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Data News Weekly

45th Anniversary Celebration & Gala

HONORING THE 2010 TRAILBLAZERS



Lincoln & Karen Arceneaux



Carol Bebel



Penelope Randolph-Biagas



Lynn Hobbs-Green



David Johnson



Dr. Dwight McKenna



John O'Neal



George Rainey



Nathanael Scales



Dr. Elliott Willard



Vera Warren Williams



Jade Young

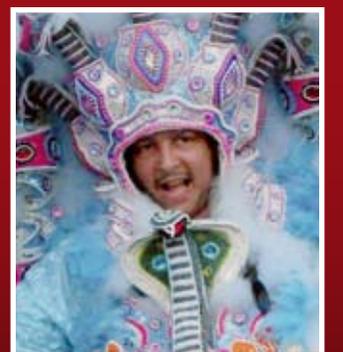
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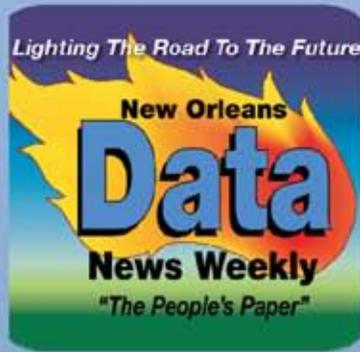
Trailblazer Nakina Eugene

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State & Local Remembering Big Chief Black Feather



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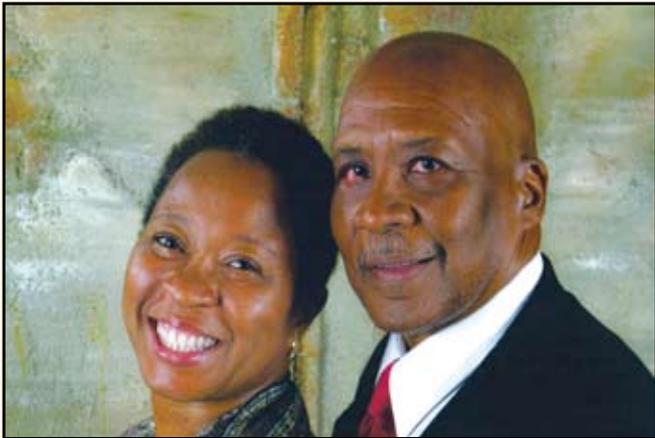
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Data News Weekly Presents 2010 - 2011 Trailblazers of the Month

By Data News Staff Writers

Each month, Data News Weekly celebrates the local community members who do work day in and day out to make New Orleans a better city to live in. From working with the elderly, to providing direction to our youth, from turning creativity into art and feeding the hungry, our selected citizens, whom we call Trailblazers, give of themselves to others. For their many contributions to people of New Orleans, we salute them, and in doing so, we present again our Trailblazers of the Month from May, 2010 through April, 2011.



Lincoln & Karen Arceneaux Caring for our most prized citizens....Seniors

Karen and Lincoln Arceneaux through their Covenant Connection Organization has given aid in comfort to many. This husband and wife are both ordained ministers who have taken God's words and put them into action.

"I feel it is important to do God's work. It is more than just praying; it is about getting in the community where people are," says Karen Arceneaux. She says the goal is to give back to those in need as an extension of their love of God. "We deal with young people as well but we feel elders sometimes do not get the care they need and we want to help improve their quality of life." Their

three year old organization has helped many in need including displaced children. Each May Covenant Connection Outreach Ministry joins communities nationwide in celebrating Older Americans Month with their Annual Senior Appreciation Tea. In addition to its Older American Month's activities Covenant Connection advocates for services to improve the well-being and quality of life for seniors, orphans, displaced and disadvantaged children and families-in-crisis. For their sincere love and commitment to the Senior Community, Lincoln and Karen Arceneaux are the Trailblazers of the Month for May, 2010.



Lynn Hobbs-Green Woman of Vision

As is the CEO and Founder of THE EYES HAVE IT!, INC, she is a woman who is a visionary and has dedicated her time, energy and resources to assist young people to literally see that there is a better tomorrow through the gift of sight that is creating a bridge to understanding and thriving in education and life. Lynn Hobbs-Green has been called a "vessel of change" by the Louisiana Public Health Institute recently because of her work to give better access of full eye health care to the lives of thousands of school age children Pre-K through 12th grades in New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Baker Louisiana.

Because of her work with young people she has been the recipient of numerous awards, and is our Trailblazer of the Month for July, 2010.

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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
Melanie Mainor
Copy Editor Intern
June Hazeur
Accounting

Contributors
Denise Rolark Barnes
Edwin Buggage
Eric Connerly
Data News Weekly Staff
NNPA Newswire
Art Direction & Production
MainorMedia.com
Editorial Submissions
datanewseditor@bellsouth.net
Advertising Inquiries
datanewsad@bellsouth.net

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David Johnson A Heart of Purple and Gold

David Johnson is a man who has been in the spirit of giving his entire life, "My parents, grandparents and so many people I came in contact with as a young person gave me a strong foundation," says Johnson. He is in his second year as the head football coach of St. Augustine High School. "I feel good to be in a place

where I can impact the lives of young people every day," says Johnson. "I use sports to build self-esteem and discipline; I think these are important traits to leading a successful life." A man with a heart of gold, he has given unselfishly of his time. "I think it is all of our responsibility to do whatever we can for our young

people," says Johnson. "This is my mission and my calling in life." He feels he has been blessed to live a life pursuing his passion of using sports to help young people. For his continued work David Johnson is being awarded the Data News Weekly Trailblazer for June, 2010



Carol Bebelle Phenomenal Woman

She has dedicated her life to serving others and is the living embodiment of Maya Angelou's poem 'Phenomenal Woman'. Carol Bebelle has spent her entire life dedicated to the spirit of giving. Bebelle has been able to turn her passion for giving into a space that uses the cultural arts as a way to connect people in the community in the true spirit of the old adage "each one teach one." The Ashe Cultural Arts Center was co-founded by Bebelle and the late artist/activist Doug Redd. It is a space that lies in New Orleans Central City and is a beacon of light where there is much darkness. Bebelle is an artist in her own right; a writer/poet who has been published in several anthologies and her own volume of work entitled "In a Manner of Speaking".

