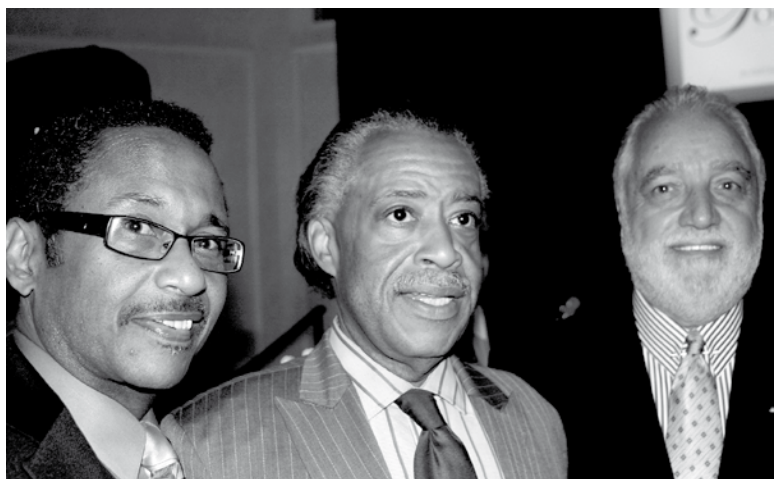
*A Fighter for Us.*

Vote Saturday, October 2nd



#80

# The Black Press of America Honors Marc Morial



By C.K. Moreland, Jr.

Special to the NNPA

WASHINGTON—Members of Congress, Civil Rights legends, leaders of state and municipal governments from all across the U.S. and corporate America provided

conclusive evidence it is impossible to have a conversation about “Power in Leadership” without including the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) – the Black Press of America.

Congressional Black Caucus

Chair Barbara Lee (D-CA), Sen. Roland Burris (D-IL), and the Rev. Al Sharpton, President of the National Action Network, all joined the NNPA in saluting honorees Reps. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) and Lacy Clay (D-MO), the Rev. Jesse Jackson of the National Rainbow Coalition, and National Urban League President Marc Morial.

Rep. Lee and Marc H. Morial, the National Urban League’s President and Chief Executive Officer, both recalled their first published critiques were in their local Black newspapers. Rep. Lee’s critique was published long before she was a member of Congress. Marc Morial was published under an assumed name because he was a 15 year old high school football player writing about issues faced

by high school athletes.

Morial told the crowd, “While some have questioned the need for the Congressional Black Caucus, the National Urban League, and the National Action Network, let me say we are here to stay.”

“We need a new activism, they may call it a new Tea Party, but I see old James Crow and Larry Crow,” Morial continued, referring to the modern expressions of Jim Crow segregation. “We need to re-invigorate our institutions. But make no mistake. We are here to stay.”

The upcoming mid-term elections and the procedural delays that have stalled much of President Barack Obama’s agenda are a battlefield because the Senate is in the midst of a difficult fight, “51” is not a majority anymore in the 100 member Senate, said Sen. Roland Burris (D-IL). The 2010 election cycle is just the beginning, “There is a movement in this country to make certain that the election of a Black President will never happen again,” stated Sen. Burris.

Rep. Lacy Clay (D-MO) recalled that with the help of facts from the 200-member NNPA, he was able to fight in the Congressional appropriations process to increase funding for advertising of the 2010 Census in the pages of the Black Press from a mere \$800,000 to more than \$4 million, making this “the best Census since 1790” when census taking began in this country.

www.ladatanews.com



# Dr. Elliot Willard

## *Reaching Through Teaching*

by: Edwin Buggage

He is a man who has dedicated his life to giving back, to helping out those in need. He has gained much wisdom along his journey of nearly eight decades. Dr. Elliot Willard is an educator, mentor and father who has achieved much and is the template of what a man should be.

At a young age he knew that anything was possible even under the most adverse circumstances. His grandfather lived during a time where hanging from trees was a common sight and times when ambition was stifled by repressive policies set in place to be roadblocks for people of color to pursue their dreams.

