

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"



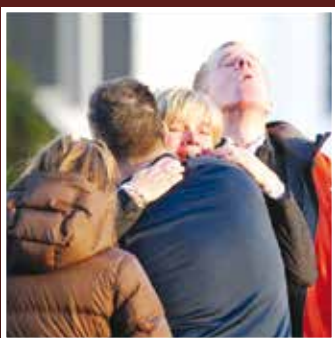
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December 22 - January 4, 2013 47th Year Volume 33 www.ladatanews.com

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2012

The Year in Review

Each year, Data News Weekly takes time to recap the top events from the year. 2012, It's almost impossible to grasp that this year has come and is almost gone. 2012, one of the most eagerly awaited years in recent history turned out to be a roller-coaster ride of tremendous highs for some, and tremendous lows for many others. All in all, it will be one for the history books for certain.

2012, a year that many wrongly predicted would bring the end of the First Black President of the U.S. President Barack Obama. His Republican challenger Willard Mitt Romney, was touted as the "man who knew how to fix the economy", but turned out to be a man with "foot-in-mouth" disease. No matter how much momentum he gained, he found a way to gaffe himself right out of it by saying one foolish thing after the next, on camera. He lost by a large margin, and we celebrated Obama's re-election and look forward to his continued successes as our leader. 2012, The year that people the world over for decades have said would bring the end of the world on December 21st with the ending of the Mayan Calendar, and the prophecies of Nostradamus; if you are reading this paper, we are pleased to announced that it didn't happen.

2012, a year in which we as a nation endured two major hurricanes, one in our own beloved Louisiana, Hurricane Isaac which devastated LaPlace and knocked out power to much of New Orleans for over a week, and Hurricane Sandy on the East Coast which devastated New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut leaving hundreds of thousands of people homeless, and parts of New York City in the dark for a month. If that were not enough, 2012, this blistering and merciless year had one more punch left and dealt it first on a shopping mall in Portland, Oregon, and then a few days later on Newtown, Connecticut,

where the unimaginable and unspeakable happened on Friday, with the mass killing of 20 innocent children and 6 adult faculty members at Sandy Hook Elementary School. The nation wept for these babies, we at Data News Weekly wept along with you.

2012 has been a year to remember for certain, none of us, will ever live down the events from this year. For many families, the promise of a recovering economy still seems just out of reach, and the struggle is still the word of the day. Many of us are still losing our homes and are still seeking employment. A number, too large to count, of New Orleanians still looking for a way to get back home, and far too many of our mothers and fathers buried their children in this City this year. There is much progress ahead, miles to journey through to get to the other side, but we managed to keep moving along. Despite the worry, we found the time and heart to hold uplifting community events, to parade, to celebrate births, grand openings, we held elections, and victory parties. We cheered on our Saints even though it wasn't the best year ever; we just went ahead and loved them through it. And, although we all paused in homage for the 7th Anniversary of Katrina giving tribute to the memories of what we lost and what we endured in August 2005, somehow, we have room in our hearts and minds for those who endured Sandy and Sandy Hook too.

This year, as we turn our heads to a new year coming, we at Data News Weekly, want to thank you for your support. For picking up our paper when you could have just walked by, we say "Thank-You". For visiting our new website, for blogging on our Facebook, for reading our newsletters and supporting our events we say "Thank-You". Happy Holidays to you and to the City of New Orleans.

— Data News Weekly Staff Writers.

MARCH 17, 2012

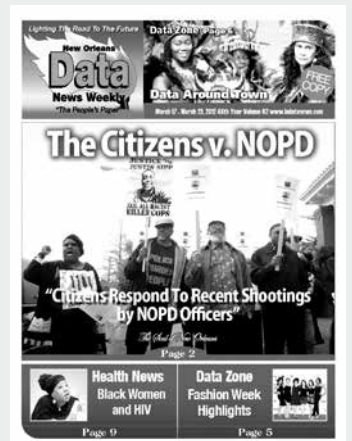
The Citizens v. NOPD

"Citizens Respond To Recent Shootings by NOPD Officers"

Two Fatal Shootings in Six Days

Tensions are ablaze in the African-American community over recent events surrounding the fatal shootings of two young men by officers of the New Orleans Police Department. Both of the victims were twenty years old. The first fatal incident occurred when Justin Sipp and his brother Earl Sipp who was the driver of the vehicle were stopped on a routine traffic stop in the early morning hours while Justin Sipp was catching a ride to work with his brother. In the time between the stop and the shooting many questions are still unanswered in an incident that left Justin Sipp dead and his brother suffered wounds as well. In what Police Chief Ronal Serpas promises a transparent investigation.