The Ashe Cultural Center is dedicated to using culture as a means to uplift the community and Data is proud to name her Trailblazer of the Month for October, 2010.



Nathanael Scales A Cut Above the Rest

He is a young man who 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 is passionate about the plight of young boys. Not only talking the talk, but walking the walk, he teaches the importance of education and stresses building good character, he mentors young business and exposes disadvantaged youth to new surroundings and broadening their horizons.

For his contribution to the city Data News Weekly recognizes Nathanael Scales as its monthly Trailblazer for the month of August 2010.



Vera Warren-Williams Entrepreneur & Activist

In the culturally rich City of New Orleans, we have many famous landmarks and personalities. From the food to the history, to the folklore, our City is full of history and mystery. One place to get much of this information is the Community Book Center. A neighborhood institution since 1983, the Community Book Center is known for its niche market of African centered books, art and gifts. And, the person who is the catalyst for this institution is Mrs. Vera Warren-Williams, the Owner and Founder of the book center "We are Community Book Center because we are more than a book store. We also serve as a meeting place for organizations and events related to our community."

From its humble beginnings inside her 9th ward home with a mobile book cart before the CBC moved to its current location at 2523 Bayou Rd., after 27 years of business the Community Book Center has sold books to generations of New Orleans residents.

With that being so, we are indeed blessed to have a community leader like Vera Warren-Williams in our corner and as Trailblazer of the Month for December, 2010.



Jade Young A Young Woman on a Mission

When Jade Young, Miss Xavier 2010-11, stood in blinding spotlights before dozens of cameras and an audience of millions, she said she experienced an "out-of-body" moment. Young stood behind a podium that bore the distinctive seal of the President of the United States and, voice steady, introduced President Barack Obama to the exuberant audience. Obama, flanked by his wife Michelle, acknowledged Young's thoughtful introduction and flashed her one of his wide smiles. From the pinnacle of introducing the first

African American President as he visited Xavier on Aug 29, 2010, to a nightmare that very nearly took her life three years earlier, Young has emerged as a campus leader, an advocate against violence, and a very different Miss Xavier. Young's life changed one evening in fall 2007, when the Xavier freshman unknowingly walked into a gun battle. An innocent bystander, she was caught in the crossfire and was shot four times and was forced to sit out the remainder of her first semester

at Xavier "I returned the following semester I had goals and a mission to tend to," Young said. Since then, the P1 pharmacy student from New Orleans has consistently been named to the honorary dean's list and has served as an active member in almost a dozen student organizations.

Data News Weekly is proud to honor this young woman on a mission with the Trailblazer of the Month for November, 2010.

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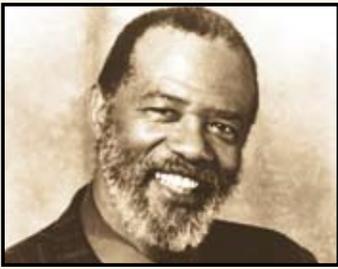
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Congratulations Data News Weekly
on your 45th Anniversary!

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Cover Story, Continued from page 4.



John O'Neal

Art and Soul Revolutionary Reflections

John O'Neal has used theatre as a tool to empower and uplift people for almost half a century. He arrived in New Orleans from his native Illinois in 1963 as a member of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). "I am one who has lived and dedicated my life in the fight for justice and equality," says O'Neal. Art at its best can inspire and uplift a community; also it serves a mirror that reflects

its plight and aspirations. O'Neal was one of the co-founders of the Free Southern Theater in 1963 which served as the cultural arm of the Civil Rights Movement and was part of what was to become the Black Arts Movement. After Free Southern Theater ended, O'Neal created another vehicle to help place a mirror on society's ills forming Junebug Productions in 1980. Since its

inception he has bought quality entertainment to the stage that challenges its audience with thought provoking work. "Yesterday we marched and protested for access, but today the battleground is our own community where we must restore hope in our young black men and through the theater we have done much in the area of outreach to young men," says O'Neal of what he feels is the

struggle of the 21st century.

John O'Neal is a man who has used his gifts to serve his community and while there are many words that aptly describe him, we at Data News Weekly have chosen one that we feel embody the spirit of this legendary figure 'Trailblazer of the Month' for January, 2011.



Dr. Dwight McKenna

The Prescription for Love and Uplifting the Community

Dr Dwight McKenna is in the business of healing people. As a medical doctor he sees patients and helps them heal their bodies, but as an advocate of education and community empowerment he is on a mission to heal their souls. While running a successful medical practice may have been enough for some, McKenna wanted to serve in a greater capacity, and as a person who sees

a correlation between the attainment of education and success in life. This is his passion and purpose. McKenna served on the Orleans Parish School Board for six years, spending one as its President. McKenna is a patron of the arts and has dedicated a space for African-American Artist, The George and Leah McKenna Museum of African-American Art named for his parents. "I wanted

to provide a venue for those who didn't have many places to show their work, I am passionate about promoting young people and to continue the traditions of excellence in the arts that so many in our community possess," says McKenna.

For his service to this community we honor him as our Trailblazer of the Month for February 2011.