For Dr. Willard even during these tumultuous times he kept his eyes fixed on his grandfather, Dr. Julius Walter Willard who was a Harvard Graduate during the times of segregation. "I learned from him that if you put your mind to anything all things are possible, and it is something I live by and have tried to tell my own children and the many other people's children I have come to experience in my 57 years of being involved in education," says Willard.

Willard was a man raised to pursue excellence. He was a star athlete and student, who during his high school years set a national record for the hundred yard dash and led his football team to high school championships at Xavier Prep. He later went on to be a standout student at Xavier University, playing football and being a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. He says his time in these institutions and with the guidance of the sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and the Josephite Brotherhood



of Priests was instrumental in helping him in the spirit of giving. "I learned a lot from and admired how they took a vow of poverty to help those less fortunate, and it is what I saw them doing, giving selflessly which is something I have taken and applied to my life," remarks Willard.

Of his years as an athlete he says sports gave him the tools to be a success and he passes that on to young people, "It is important to be a good listener, have a plan, then have a strategy to carry it out and execute," says Willard. For much of his life

he has been involved in educating young people. Serving as a teacher, coach, principal and elected official of the Orleans Parish School Board.

But of all the things he has accomplished in his long and joyful life his greatest has been his family. His wife is Mary Jane Willard who was an educator for 43 years, and he jokingly says we have 100 years of teaching experience behind us." He says he has lived a blessed life as the father of twelve children who he has passed the torch on to live lives centered around giving. "I feel life is about living to make other peoples lives better, this is how I have lived my life and tried to teach my children and grandchildren." Continuing he says, "Giving is not always about giving money, it is about giving your time and effort to make the lesser of us better, it is about sharing and caring for your fellow man and woman."

Today as the city is at a crossroads, Willard is still on the front line, mentoring young people. He is presently working with the Community Outreach Division of the District Attorney's Office, going into schools and the community at large to attempt to curtail criminal activity among city youth by introducing them to positive role models and providing them with the basis for sound decision making.

He says looking back if he had to give a recipe for how to succeed in life, "If there is anything you want to achieve it won't be easy, and accept and face challenges this is what separates winners from losers." "Always have faith in God and know that all things are possible."

**JMJ**  
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Continuing Education Fund



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# Crescent City Blues & BBQ Festival



Annual Event to feature: Taj Mahal, Ruthie Foster, Otis Taylor, Corey Harris, Li'l Ed & the Blues Imperials, Luther Kent, Barbara Lynn, The Stanton Moore Trio featuring Anders Osborne, Carol Fran and Little Freddie King are just some of the acts who will perform at the fifth annual Crescent City Blues & BBQ Festival Oct. 16-17 - a free event presented by the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation.

The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation will present the Fifth Annual Crescent City Blues & BBQ Festival - a free event - Oct. 16-17 at New Orleans' Lafayette Square Park.

For the complete performance schedule, a map of the location and other details, please view the official event web site at [www.jazzandheritage.org/blues-fest](http://www.jazzandheritage.org/blues-fest).

Jon Cleary, Henry Gray, Shannon McNally, the Joe Krown Trio featuring Walter "Wolfman" Washington and Russel Batiste, the Honey Island Swamp Band and Big Daddy O are some of the artists who will perform.

As in the past, the festival will feature two stages of music along with some of the best barbecue in the South, featuring a mix of traditional and non-traditional grilled treats.

There will also be an extensive crafts fair showcasing some of the top local artists in a range of styles and media. We'll have a large selection of CDs and T-shirts for sale, too. For a complete list of food and craft vendors, please visit the event web site at [www.jazzandheritage.org/blues-fest](http://www.jazzandheritage.org/blues-fest).

Parking is easy. The Central Parking garage in the Poydras Center (650 Poydras Street) will be open both days of the festival. Parking is a flat \$10 per day. Just use the garage entrance on Camp Street. There are additional lots at 601 Carondelet Street and 834 Camp Street, both offering a \$10 flat rate for the festival.

Public Transit: The Festival takes place in beautiful Lafayette Square Park, which is conveniently located along the St. Charles Avenue streetcar line.

Festival Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 8:15 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 16, and 10:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 17.