In the second fatal shooting to occur in a six day period Wendell Allen was gunned down with a single bullet to the chest while standing atop the stairs of the home he lived in with his family unarmed while several of his young siblings were in the house. This occurred in what was two days of surveillance into a drug op-



eration that was allegedly taking place at the residence. The 13 man raid amounted to confiscating 4 ½ ounces of marijuana (street value of approximately 540 dollars), and the arrests of Davin Allen and Brandon Boles booked with possession of marijuana with intent to distribute. The shootings have led some in the community to cry foul and demand justice and a change in how police deal with African-Americans.

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APRIL 7, 2012

Danziger Police Officers Get Lengthy Sentences

Five former NOPD officers were given lengthy sentences for their roles in fatally shooting people and then covering up the incident that occurred on the Danziger Bridge in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Former Officer Robert Faulcon was sentenced to 65 years in prison, while former Sergeant Kenneth Bowen and Sergeant Robert Gisevius each received 40 years and former Officer Anthony Villavaso received 38 years in prison.

Former Sergeant Arthur Kaufman, convicted only of having been involved in the cover-up, received 6 years in prison.

Lance Madison, the brother of Ronald Madison, who was with him when he was slain by the police, said his life will never be the same.

"I never go around the Danziger Bridge anymore, it brings back too many bad memories," he said in a short statement.

Faulcon faced the most time of the defendants. He was found guilty of both the coverup and the shooting. Faulcon was the only one of the former officers found guilty of depriving both Brissette and Madison of their civil rights.



Bowen Gisevius, Villavaso were each convicted of conspiracy, deprivation of civil rights and firearms charges, and faced the mandatory minimum sentence of 35 years.

On Aug. 5, 2011, Bowen, Faulcon, Gisevius, Villavaso and Kaufman were found guilty for their respective roles in the fatal shooting in the days after Hurricane Katrina.

MARCH 31, 2012

I Am Trayvon Martin

On the night of Feb. 26th, Tracy Martin and his girlfriend had gone out to dinner in Sanford, Fla., leaving his 17-year-old son, Trayvon, behind at the townhouse with plans to watch the NBA All-Star game scheduled to be televised at 7 p.m. from Orlando's Amway Center.

Trayvon decided to walk to a nearby 7-Eleven convenience store to pick up a bag of Skittles candy and a can of Arizona iced tea before settling in to watch East v. West all-stars. On his way back to the gated community, however, Trayvon was stalked by George Zimmerman, a non-Black neighborhood watch captain armed with a 9 millimeter handgun and a head full of stereotypes about African-American males.

According to 911 tapes, Zimmerman, 28, told the emergency police dispatcher that he had spotted a suspicious young male walking in the neighborhood. "This guy looks like he's up to no good. He is on drugs or something," Zimmerman said, "These ___ holes. They are always getting away."

When the dispatcher asked Zimmerman if he was following the young man in his vehicle, Zimmerman confirmed that he was. The 911 operator said, "OK, we don't need you to do that." Still, Zimmerman continued to trail Trayvon, who was unarmed. At one point, Zimmerman got out of his SUV, confronted Trayvon and fatally shot him in the chest.

Trayvon Martin was killed around 7 p.m. that Sunday.



An outcry from around the world ensued, with celebrities, activists, politicians and even the President all voicing their outrage and showing solidarity with Trayvon and young black males by donning "hoodies" and proclaiming, "I Am Trayvon Martin"

MAY 12, 2012

The Rethinkers Giving Young People a Voice *New Orleans Youth Activist the Subject of a Documentary to air on HBO*

"Rethinkers" are a group of students dreaming big about the changes they want in their schools and taking action to make those dreams a reality. The idea is simple: students are experts on their own school experiences and deserve a voice in education reform. "Rethinkers" are mostly middle schoolers, but also have high school interns and eight year old "prethinkers." "We're now in our sixth year of Rethinking New Orleans schools," says Jane Wholey as the Founder and Director of Rethink New Orleans.