Penelope Randolph-Biagas

A Giving Tradition

She is someone who comes from a long line of women and a family that have lived their lives to serve others. Penelope Randolph-Biagas has dedicated herself to the betterment of her community. As a social service professional she has witnessed many things change in the African-American community. She says of some of the problems surrounding the young women of today, "I find that in some families and communities there is not a lot of support that use to exist at one time, the breakdown of community is a product of the breakdown of family and this is something we have to work on to improve our community." Civic involvement is an important part of her giving back as she sits on several boards. One that holds a special place and is dear to her heart is the Jazz and Heritage Foundation. "We do so many things in the areas of the cultural arts and that is a very important part of our city, preserving its heritage and culture," says Randolph-Biagas.

She is a woman tied to a rich history continuing to dedicate her life to building for the future. That is why we honor Penelope Randolph-Biagas as New Orleans Data News Weekly Trailblazer for the Month of March 2011.



George Rainey

Food For Thought

He is a man who has spent his eight decades of life giving back to others. George Rainey is the true definition of a Trailblazer. "When I think of Trailblazer I think it is someone who contributes to the betterment of others in a selfless way," says Rainey. Continuing he says, "In my life I have never consciously thought that what I was doing is going to help someone, it was more of a natural thing for me to give to someone in need." The words of Rainey are filled with wisdom as he is a wellspring of informa-

tion and inspiration. He says he receives joy giving his time to many organizations helping countless people. Known for his savory soul food, Rainey's words are flavorful food for the soul cutting to the bone of truth with uplifting words as he continues to be a positive voice in the community. He remains dedicated to the mission of helping people have a voice. As part of the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club, Rainey has worked on many projects aimed at helping the youth of New Orleans and inspir-

ing future generations. Being the owner of Rainey's Restaurant, a staple in the community for four decades, he feels it is important that young people understand that economics is the new frontier in the struggle for civil rights and human dignity.

Rainey is a man who has fed people in many ways giving them food that nurtures their body, mind and soul, and today Data News Weekly is proud to honor him as a Trailblazer Award Recipient for April 2011.

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Lionel "Big Chief Black Feather" Delpit

A Celebration of Life

By Eric Connelly

New Orleans is a city with an amazing heritage and culture. One of the many great traditions is the Mardi Gras Indians. A centuries old practice where African-Americans don feathers and beads in intricate patterns making suits that merge the cultures of the Native American and the African homeland.

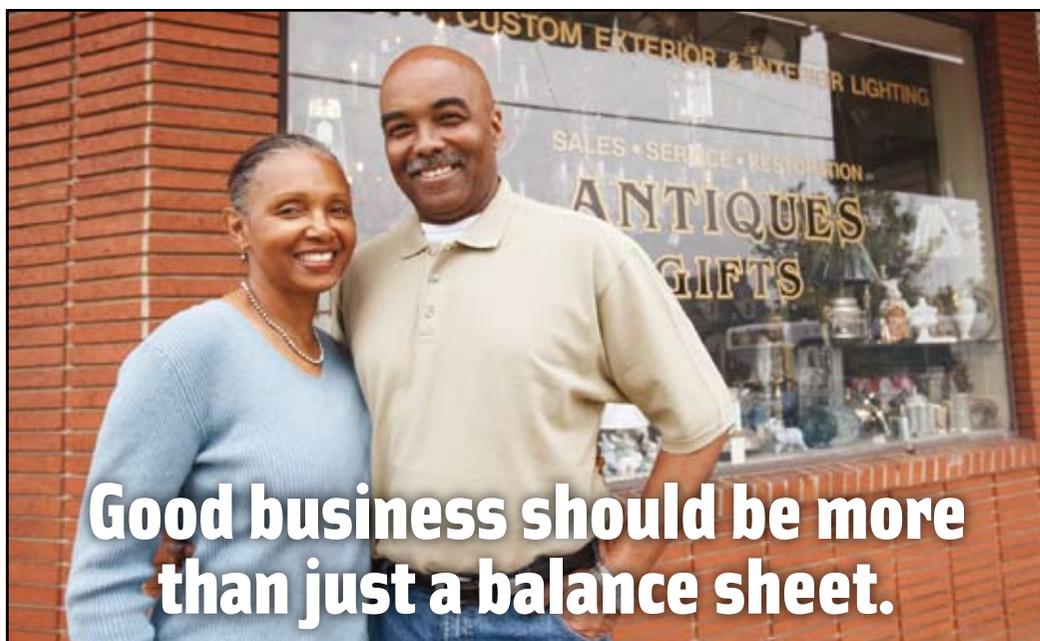
Recently, the city lost one of its great Big Chiefs in Lionel Delpit, who passed away at the age of 54. A pioneer and trailblazer bridging the old and new Indian traditions;

he lived a life filled with a joy and passion for living steeped in the rich heritage of the Crescent City. At the young age of 12 he began a life long practice of "Masking Indian" with the Yellow Pocahontas. During this time he also strutted his talents as a secondliner parading with the Bucket Men.

As a young boy he was given the name "The Magic Man" by his dear friend longtime civil rights activist and humanitarian Jerome Smith. He was given the name because he danced a dance and sang a song unlike any other.

Lionel had a unique spirit and made an imprint on the Mardi Gras Indian tradition with his unique and creative Indian suits.