This year's Blues & BBQ Festival will be familiar to those who have attended in the past. But we're also making some additions that should be fun for everyone:

Oral History Stage: The NORD Theater in the ground floor of Gallier Hall (across St. Charles Avenue from Lafayette Square) will be the site



of our new oral history stage, where festival performers will talk about their lives, careers and influences.

Abita Sports Bar: For fans who want to enjoy the music without missing any of the weekend sports action - especially the Oct. 17 Saints game being played in Tampa - we're creating a new Abita Sports Bar with large-screen TVs and a wide selection of brews from our wonderful beer sponsor.

Voodoo Blues Challenge: As we did last year, we're partnering with the New Orleans Blues Society (aka the Voodoo Blues Krewe), which is organizing a talent contest to choose artists who will represent New Orleans in the International Blues Challenge in Memphis. Winners in two categories - bands, and solo/duo acts - will perform at the Blues

& BBQ Festival. Big Daddy O is the winner in the solo/duo category. The winner in the band competition will be determined on Oct. 9.

T-Shirt Design Contest: To come up with a fresh t-shirt design, we're "crowdsourcing." That is, we've created a contest for folks who would like to submit their ideas for a t-shirt image. See this link for more details. The deadline for entries is Sept. 30.

Volunteers: As always, we need volunteers to help with various aspects of the festival. To volunteer, send us an e-mail at this address. We'll have an organizational meeting for all interested volunteers at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 9, at the Jazz & Heritage Center (1225 N. Rampart Street, New Orleans). Thank you.

**Social Media:**  
Check us out on Facebook here and here. Follow us on Twitter here. Visit our YouTube channel here.

**On the Radio:**  
Community radio station WWOZ 90.7 FM will broadcast the festival live over the air and online.

The 2010 Crescent City Blues & BBQ Festival is sponsored by: The Abita Brewing Company, the National Endowment for the Arts, South Arts, LouisianaTravel.com, the Louisiana Lottery, the New Orleans Metropolitan Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Arts Council of New Orleans, the Louisiana Division of the Arts, Big Shot soda, radio station WWOZ-FM, American Routes, Lamar Outdoor Advertising, the LSU Health Care Network, Living Blues magazine, Cox Communications, Peoples Health and Where Y'at magazine.

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# Data October 2nd Election Endorsements



**Terry B. Jones**  
Publisher

Your vote is crucial to our progress

First and foremost, it is absolutely important that we all go out and VOTE on Saturday, October 2nd. All votes count in both small and large elections. This election is for Judgeships, State Senator, and Lieutenant Governor.

At this point Data News Weekly has two recommendations a candidate for the Judge of Juvenile Court, Section "C", the other is the race for State Senator dis2. Let's begin



**Candace Bates-Anderson**

with Juvenile Judge, Candace Bates-Anderson. Anderson us a hard-working lady that we feel can do the job. It is very clear that we have an ongoing problem with juvenile crime, which directly impacts our com-



**Cynthia Willard-Lewis**

munity. We know that the answer to Black youth crime is not "to lock them up and throw away the key." That ideology breeds crime not deter crime. A better idea comes from Candace that says, "Jail is no place for

our kids. I will get them out of a cell and into a habitat where they can be productive members of our society."

After all of the allegations from the last male judge, David Bell, who was forced to resign because of allegations of sexual harassment with his employees; we think that Candace is a visionary and a breath of fresh air for the Juvenile Court seat.

For State Senator, District "2", Cynthia Willard-Lewis is our choice. If you are awake at all in New Orleans you know that Cynthia has been a fighter for the rights of New Orleanians for years. From State Representative in 1993 to City Councilmember, Cynthia has proven to be a leader for the rights of our community.

After Katrina, she fought diligently for the rights of the people in New Orleans East and the Ninth Ward. From struggling against the powers that be from turning New Orleans East to "Green Space" and demolishing blighted houses in the Ninth Ward. Cynthia's courage and leadership is unmatched. She will serve us well as State Senator.

Early voting ends September 25th.