Looking back to 2006, when a band of pint-sized kids - "The Rethinkers" - stood outside a drowned school to discuss their

dreams for post-Katrina public education, who would have guessed they'd now be starring in their own HBO documentary? "The Great Cafeteria Takeover" that focuses on the widely lauded non-profit Kids Rethink New Orleans Schools (a.k.a. "The Rethinkers") and their pioneering, youth-driven work to improve school food and cafeterias. HBO's half-hour documentary about "The Rethinkers" is keyed to a national public health campaign called THE WEIGHT OF THE NATION that kicked off May 1. "The Great Cafeteria Takeover" was cablecast on May 16 and again in September. The film follows "The Rethinkers" through months



of a strategic drive to improve school food. It zeroes in on the development of the innovative "School Food Report Card," with which "Rethinkers" grade cafeterias, and their campaign to convince ARAMARK, a food service provider, to sign an agreement to provide schools with fresh, locally grown food at least twice a week.

JULY 28, 2012

President Obama Speaks at Nation Urban League Conference

By Edwin Buggage
Photos by Kichea Burt

President Barack Obama spoke before a receptive crowd at the opening of the National Urban League Conference held in New Orleans. National Urban League President and former New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial introduced the president amidst the chants of four more years. As the president it is the middle of a re-election campaign, much of his speech dealt with a broad range of issues from education to the economy, to prevention of crime and a host of other issues that are on the front burner of the political dialog and ion the minds of Americans who desire politics to work for the people.

In his speech he spoke of the National Urban League and its continued commitment to social change. Harkening back to his days as a community organizer and emphasizing that this is where change be-



gins at the local and community level he stressed that activism and advocacy for those who are disenfranchised continues to be important for a country still grappling with issues of equal access.

JUNE 2, 2012

Arson Attack on Women's Health Organization in New Orleans

Women With a Vision (WWAV), a New Orleans advocacy and service organization that provides crucial health care and other support for poor women of color, was the victim of a break-in and arson late Thursday night, May 24. A small organization that has won a national reputation for their work, WWAV was founded in 1991 by a collective of Black women as a response to a lack of HIV prevention resources for those women who were the most at risk: poor women, sex workers, women with substance abuse issues, and transgender women.

The office, on Jeff Davis in Midcity, had been a space where many women dropped

in for health care supplies, clothing, advocacy, or just a friendly ear. Organizers with WWAV and their allies worry about the effect that the loss of this space will have on the community. "They really got the room at our office that they thought was at the heart of our work, and so really feel it was intentional," commented WWAV Executive director Deon Haywood. "More than anything, I'm concerned about our clients not having a place to come," she added.

The attack comes in the context of a national climate of hostility towards women's healthcare, including radio host Rush Limbaugh's slurs against a young college



student who testified in support of health coverage for contraception, and a series of break-ins and arsons on women's health clinics in Atlanta. The most recent Atlanta arson was just days before the attack in New Orleans, and the FBI is looking into the Atlanta cases.

AUGUST 25, 2012

Continuing A Tradition: 47 Years Of Being “The People’s Paper”

Data News Weekly: A Rich History with Roots in the Community

It was forty-six years ago that Joseph “Scoop” Jones started Data News Weekly against the backdrop of the Civil Rights Movement. Today his legacy lives on as a pioneer, as someone who has been hailed for providing an invaluable service to the City’s African-American community. Today Data News Weekly is strong as ever as a second

generation and it is at the helm forging ahead in its mission as being “The People’s Paper.” “We are glad to continue to serve our City in the proud tradition my father set out giving the African-American community a place to have a voice,” says present Publisher Terry Jones who has been running the paper for a quarter of a century.

During his illustrious life “Scoop” Jones not only published a paper but he mentored young people and supported their activism. Dyan French Cole, known to the community as “Mama D”, has long been involved in the struggle for racial equality. She was one of the young people “Scoop” Jones mentored, reflecting back she says, “He was a great man, and a motivator, he was someone who created a publication that wasn’t afraid to discuss and address issues in our community and today the paper continues to do that for the people of New Orleans.”

Data News Weekly has always been at the forefront of civic activism, and true to its motto as “The People’s Paper”. Fred

Johnson has been involved in activism since his early years as a high school student at Joseph S. Clark High School. He’s known current Publisher Terry Jones since their days together as student activists. “Back in 1970 we were marching to make Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday a holiday, and we were also involved in activities that were about empowering our community and Mr. “Scoop” Jones gave us a platform to express our concerns; he was always a man who stood for something fair and just and Data News Weekly is still known in the community as just that; a paper that represents the vision, struggle and celebration of Black New Orleans.”