Also known as "Chief" Delpit cared about preserving and following the many greats that preceded him. Absorbing all that was before him, but innovating a style that was all his own; he later became famous for his three dimensional suits inspired by his "Big Chief" the legendary Allison "Tootie" Montana. In 1992 with the blessing of Montana he started the Black Feather Indian



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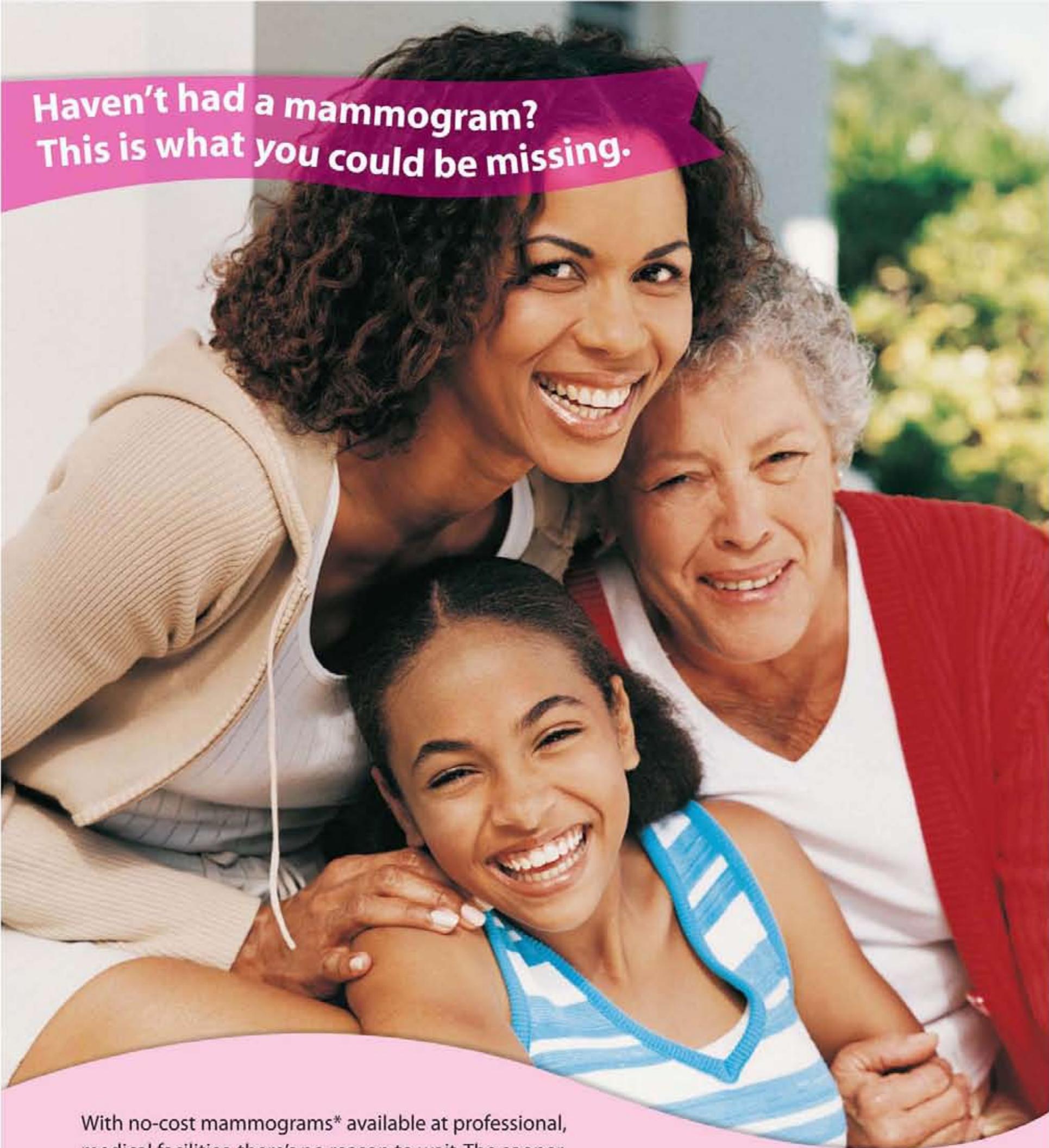
Lionel "Big Chief Black Feather" Delpit

Tribes creating Indian Suits that were considered masterpieces. People would come from near and far to see Chief on Mardi Gras Day, St. Joseph Night and Super Sunday to see what he created.

Not only was he a great talent, Delpit committed to giving back to the underprivileged. He donated much of his time to the youth of the city teaching them the traditions of the Mardi Gras Indians as well as being a wellspring of information inspiring young people. He was a great performer who graced stages all over the globe in addition to making appearances on television and music

recordings. Most recently appearing on the HBO Series "Treme" and being featured on Rebirth's Jazz Band most recent release.

Lionel "Big Chief Black Feather" Delpit will forever be remembered as one of the greatest Chiefs to have ever lived. His was known for his great personality and all the smiles he bought to those whose lives he touched something that will never be forgotten. His voice is ringing from heaven as his soulful singing and spirited dancing has left a lasting imprint in the hearts and minds of people across the globe who knew this amazing talent and he will be deeply missed.



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Nakina Eugene

Inspiration for the Next Generation

by: Edwin Buggage

She is a young lady who personifies beauty, intelligence, class and compassion. Nakina Eugene epitomizes the 21st Century woman. Early in life she was determined to be a success first graduating from Xavier University Preparatory School as the Salutatorian in 2001. Then Nakina was honored as the first recipient of the Arnold and Hazel Donald Scholarship Award. As a Donald Scholar, Miss Eugene received a full scholarship to Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. She was the only African-American to major in Chemistry in her classification. While at Carleton, she was a standout student. She was honored with the opportunity to study abroad in Morelia, Mexico for 3 months, where she focused on the Spanish Language and Mexican literature and art. "I feel my time away fueled my growth as a person and I think it is important that people travel and think outside the box," says Nakina of her life changing experiences.