#81



## CANDICE BATES ANDERSON

FOR ORLEANS PARISH JUVENILE COURT JUDGE

[about](#) [platform](#) [endorsements](#) [contribute](#) [contact](#) [home](#)

### Candice Bates Anderson

for Juvenile Court Judge, Section C  
*A champion for our children*

"I will work with the Sheriff and the District Attorney to implement programs with funding from the state that can offer hope to our youth. Jail is no place for our kids; I will get them out of a cell and into a habitat where they can be productive members of our society. I will work with the business community, school system, mental health community and all of the organizations that currently work with juveniles."



**SEE WHO ENDORSES CANDICE**

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 Sheriff Jiff Hingle, Plaquemines Parish  
 Former Civil Sheriff Paul Valteau, Orleans Parish  
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## Data News Weekly



# Shoot Ya Rest Shot!

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 PHOTOS SHOULD BE EMAILED TO  
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## PART II: Clinical Trials: A Legacy of Shame and Fear Being Addressed in 2010

By Pharoh Martin

NNPA National Correspondent

Doctors Find Ways to Stop African-American Resistance to Clinical Trials

(NNPA) - One of history's most glaring violation of medical ethics occurred in Tuskegee, Ala. That was when federal researchers experimented on close to 400 impoverished African-American sharecroppers who suffered from syphilis. The experiments started in 1932 and lasted for 40 years.

Early in the study, researchers found that penicillin was an effective treatment for the disease; yet the U.S. Public Health Service purposely withheld the treatment from its Black participants for decades.

The fallout from that controversial study not only led to a total reform of medical ethics as well as an avalanche of new federal laws and regulations regarding protections for participants in clinical studies but that study and similar incidents shattered whatever trust the Black community had for such research.

"I can tell you as a researcher at a major university that that sort of thing is highly unlikely and almost impossible to happen now," said Dr. Elijah Saunders, Professor of Cardiology and Medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. "But to try to convince the Black public, especially many of the not very well educated part of the Black public, is still very difficult. That distrust is still out there and it still carries over."

For many African-Americans, clinical trials run deep as a stigma. Their fear is of being turned into human guinea pigs or being recast in another experiment similar to Tuskegee.

According to Saunders research colleague, Dr. Stephen Liggett, Professor of Medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, even though there have been great advances in the field bioethics and protections for participants of clinical trials the general mistrust of the African-American community has led to an under-representation of Black participants in medical research, which can have a substantial effect on findings.

"We know the risk of having



Blood being drawn from victim of Tuskegee syphilis study. PHOTO: National Archives

certain diseases and their response to therapy is dependent upon a person's genetic makeup," said Liggett, who works in pharmacogenetics, the relationship between a person's genetic makeup and their response to drugs. "The African-American community represents a unique genetic makeup that must be considered when one is designing a clinical trial. For example, we would need to know if a treatment for high blood pressure really works to save lives in those of African descent, of Asian descent, of European descent, etc. Otherwise, what will happen, and this is unfortunate, if a trial gets approved but doesn't have proper ethnic representation, once it's approved, it will be prescribed to everyone."

Saunders has spent more than half of his 20 year career in research specifically working with African-Americans. He said that there are some cases where drugs may not work the same way in Blacks as they do in Whites. The change can show up as a side ef-

fect, as a different response to the drug or may even work at all.

"I don't want you to think that this is extremely common but it's common enough, especially in my area, I do studies and clinical trials in hypertension and high blood pressure," Saunders said. One example that Saunders pointed out is regarding his research involving ACE inhibitors, a popular drug to treat high blood pressure. His research team found that these drugs don't work the same for Black as it does for Whites.

They had to use a higher dose in order for it to be effective and even found a side effect in the form of a persistent severe cough that was found more consistently in Blacks more than with their White counterparts. Saunders, who is African-American and well-known in his Baltimore community, fortunately, does not have as hard of a time finding Black participants for his trials as other researchers.

He has developed a special way of recruiting participants from the African-American community. He

carried a blood pressure program to community churches and barber shops. These church workers and barbers would be trained to screen local residents for high blood pressure and could refer them to doctors for treatment.