JUNE 16, 2012

Heart to Heart
The Kaylon Marshall Story*Young Man Inspires a Community and March Centered On Organ Donation*

There are many stories of people who need organs, but there is a young man who has come to inspire a City to galvanize around this important issue. His name is Kaylon Marshall; he is seventeen year old and is from Shreveport, Louisiana. On the outside he looks like a normal teen, but he has an enlarged heart and has been on the transplant list at Oschner Hospital for three months. He is an affable, likable young man and to look at him he is the picture of health. For someone so young he is wise beyond his years and has a peace about himself that is admirable, “I just have to get through it, I don’t really think of it in a negative way, I feel as long as I can get my body back together I know I will be ok; I have faith that everything will be just fine, says Kaylon.

Kaylon is a young man who embodies a spirit to be emulated. He is positive in his outlook and optimistic about his future always saying he is not sick he just



needs a heart. And this courageous young man is leading a City to march and begin to have a heart-to-heart talk about something we all can do not simply to better but to save lives.

SEPTEMBER 15, 2012

Bernette Johnson
A Question of Justice

Louisiana was again in the headlines with another racially polarizing issue. This time it concerned the appointment of Bernette Johnson; a woman with an impeccable record, who also happens to be the first African-American to serve as Chief Justice of the state’s highest court.

There was an ongoing power struggle amongst her and her colleagues on the court relating to her appointment. As the senior member on the court, a fact that is rooted in the text of the State Constitution, Johnson by law was in line to become the Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court after the upcoming retirement of present Chief Justice Catherine “Kitty”

Kimball. One of the Justices Jeffrey Victory, who began serving on the court one year after Johnson and presumably would occupy the seat challenged, her seniority and was later joined by the other justices who are all white, stating their lack of support for Johnson is because her first six years was in an appointed capacity when the court expanded created a seventh seat. It was under the cloud of race which brought Johnson to the bench in 1994. She was initially appointed to the Supreme Court, not elected, as part of a state settlement with the federal government over racial discrimination which expanded the court to seven justices from six.



In response to the decision, Louisiana’s Republican Governor Bobby Jindal challenged the ruling that would allow Johnson to become the next Chief Justice. The position taken by the Governor had the civil rights community in an uproar. Despite Jindal’s attempt, Johnson was eventually confirmed as Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court.

NOVEMBER 10, 2012

Obama ... America ...
and the Hope of a Nation

By Edwin Buggage

This week Americans went to the polls and re-elected Barack Obama President of the United States. This has been a long and contentious race that has divided the country. So as we move forward the question is how we find a way to become a nation united in doing the things that can better this country and the lives of the American people.

Looking back at the election it was a clear choice between two differing visions for America. One that was the equivalent of the Autobahn in Germany with unlimited speed limits and the other a stage coach going down a dirt road to its destination; a vision that is like high speed internet compared to one akin to the Pony Express. And given these choices the majority of the American people choose to continue trekking

down the path we’ve laid for the beginning of the 21st Century.

This election is a reflection of the changing face of this nation. No longer is it one that freedom and liberty, the singular domain of White males and that they are the only ones deemed capable for roles of leadership. Today we are seeing a shift in those positions of power in this country. America’s landscape is changing where all people can rise to whatever level their abilities take them. Today the glass ceiling is being broken every day and that is good as the lanes of democracy are being widened for more of our citizens.

We will be witnessing this change in the next session of the U.S. Congress; the state of New Hampshire will be sending all women to Capitol Hill to delegate for all the citizens of their state. This is some-



thing when you think about how women had to fight for the right to vote and only since the late 20th Century were able to have the right to get a legal abortion, or even in the 21st Century with the Lilly Ledbetter Act in 2009 which gives equal pay for equal work to women by President Barack Obama.

Today the U.S. is changing for the better as it is reforming itself into a nation where liberty, fairness and justice are more of a reality.

Glynn Johns Reed

The Quest for Keeping New Orleans Businesses in the "Black"

by: Edwin Buggage

We are again at the end of another year, and we at Data News Weekly this month is honoring a woman who's been a driving force in promoting African-American businesses for several decades. Glynn Johns Reed is the Publisher of "The Black Pages New Orleans." Her fascination, love and will to serve New Orleans began in the mid 1970's. Moving here from her native Tennessee she recalls where the idea spawned for her publication, "When I first came to the City I didn't know much about the Black community because much of the City is geared towards tourist." Continuing she says laughingly, at the time I wore an afro and I went to the yellow pages to find a place to get a haircut and found the Afro House."