After graduating Carleton College, Miss Eugene enrolled in Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, where she focused on Community Health Sciences. While at Tulane, she was involved in the Society for Young Black Public Health Professionals and volunteered with Luke's House, a local community health clinic. Graduating "magna cum laude", she received her Master's Degree in Public Health. "Helping people is my passion and is an extension of my Christian faith to help those that are in need," says Ms. Eugene.

Miss Eugene has done extensive work with the Louisiana Office of Mental Health and she also coordinated the Family Involvement Enhancement Project (FIEP) at the Louisiana Children's Museum. The FIEP focuses on empowering special needs families through trainings, which enhances their leadership, support, and communication skills. Parents received personal development training while the children were involved in art therapy. In December 2009, FIEP received national recognition when the FIEP team presented the project at the National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health Conference in Washington D.C. In addition, she helped plan the 1st Annual Walk for Children's Mental Health Awareness in June 2010. "When we talk about improving the quality of life for our citizens and building for the future it has to be all inclusive, we need all hands on deck so I feel if we are going to work to better the lives of children the parents are a key ingredient to making that a reality."

Miss Eugene plans to continue her work with special needs families through Parents United for



Children's Mental Health, a non-profit that she is establishing with several parent leaders. She, with the help of parents, designers, Xavier Prep, and Chic Nouvelle Model Management, planned a fundraiser in October 2010 called Fashion for Compassion, a benefit for special needs families. "I have always had a love for fashion and used it as a way to bring people together for a larger cause and I am hoping to grow my non-profit where it can impact more lives," says Nakina.

In her spare time, Miss Eugene serves as a mentor for the Louisiana Youth Challenge Program which assists at-risk youth. She also enjoys acting and modeling. She recently completed work modeling for Chic Nouvelle Model Management, Paperdoll Promotions, Lakeside Shopping

Center, Fashion Week at Bourbon Park 2010, and Harrah's. Additionally, she was honorably mentioned in the Tyra.com Cycle 15 Model Search. Her latest acting projects include work on HBO's Treme and the Summer 2011 action film, The Green Lantern. She also writes a regular column for Chic Nouvelle Magazine, a local arts and fashion periodical. Miss Eugene hopes to achieve much more in the entertainment industry. On her being Miss Black Louisiana and the meaning of beauty she says, "I feel true beauty is more an inner than outer thing, it is how you treat people, it is what you give to your community and how you uplift others and that is what I am trying to present as Miss Black Louisiana."

Her message to others is that faith in God, hard work, and perseverance will help achieve any imaginable goal. As Miss Black Louisiana USA, Miss Eugene is addressing issues such as community responsibility and education disparities, while promoting positive role models for young Black women. She is possessed with poise and an undeniable transcendent beauty inspiring young women, and for her selfless spirit of giving we bestow the honor of Trailblazer for August 2010 to Nakina Eugene.

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African American Leadership Project to Hold Katrina Commemoration at Foot of Danziger Bridge

Group will announce official effort to rename bridge in honor of shooting victims

New Orleans – The African American Leadership Project (AALP) announces plans to host a Katrina Anniversary Commemoration at the foot of the Danziger Bridge on Monday, August 29th at 6:30 p.m., six years to the day after Hurricane Katrina. At the Commemoration, organizers will also announce the official kickoff effort to rename the Danziger Bridge in honor of Ronald Madison and James Brissette, the two people who were shot and killed by police officers on the bridge on September 5th, 2005. Madison, Brissette and four other civilians were shot by police officers that day as they tried to cross the bridge to safety. The Commemoration will take place at the base of the bridge on the downtown side of the structure. Members of the families are expected to speak. The Mayor's office and other officials and

dignitaries have been invited. In 2006 the AALP organization began commemorating the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina with "Hands Around the Dome," a march around the Louisiana Superdome, that iconic structure and temporary home to thousands immediately after Hurricane Katrina. The event was a way to commemorate the human suffering after Katrina and celebrate the hopes of returning New Orleanians. It attracted more than 400 people that year and received national media attention. The group has continued to hold the march each year since. As the sixth anniversary of Katrina approaches, the organization is revising the "Hands Around the Dome," theme to "Hands Around Our Own." AALP Chairperson, Gail Glapion, says the change in wording reflects the desire to embrace the families who have suffered over the

past six years as they fought for justice for their loved ones. "Katrina changed our city forever. While we will never forget the suffering, family disruption and broken promises in the aftermath of the great flood, we believe it is past time to demand that these changes be molded into a fairer, more equitable city. Hands Around Our Own, is a way to lift up those who are forcing our city to become better." "The Madison/Brissette Bridge would be a constant reminder to us all of how important it is to pursue justice until justice is done" says AALP Project Manager Ernest Jones. "In the blink of an eye, lives were changed forever. These families suffered and continue to try and rebuild their lives," Jones added. Glapion says that the commemoration at the bridge rightly honors those who died and were injured there, but that it is also intended to

remember people like Henry Glover, "and all those whose civil rights and dignity were violated and denied after the storm." Not unaware of the difficulties in trying to rename a public facility, Jones said his first job was to contact the families of the victims to get their reaction and support. "We must have the support of the families that were on the bridge that day," said Jones. Jones says he has spoken with both the Madison and Brissette families, and that both are in full support of the effort. Glapion said AALP also plans to reach out to relatives of the late Alfred Danziger, a Louisiana politician in the 1930s after whom the bridge is named. "From all I've learned, Mr. Danziger was a good and decent man; a lover of the arts; and a supporter of civil rights. It is our responsibility to show his family due consideration and respect as we set about

Danziger, Continued on page 15.