"It sounds simple but if Black people didn't have that kind of screening readily available for them in the community they would never know that they had high blood pressure," said Saunders. Since the program started in 1985 thousands of people in Baltimore were referred, according to Saunders. "High-blood pressure is so common and it's killing so many Black people that every effort should be made to get them into clinical trials because the drugs is going to be used on them whether or not they are in the trials and the more researchers know about the drugs before it gets to market, the safer it would be and probably the more effective it will be," said Saunders.

"So we want to encourage Black people and let them know

that the chances of them being hurt or being used as guinea pigs is almost nil in this day and time." Africans-Americans suffer from high-blood pressure at a significantly higher rate than other racial groups. According to the Center for Disease Control, more than 44 percent of Black women suffer from hypertension compared to 28 percent of White women. The rates for Black and White men share a similar trend though not as great. Clinical trials are now regulated and approved by a governing body called the Institutional Review Board (IRB), which is empowered by the Food and Drug Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Participants in clinical trials should only volunteer for IRB-approved studies, Liggett said. All sanctioned studies carry an IRB number that can be verified. Participants must see an informed consent document that must be read in-depth and understood before signed. "Read the informed consent document completely," Liggett advises. "If they have questions they should be able to have them readily answered by a physician before they sign the form. Anything that deviates from that should send up a red flag." Federal guidelines stipulate that an informed consent form is written simply enough so that a person with a fourth or fifth grade education could read and understand it.

"The pendulum is just about where it needs to be," said Liggett. "You can go so far in one direction and you can never get anyone enrolled and it would be a bureaucratic problem from the beginning. But you don't want it to be too loose and not give the patients the proper protections and informed content for a study. I think we are right where we need to be and that's after many years of ethical discussions."



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Data News Weekly

# Gov. & Mayor announce that Community Clinic Network will be preserved

*CDBG Funds, New Waiver Keep National Model for Primary Care in Tact*

Governor Bobby Jindal and Mayor Mitch Landrieu announced this week that a network of community primary care health clinics that has served nearly 300,000 metropolitan New Orleans residents since Hurricane Katrina will remain operational thanks to a partnership between federal, state and local government.

Low-income and uninsured residents will continue to have access to this network of clinics regardless of their ability to pay under a waiver negotiated by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals and announced today by U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius.

Governor Jindal said, "These clinics have set a standard not only for our state, but for the country, in how we can provide primary, preventive and behavioral health care to citizens in their communities without forcing them into emergency rooms for non-emergency care. They continue to play a vital role as we continue to re-



Gov. Bobby Jindal

build health-care capacity in the New Orleans area."

"Since they opened in 2007, our clinics have provided accessible, affordable primary care to 292,000 residents, approximately one-third of the metro area population," said Landrieu. "Keeping these clinics open allows us to improve health outcomes for the

people of New Orleans. Today is a new day, and we now have the state and federal funding in place to sustain this critical regional resource."

The network of clinics was created after Hurricane Katrina devastated the region's health care infrastructure. Fourteen of the 25 clinic organizations, representing 40 clinic locations, are recognized as Patient Centered Medical Homes by the National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA) – the largest concentration of such clinics in the United States.

"Keeping people out of costly, unnecessary emergency rooms with appropriate levels of primary care should be the goal of every community in the state. This concept of preventive and coordinated care for every Louisiana resident is driving all of our major efforts now," DHH Secretary Bruce Greenstein said. "These clinics are the perfect model for that future. We are glad

we were able to find a workable solution for funding them and are committing to helping them build the administrative capacity they will need to sustain and compete in the emerging health care environment."

The clinics were originally funded for three years by a \$100 million Primary Care and Access Stabilization Grant from HHS. The money from that grant was set to run out at the end of September. Earlier this month, Governor Jindal and Mayor Landrieu announced that the state has committed \$30 million over three years from administrative funds in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program as the state's match, and that plan was approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"This community health network is the result of innovative work by the people of our area who pulled themselves up from Katrina and built something remarkable for the nation to follow,"

said Dr. Karen DeSalvo, Chair of 504HealthNet, a post-Katrina consortium of community health providers.