A trailblazer in many other ways she was the first Black concierge hired at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, next to the Super Dome. And this is also a significant, watershed moment as it is this experience in part that helped plant the seeds for her ventures into the world of publishing and a promoter of African-American businesses, "I remember people like Dr. J (Julius Erving) and Pelé (a Brazilian Soccer Player) were staying at the hotel and would ask me where they could find a Black restaurant or a Black cab company," said Reed, who would soon launch "An Official Guide to New Orleans," the precursor to "The Black Pages New Orleans."

As we talked and she takes a joyous walk down memory lane, it is evident that she is deeply committed to helping African-American businesses succeed. During our conversation she points out one of the many challenges that many of these small businesses face is they do not have large promotional budgets to advertise in mainstream media. And while she notes the important role African-American media plays, she felt a specialty publication that focused on African-American owned businesses was vital. So she created "The Black Pages New Orleans" as a way to connect businesses to the people of the community.

For many years her publication was an important resource, but as the City faced financial difficulties adversely affecting many African-American businesses, she ceased publishing



Black in 1991 and moved to Memphis. But her time in the Crescent City transformed her life making her forever connected to New Orleans and all its splendor. "There is no other City like it; its food, culture, its history it is such an amazing place to live work and raise my children." Additionally, she has stated in an interview that is to appear in "The Black Pages New Orleans" of her adopted City and how she appreciates the collective spirit of the people regardless of their background, "In New Orleans, it doesn't matter if you're Black, White or Ethiopian. It's a melting pot of cultures,"

said Reed, recalling the blues song "Let the Good Times Roll," or as we say in Louisiana, "Laissez les bons temps rouler."

After Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans she began receiving calls from people who encouraged her to bring back "The Black Pages New Orleans." So now she has re-launched her publication, it also has embraced the 21st

Century, having a strong presence on the web, "I am optimistic about the future of the publication, but most importantly it is great to see so many different types of businesses being created by young people in addition to African-American businesses being re-opened, and I feel good as an advocate in helping them in some way become successful."

Today Glynn Johns Reed comes to New Orleans bi-weekly to run her business and recharge her battery in a City that she is forever connected to. Over these several decades she has forged a relationship to the unbreakable spell of our unique City. She says speaking of her emotional and spiritual ties to New Orleans, "These days I travel via Amtrak to New Orleans, and sometimes when I am leaving I cry because I do not want to go, I know in Tennessee I have a house, husband, my mom and dad, my

daughter and grandbaby, but if I had it my way I would never leave New Orleans again."

And while she is not here all the time physically, her impact is being felt. For she is a foot soldier helping to bring the City back. What her example shows is that anyone can make a difference. It doesn't matter where you are. She has continued to stay connected to the infectious spirit of this City that has a way of taking one over and forever connecting them to the uniqueness of its traditions and heritage. And one of those is this City's place in history where African-American businesses thrived, and today as the City poises itself for a renaissance, it will once again. And it will do so with a burgeoning class of African-American entrepreneurs. And Glynn Johns Reed will be there helping keep New Orleans businesses in the Black.

JMJ
Joseph M. Jones
Continuing Education Fund



Shoot Ya Best Shot!

LayToya Cantrell Takes her Seat

Photos by Terry Jones

Newly elected Councilwoman District B LaToya Cantrell was sworn in as one of the newest members of the New Orleans City Council on Wednesday, December 19 in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Magistrate Commissioner Harry Cantrell, who is her father-in-law, conducted the ceremony.



A Touch of Jazz

Photos by Terry Jones

A Touch of Jazz at The Dish featured a Paris Soul Cafe Spotlight of Special Achievement in honor of the Legendary David Batiste and the Honorable Damon Batiste. The evening featured many Jazz artists and included a special performance by New Orleans' own Gina Brown and Data was there!!!



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Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Christmas Toy Drive

Photos by Doc Jones

504 Magazine and LeRoux Supper Club held their 1st Annual Toy Drive and Holiday Concert at LeRoux Supper Club located at 1700 Louisiana Avenue. The event, which was also sponsored by Data News Weekly Newspaper, featured recording artist Nayo Jones and gathered toys to be donated to Armstrong Family Services. Merry Christmas!