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MLK Memorial Opens on the National Mall

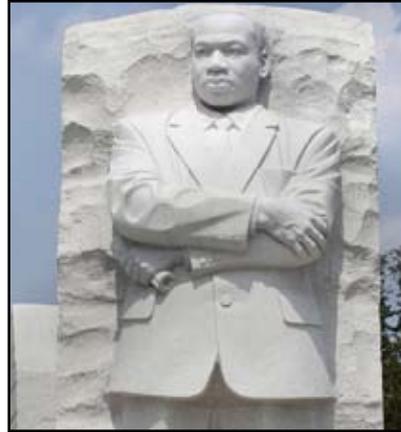
By Denise Rolark Barnes
Washington Informer
Special to NNPA

The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial officially opened this week on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The 28-foot tall granite statue, which stands between the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials, and the nearby F.D. Roosevelt memorial, is the first monument on the National Mall erected in honor of an African American and a non-president.

Hundreds of Washington area residents began visiting the memorial on Monday with a preview of the site before the official dedication that will be held on Sun., Aug. 28. The keynote address will be delivered by President Barack Obama who will join civil rights icons at the dedication where more than 250,000 visitors from around the world are expected to attend.

The week-long celebration includes the Dream Gala celebration, a tribute to the civil rights pioneers including the women who were involved in the civil rights movement, along with a concert of civil rights era music and a youth symposium. A host committee of District of Columbia residents, led by D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray, has also planned more than 20 free events across the city for the thousands of visitors to the Nation's Capitol.

The memorial is located on a four-acre site on West Potomac Park along the Tidal Basin where thousands of visitors come each spring to witness the splendor of the Cherry Blossoms. Situated among the trees is the plaza where a 28-foot boulder stands called the Mountain of Despair through which every visitor will enter. In front is a solitary 30-foot stone called the Stone of Hope,



from which Dr. King's image emerges, gazing over the Tidal Basin towards the Jefferson Memorial.

A 450-foot inscription wall surrounding the stone features 14 quotes from Dr. King engraved into granite that convey four fundamental and recurring themes reflected throughout his life – democracy, justice, hope, and love. Natural elements including wa-

ter, stone, and trees enhance the beauty of the site.

The address of the memorial is 1964 Independence Avenue, N.W., which is symbolic of the year when Dr. King stood over President Lyndon B. Johnson's shoulder as he signed the Civil Rights Bill, Johnson said.

Martin Luther King, III, the son of the slain civil rights leader, said he is pleased with the memorial's design. "I like the design, particularly the imagery associated with my father's challenge to 'hew a stone of hope out of the mountain of despair,'" King said. "I think the other quotations in the memorial are excellent and very relevant to our times. Love, peace and justice are cornerstones of my father's teachings and they never go out of style."

Numerous notables are scheduled to participate in the memorial events including politicians,

entertainers and faith leaders. Reverend Al Sharpton, president of the National Action Network (NAN), announced he is leading a major jobs march on Sat., Aug. 27 in Washington, D.C. to "reaffirm our collective journey from the emancipator (Abraham Lincoln) to the liberator (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)," according to the NAN website. The mile-long march will be scheduled to convene at noon at 17th and Constitution Avenue near the Lincoln Memorial and end at the King Memorial.

Despite this week's opening, the Foundation continues to reach for its goal to raise \$120 million to cover the costs of the memorial. With \$6 million yet to be raised, the Foundation is hopeful that contributions will continue to come in.

For more information about the MLK Memorial visit: www.mlkmemorial.org.

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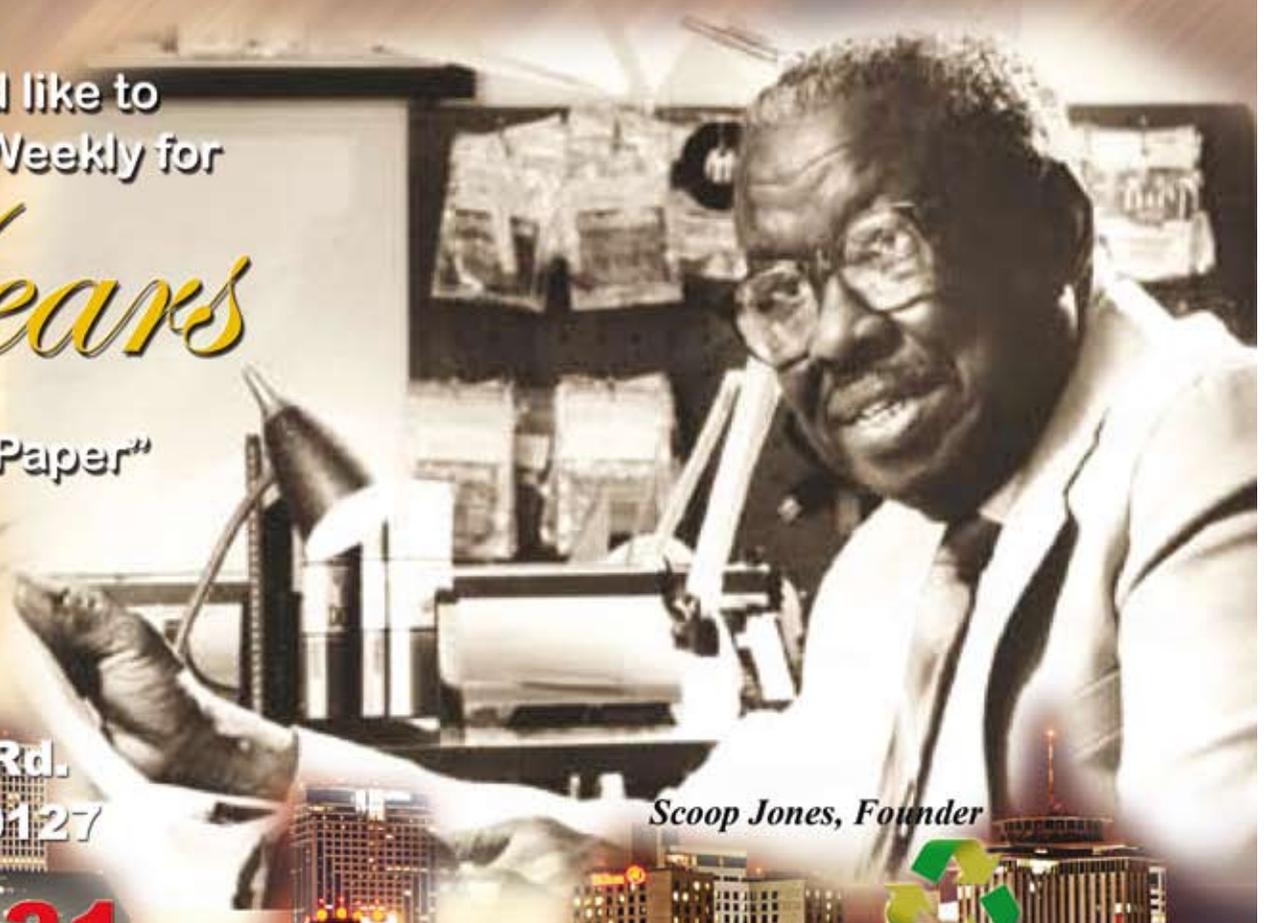
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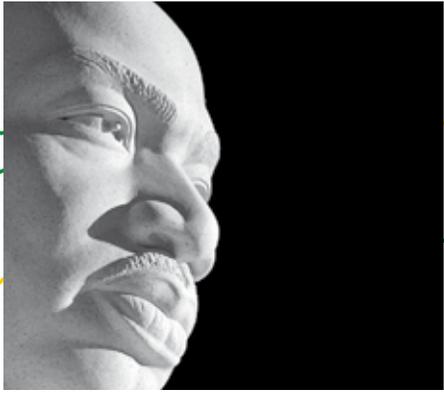
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August 28: honoring a legacy that inspires us all.