"New Orleans has historically bleak health statistics, and it's no secret that Hurricane Katrina decimated our health care infrastructure and created shortages in critical medical fields," closed Mayor Landrieu. "But out of this catastrophe has come the opportunity to create new models for providing affordable and accessible health care. As we work to build a bio-medical corridor in Mid City and a state-of-the-art hospital in New Orleans East, we are pleased that our work with our local, state, and federal partners has ensured that these primary care clinics are funded and preserved. This network is a national model and is just one of the ways post-Katrina New Orleans is serving as a true laboratory of reform."

## Early voting for October 2nd election Continues through September 25th

Starting Saturday, September 18th through Saturday, September 25th, all registered New Orleans voters can vote early for the October 2nd election. Early voting will take place at the following locations: City Hall at 1300 Perdido St.; the Algiers Courthouse at 225 Morgan St.; or, the voting machine warehouse at 8870 Chef Menteur Hwy. All locations are open from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Among items on the ballot is the proposed NORD reform. For more information about the proposed reform, visit [www.nordcap.org](http://www.nordcap.org). The language on the ballot for NORD reform will read as follows:

City Charter Amendment - New Orleans recreation DEVELOPMENT commission

Summary: this proposition amends article iv and article v of the home rule charter of the city of new orleans relative to the department of recreation. The amendments make substantive changes, including the following: creating the new orleans recreation development commission; redefining the functions of the department of parks and parkways; eliminating the department of recreation and transferring its duties and responsibilities to the new orleans recreation development commission; and providing for the composition, powers, duties, functions and administration of the commission.

## Council Chamber to be Site of State Legislature Hurricane Recovery Committee Follow-up Meeting On Homeowner Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs

Next week, the State Legislature Select Committee on Hurricane Recovery will convene in the City Council Chamber on Thursday, September 30 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., to address homeowner assistance and hazard mitigation grant programs.

The agenda for the meeting will include a presentation by the Office of Community Development providing program updates on the Road Home Homeowners program, Small Rental Property program and the Hazard Mitigation Grant program. The public will have the opportunity to comment and ask questions about the various programs.

The meeting will be held in the City Council Chamber located in City Hall (click here for map). This meeting is a follow up to two meetings previously held in the Council Chamber; it is expected that additional meetings of this nature will be held in the future.

The Committee, chaired by Representative Neil Abramson, is charged with reviewing issues related to hurricane recovery, including, but not limited to, acting as an oversight committee to handle the sunset of the Louisiana Recovery Authority.



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# Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Conference Hits 40th Year

By Lauren Victoria Burke  
Special to the NNPA

WASHINGTON—For the second year in a row, President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle attended the annual Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Gala. The Gala is the last event of the annual Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Conference, which is celebrating its 40th year.

The annual legislative conference is one of the nation's largest gatherings of African-Americans. More than 18,000 business leaders, celebrities, and civil activists convened in Washington for the event, which was sponsored by hundreds of corporations, organizations, and city and state governments.

Much like his speech to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, President Obama emphasized the importance of voter turnout for the 2010 mid-term as Democrats struggle to hold on to majorities in Congress.

"I need everybody here to go



back to your neighborhoods, to go back to your workplaces, to go to churches, and go to the barber-shops, and go to the beauty shops, and tell them we've got more work to do," President Obama told the crowd at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.

Along with a majority of 42 members of the Congressional Black Caucus, the audience included public officials from national, state, and local communi-

ties.

Seated alongside the political heavy hitters were entertainment personalities, including actor Chris Tucker, singer Harry Belafonte, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, Attorney General Eric Holder, Roland Martin, writer Michael Eric Dyson, and singer John Legend. Awards were given to Belafonte, choreographer Judith Jamieson, actors Danny Glover and Cicely Tyson, and the Honorable

Calvin Smyre. Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA), received one of the loudest ovations from the crowd, as the CBC members were individually introduced. The California Democrat audience seemed to show support for Waters, who is in the midst of an investigation by the House Ethics Committee and a pending ethics trial.