Connect to the Source

Data News Weekly, your one stop for what's happening in New Orleans.



ladatanews.com



Child Watch

Dear God! When Will It Stop?



Marian Wright Edelman
NNPA Columnist

The horrendous news from Newtown, Conn. has pierced our hearts. A black-clad man in his 20s armed with two semi-automatic handguns, entered the Sandy Hook Elementary School and made an elementary school for kindergartners through fourth graders the scene of the worst mass shooting in a public school in American history. Twenty children were shot and killed. Six adults were shot and killed. We don't yet know how many were wounded. We do know dozens of parents are experiencing the

worst nightmare any parent could imagine. We do know more than 500 young children in the school are traumatized.

Once again we are faced with unspeakable horror from gun violence and once again we are reminded that there is no safe harbor for our children. How young do the victims have to be and how many children need to die before we stop the proliferation of guns in our nation and the killing of innocents? The most recent statistics reveal 2,694 children and teens were killed by gunfire in 2010 – 1,773 of them were victims of homicide and 67 of these were elementary school-age children. If those children and teens were still alive they would fill 108 classrooms of 25 each. Since 1979 when gun death data were first collected by age, a shocking 119,079 children and teens have been killed by gun violence. That is more child and youth deaths in America than American battle deaths in World War I (53,402) or

in Vietnam (47,434) or in the Korean War (33,739) or in the Iraq War (3,517). Where is our anti-war movement to protect children from pervasive gun violence here at home?

This slaughter of innocents happens because we protect guns, before children and other human beings. Our hearts and prayers go out to the parents and teachers and children and the entire Newtown community that has been ripped apart by each bullet shot this morning. We know from past school shootings and the relentless killing of children every day that Newtown families and the community will never be the same. The Newtown families who lost children today will never be the same. The families of the teachers who were killed will never be the same. Every child at the Sandy Hook Elementary School this morning will never be the same.

Each of us must do more to stop this intolerable and wanton

epidemic of gun violence and demand that our political leaders do more. We can't just talk about it after every mass shooting and then do nothing until the next mass shooting when we profess shock and talk about it again. The latest terrible tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School is no fluke. It is a result of the senseless, immoral neglect of all of us as a nation to protect children instead of guns and to speak out against the pervasive culture of violence and proliferation of guns in our nation. It is up to us to stop these preventable tragedies.

We have so much work to do to build safe communities for our children and need leaders at all levels of government who will stand up against the NRA and for every child's right to live and learn free of gun violence. But that will not happen until mothers and grandmothers, fathers and grandfathers, sisters and brothers, aunts and uncles, and neighbors and faith leaders and

everybody who believes that children have a right to grow up safely stand up together and make a mighty ruckus as long as necessary to break the gun lobby's veto on common sense gun policy. Our laws and not the NRA must control who can obtain firearms.

It is way past time to demand enactment of federal gun safety measures, including:

Ending the gun show loophole that allows private dealers to sell guns without a license and avoid required background checks;

Reinstating the assault weapons ban that expired in 2004; and

Requiring consumer safety standards for all guns.

Why in the world do we regulate teddy bears and toy guns and not real guns that have snuffed out tens of thousands of child lives? Why are leaders capitulating to the powerful gun lobby over the rights of children and all

Edelman/Continued
on page 11.

Gun Violence in America It's Time to Turn our Tears into Action



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

To Be Equal

"These neighborhoods are our neighborhoods and these children are our children. We're going to have to come together and take meaningful action to prevent more tragedies like this..." President Barack Obama

A movie theater in Aurora, Colorado. A Sikh Temple in Wiscon-

sin. A shopping mall in Oregon. A political event in Tucson, Arizona. The weekend streets of big cities like Chicago. And now a first grade class in Newtown, Connecticut. When will the madness stop? When will we take "meaningful action" to end gun violence in America? These are just the latest high-profile mass shootings that have taken the lives of too many innocent victims. And when those victims are small school children and their teachers, the weight of grief is almost too much to bear.

A weight of responsibility also falls on our shoulders. Immediately after one of these mass killings, someone always says it is too soon to talk about sensible gun control measures. We must take time to grieve first. But after the flying of flags at half-staff and the tear-

ful memorial services, we invariably go back to business as usual. I say, not this time. As a father, a former mayor and a life-long advocate of a safe and quality education for every child, I too am in mourning. But at the same time, I call on our leaders in Washington and in states across this nation, to take immediate action to protect our children and prevent the kind of senseless carnage we saw last week.