48 years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream. Now you can honor his legacy at the dedication of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial—a historic opportunity to reflect on his ideals of justice, democracy, and hope. BP is supporting both the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Foundation and the King Papers Project, to help make sure his work continues to inspire. Find out more at mlkmemorial.org



Katrina 6th Anniversary...Data News Celebrates 45 Years ...And Fulfilling the Dream of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

By Edwin Buggage

This year is a special year for our city and our nation. In that we are at the dawn of six years since our city drowned and with it its future deemed as uncertain. But today because of the resilience of the people of this great city the sun is rising again. Today more people are returning to the place they call home with a renewed sense that they can make New Orleans a better city. Today New Orleans is on the eve of a renaissance, and while the city faces undeniable challenges it is incumbent upon those who believe to strive to keep the city alive; to put their best foot forward in this

march towards making New Orleans a progressive twenty-first century city where all can dine at the table of prosperity.

This year we will also see a nation unite around a monument dedicated to a man who dared to dream. A man who nearly five decades ago made a plea to quell the fires of civil unrest and hate that threatened to tear a nation apart. Armed with the weapon of love Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a leader of a movement that not only changed the U.S. but the world. It is this same year 2011 that the present commander-in-chief is the living embodiment of his dream where we live in a

world that is evolving into a place where people regardless of color, creed or race could aspire to reach higher.

This year we also celebrate the 45th year of the New Orleans Data News Weekly and its continued mission of being "the people's paper". And that we continue to be on the frontlines putting the stories on the front pages that are often relegated to the margins in the mainstream press or not reported at all. The goal of the New Orleans Data News Weekly has always been and continues to be that we are the vehicle that gives a voice to the voiceless. Also we are the torch that lights the commu-

nity giving it the tools to empower itself moving forward and also a place where we can celebrate ourselves and our unsung heroes.

As New Orleanians we are people that have inspired the world when it comes to courage and facing overwhelming odds and although we were on the canvas we have gotten up and continue to fight to get back to a sense of normalcy. We are a people who believe that dreams can become reality. And that we will get our city back. During this momentous time with so much to celebrate we believe that MLK's Dream can be fulfilled.

In recent times that Lady Liberty light is shining brighter today, that in less than fifty years that life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness means much more as people of color are becoming more ingrained in the fabric that is the American Experience. That today African-Americans in record numbers have joined the middle-class owning and running companies. Today there is an African-American President. And in January of 2009 I had the honor of being out there as the world watched and celebrated the inauguration of President Barack Obama and it is something that restored hope in America and its promise of equal opportunity for all that MLK and so many of the unknown foot soldiers fought for. And while it is King's image and words that are emblazoned throughout the monument it is the blood, sweat and sacrifice of so many ordinary Americans who stepped to the plate to do something extraordinary.

Today we see the glass ceilings of low expectations being challenged every day. With the racial landscape changing a great deal since MLK spoke in front of a crowd of 250,000 people on August 28, 1963. Now a monument, a permanent symbol of his struggle and that of a people to live a life with human dignity has been erected, a testament that we are on the horizon of a new day in America. A day where skin color is not a permanent barrier barring one from having access to the American Dream. Although

admittedly we are still an imperfect nation where the vestiges of hate and intolerance still rears its ugly head, but we as a nation are moving in the right direction.

In our City of New Orleans we are hearing our heartbeat again as the drums of the secondline and the horns blowing in the air like Gabriel, but as opposed to symbolizing the end it is a new beginning. A new beginning for a city that has the opportunity to re-emerge as a city that's best days is ahead. Of a city with a renewed sense of purpose that no one is going to turn it around to the days of a past reeking of corruption, nepotism and graft. That the new city will be a place where all people can have a chance to achieve greatness and success.