Highlights of the legislative conference included a Government Procurement Fair featuring information on how to do business with more than 20 government agencies, hosted by Rep. Chaka Fattah (D-PA); an issue forum by Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI) on the challenges facing the first African-American in the White House; and an issue forum on minority owned lending institutions by Rep. Waters.

Additionally, a detailed issue forum on gang prevention featuring the CBC bill with the most co-sponsors (235), the Youth PROMISE Act, was detailed and hosted by Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Va.). There were also a myriad of

other seminars and brain trusts featuring topics of importance in the Black community in education and job employment. An issue forum on the needs of the faith-based community hosted by Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-MD, was a popular session as attendees heard advice regarding the needs of Black churches as they deal with local lending institutions during hard economic times.

Though most of the time at the conference was spent on issue forums and their related events, there were also a host of social gatherings by members.

As the CBC enters its 41st year next year, there are likely to be at least two Black Republican members elected in November. With a possible shift of control to the Republicans in the U.S. House, this may mean a big change in the balance of power for members of the CBC, who now hold the chairmanships of three full standing House committees and more than 25 subcommittee chairs.

## African-American, Women, and Southerners Talk and Text the Most in the U.S.

Think you can guess which Americans talk or text the most on their cellphones?

According to Nielsen, African-Americans use the most voice minutes – on average more than 1,300 a month. Hispanics are the

next most talkative group, chatting an average of 826 minutes a month. Even Asians/Pacific Islanders, with 692 average monthly minutes, talk more than Whites, who use an average of 647 voice minutes a month.

Of all the racial groups in the study, African-Americans and Hispanics text the most. Hispanics send and receive approximately 767 SMS messages a month while African-Americans send and receive around 780 – significantly

more than Asians/Pacific Islanders (384 texts a month) and Whites (566 texts a month). The voice and text results are compiled from one year (April 2009-March 2010) of data gathered by The Nielsen Company, which analyzed the monthly cellphone bills of more than 60,000 mobile subscribers in the United States.

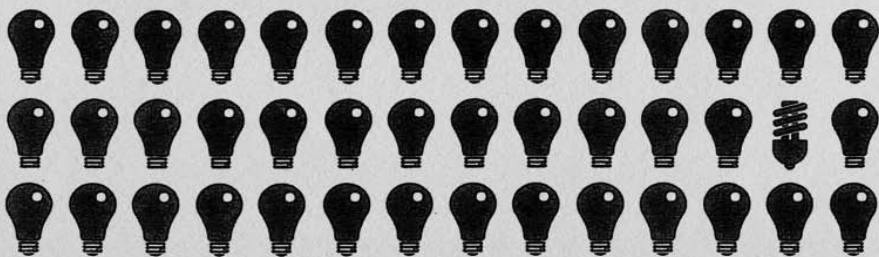
If you think women in the U.S. talk more than men on their cellphones, Nielsen data confirms your suspicion. On average, women talk 22% more than men (856.3 minutes a month compared to 666.7 minutes, respectively). Turns out, American women are more communicative in general on mobile devices; they text more, too, sending or receiving an average of 601 SMS messages a month compared to the 447 monthly text messages sent or received by the average American male.

Not surprisingly, teens text the most, sending or receiving an

amazing 2,779 SMS messages a month. In the next two age brackets, text usage falls by more than half in each category, with those aged 18-24 sending or receiving 1,299 messages and those aged 25-34 exchanging an average of 592 messages. While the text usage varies greatly between those 18-24 and those 25-34, their voice usage is quite close (981 voice minutes for 18-24 and 952 minutes a month for those 25-34 years old.)

Location plays into usage patterns as well. Southerners are the most talkative. But, Florida ranks high in terms of monthly voice minutes used. It ranks very low for text messaging. The reason could be because the state has one of the highest median ages and older Americans text the least. Mississippi, interestingly enough, ranks high for both talking and texting.

### CAN YOU SPOT THE ENERGY-SAVING BULB?



WHAT'S  
YOUR  
EXCUSE?



LoseYourExcuse.gov



*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](http://bp.com)

For help or information: (866) 448-5816

[restorethegulf.gov](http://restorethegulf.gov)

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