Even before this latest tragedy, for years, the National Urban League has been calling for sensible gun control. In fact, on the day after the recent presidential election, I sent a letter to President Obama and the leaders in the House of Representatives, saying in part. "The scourge of gun violence cries out for a com-

prehensive approach to community safety and crime reduction. This requires stronger enforcement of existing gun laws and re-enactment of the assault weapons ban..." We asked the President and the Congress to make this a top priority for the next four years.

Gun violence has often been associated with poor, urban neighborhoods, and it is true that urban violence is much too prevalent. But most of these mass shootings have occurred in quiet, suburban towns where crime is typically low and gun ownership is high. The point is, gun violence can happen anywhere. The one common denominator is easy access to guns. In a nation of 314 million, there are 270 million privately held firearms. It is no coincidence that America has the

highest gun-related murder rate of any developed country. And it's not just criminal gun violence. There are a substantial number of gun-related suicides and accidental deaths. Just last week, a 3-year-old Oklahoma boy found a gun in a relative's home, shot himself in the head and died. Clearly, fewer guns in America and none in the wrong hands must be part of the solution. We are pleased that on Sunday's "Meet the Press" Senator Dianne Feinstein pledged to introduce a gun control bill on the first day of the next Congress that would limit the sale, transfer and possession of assault weapons, along with high capacity magazines. She expects the President to offer his support for the law. We hope so. It's time to turn our tears into action.

Tis the Season



Dr. Eric Griggs, MD
Data News Columnist

"Tis the season to be jolly..."

Jolly, the word invokes images of a larger than life bearded man in a red suit with a big happy belly bellying "HO, HO, HO!!!" to all that will hear. The larger the Santa, the more cheer he brings. While kids dream of Santa and an abundance of toys and gifts, adults dream of cakes, cookies, turkeys, parties

and drinks to fill our agendas and our big happy bellies. It is the season of accepted overindulgence shrouded in the spirit of love and giving. A recent study found in The New England Journal of Medicine has shown that the average American only gains one pound between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. However, don't go back for that second helping of cake and eggnog just yet.

According to Dr. Rob S. Weider from calorielab.com, "That one-pound overall average includes a lot of thin and normal-weight people. For persons who are overweight to begin with, however, that number can spike to five pounds or more. Since two-thirds of us now qualify as overweight, two-thirds of us are at risk for more additional weight gain in the next six weeks than is re-

ally good for us, especially given that weight's tendency to remain with us. And even for those of us who are not overweight, that one pound represents fully 50 percent of the weight that U.S. adults gain per year on average." With that said, here are a few tips to help enjoy this season of cheer with family and friends without paying for it later on our waistlines:

1. Plan to Party - This is a really simple rule, enforced by moms everywhere. Eat before you go out. Never arrive at a holiday party hungry. The temptation to overeat is too great. Before you depart for that big event, eat a healthy nutritious meal and drink at least 2 full bottles (16.9 ounce) of water. This will work to both decrease your appetite and prehydrate you for possible overindulgence in party favors. No one

enjoys a "Holiday Hangover."

2. Portions make a Pretty Plate - Make it a point to be a gracious guest. Sample, a portion no larger than half a deck of cards, all items catching your fancy at holiday buffets, adding as much color to your plate as possible without overcrowding your plate. Take your time and make it a point to nibble on hors d'oeuvres and tasty treats throughout the event as opposed to gorging or overeating when you first arrive. Remember again, water is key. Relax, it's a party. Enjoy the experience

3. Focus on the Reason. Be Active - Smiling and laughing burns 1.3 calories per minute. Each kiss can burn up to 8 calories. Hugs have been said to burn up to 50 calories. Instead of focusing on the amount of food and number and kind of holiday beverages, spend some time

under the mistletoe. Focus on the ones you love. Tell some old stories and enjoy the experience. Create new memories. Laugh with the ones you love. Smile with the new friends you meet and remember to give to those less fortunate. Mr. Chill, of Chill's Barber Shop, invites each of his customers to join him in feeding the homeless at the New Orleans Mission on Christmas weekend. "It is easy for a lot of us to forget what the season is all about. I just want to make sure I can do my part to make someone's Christmas a little better."