For the city and for the world it is a time for visionaries with new ideas, for people who are not afraid to go against the grain and fight for what's right and just. Data News Weekly has always been that, but after Hurricane Katrina it found itself with a bigger purpose than ever before, and that was to give the people of a city that was scattered all over the country news they could use and that they could trust. And in those tumultuous times Data News Weekly was there. And it will continue to be there giving voice to those whose voice sometimes goes unheard.

Today we ask as this is our clarion call as we are a city moving forward recovering one person, one family, and one neighborhood at a time. Today as we observe Katrina's Anniversary let us hold our heads up high as a city that symbolizes the dream of Dr. King. Today let us pledge to judge people not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. Let us pledge to work together to make things better for our city, for the nation and the world. So as we celebrate the dedication of the MLK Memorial, the Sixth Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina and Data News Weekly 45th Anniversary, let's remember to work towards being our best selves and to a day where we can all be free at last.

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First Annual City Reunion Music Festival Comes to New Orleans

By Edwin Buggage

New Orleans is a city with a heritage that centers on festivals. It is truly a city that celebrates life. Across the city there is a festival for almost anything under the sun, well add one more, "The City Reunion Festival." Founded by Jerome Cosey and Anthony Bradford is a more than just a music festival, it is about bringing people together. "We created



Rebirth Brass Band

this event because we felt it was important to bring a cross section of people together and help create a dialogue for people to build relationships and realize that we all have one common interest; that is to rebuild the city of New Orleans," says the event co-founder Jerome Cosey.

The event will take place on September 4th at the Sugar Mill located in the Warehouse District. With the theme being the Heartbeat of Bourbon Street, it is an indoor/outdoor event. There will be awards honoring those who are making positive contributions to the community and there will also be live performances by local and national artist including R&B heartthrob Miguel, soulful performances by Avant, Carl Thomas, Chante Moore and Oliva. But what would a New Orleans party be without the music of New Orleans? Some of the featured acts that will

be blazing the stage are New Orleans musical ambassador Kermit Ruffins and the Barbeque Swingers and the brass bands sounds of Rebirth and the Hot 8 and New Orleans newest music sensation Jive Recording Artist Kourtney Heart. The show will be hosted by the sexy and talented actress Megan Good and New Orleans own "Hollywood."

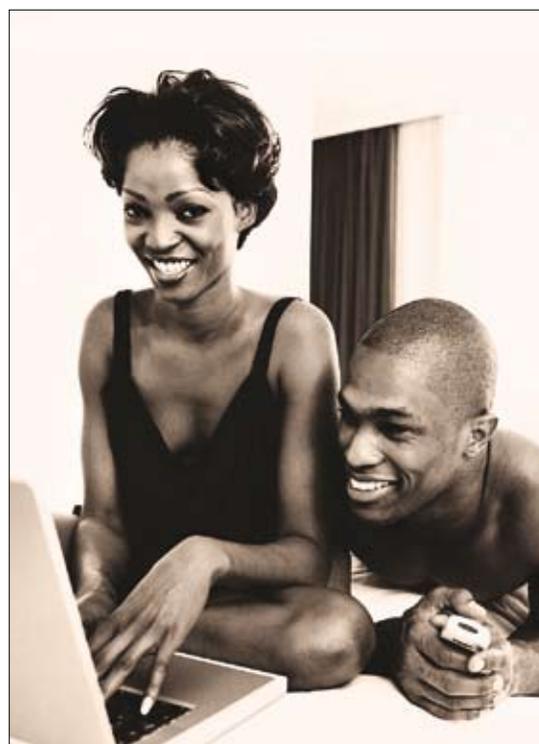
Cosey says of the talent and of the event, "I thought bringing a roster like this together for the inaugural event was a good mix of artists, but we hope to continue to grow the festival and it can become a staple just like Jazz Fest, French Quarter Fest or many of the other festivals because while yes we want people to have a good time, it is also about bringing diverse groups of people together in an effort to renew and rebuild hope for our city."



Kermit Ruffins

Danziger, Continued from page 11.

this course," Glapion said. Glapion said she's not sure how the family will respond, but through no fault of their own, the events on the Danziger Bridge on September 5, 2005 "will always live in infamy, and will always be associated with the bridge that bares their family name." Glapion is hoping the Danziger family will support the effort. The African American Leadership Project, founded in 2002, is a nonpartisan network of community activists and organizations, religious and business leaders, academics and concerned citizens that focus on dialogue and agenda building, policy advocacy, community planning and neighborhood development. To that end, AALP will also host a forum on the "State of Black New Orleans" on September 3rd. "We always host two Katrina Commemoration events in partnership. At the bridge, we commemorate the lives lost that day; at the forum, we work toward solutions so that it never happens again," Glapion said. Community organizations and individuals working for positive change are invited to the Forum and to join AALP's Economic Justice Initiative. AALP will lay out a series of goals and objectives the organization has developed for Mayor Landrieu as he moves ahead. "We are asking everyone who is ready to take action to join us", Glapion said. The Katrina Commemoration at the Danziger Bridge is scheduled for Monday, August 29., 2011, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The event will take place on the downtown (Louisa Street) side of the bridge. An open forum will follow later in the week on September 3, 2011. The location and time will be announced. For more information contact Ernest Jones, Project Manager for the African American Leadership Project at (504) 251-1005.



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At Toyota, we celebrate differences and the people who make them. On August 28, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial opens in Washington, D.C. May all who visit be inspired to carry on the legacy of Dr. King. The dream continues. Toyota is a proud supporter of the Washington, D.C. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, Inc.

MLKmemorial.org

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