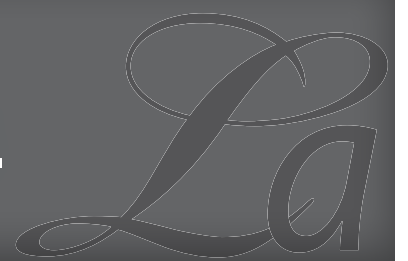
Well said sir. Well said.

Prescription for the Week: Spend time laughing and loving with family and friends. These gifts will always be priceless. Get checked. Get fit. Get moving!

Happy Holidays!

Dr. Eric Griggs

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Will This be America's Moment of Truth?

Analysis: The horrific mass killings in Connecticut may finally spark a real debate on gun control, but will it be enough?

Their names and faces are now achingly familiar to tens of millions of Americans: Emilie Parker, just 6 years old, a little blond elf; Ana Marquez-Greene, also 6, playing on the piano; Victoria Soto, so proud to be a teacher, who tried to shield her first-graders with her body and died for it.

"These neighborhoods are our neighborhoods, and these children are our children," said President Barack Obama, wiping away tears as he addressed the nation on Friday.

That was certainly true over a weekend that many Americans spent glued to their radios and televisions, grieving with the residents of Newtown, Conn., an idyllic New England village that will never be the same.

Twenty children and six adults were shot dead at the Sandy Hook Elementary School on Friday, in addition to the shooter, Adam Lanza. Lanza's mother is also dead, killed at her home before Adam went on his deadly and inexplicable rampage.

As America goes into a holiday season dimmed by the tragedy, the debate is already raging. But the angry rhetoric is more indicative of the severe political polarization in the country than of any real attempt to tackle the deeper issues.



Unidentified people embrace on Dec. 14, 2012 in the aftermath of a school shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. (DON EMMERT /AFP/Getty Images)



"These neighborhoods are our neighborhoods, and these children are our children," said President Barack Obama, wiping away tears as he addressed the nation on Friday.

ground checks, longer waiting periods.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) has already pledged to introduce new gun-control legislation at the beginning of next year's congressional session.

Speaking Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press," Feinstein said her new bill builds on the assault weapons ban that expired in 2004. The purpose, she said, is to get "weapons of war off the streets of our cities."

But it will not be easy.

Gun enthusiasts are equally vociferous in their defense of their Constitutional right to bear arms. The Second Amendment has become a shield for those who resist any restrictions on gun ownership.

We all know the slogans: "Guns don't kill people. People kill people." And "When guns are against the law, only outlaws will have guns."

There are those who are already arguing that a few well-placed firearms inside Sandy Hook Elementary might have saved lives by stopping Adam Lanza in his tracks.

But efforts from Prohibition to the war on drugs have shown laws can only do so much — and have been known to backfire.

Even if weapons reform passes, what chance does the federal government have to regulate guns when states are going their own way on the issue?

Just one day before the Dec. 14 Newtown massacre, Michigan's legislature passed a law allowing those with some specialized training to carry concealed weapons in once-forbidden zones such as schools, churches, hospitals, stadiums and bars.

The United States leads other so-called "civilized nations" in gun violence by a wide margin. This year alone there have been 16 multiple shootings, six of which qualify as mass killings by FBI parameters — four or more people killed in the course of one single incident.

Many are asking: Is there a deeper problem in society than the numbers of weapons?

We may never know what prompted Adam Lanza to take his mother's guns and head to the Sandy Hook Elementary School to shoot small children. Some are suggesting that his alleged autism was to blame — something that, judging by active Twitter feeds, those with autism find ignorant and offensive.

President Obama, in his moving address at an interfaith vigil in Newtown Sunday evening, spoke of using the full power of the presidency to prevent such tragedies in the future.

But he faces an uphill battle, something that the president knows all too well.

"We will be told that the causes of such violence are complex, and that is true," he said. "No single law, no set of laws can eliminate evil from the world or prevent every senseless act of violence in our society, but that can't be an excuse for inaction. Surely we can do better than this."

As parents and loved ones struggle to come to terms with unimaginable grief, a nation, with its president in the forefront, is trying to understand what in its makeup leads so regularly to scenes of mayhem and death.

The answers will not be easy to uncover, but at last, it seems, Americans have the will to begin.

Proponents of gun control are insisting that tougher gun laws be enacted immediately. They want bans on certain types of semiautomatic weapons, more intensive back-

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Entergy Charitable Foundation Donates More than \$137,000 to New Orleans Non-Profits

Third round of grants support efforts of 10 organizations

Ten New Orleans non-profits will share in more than \$137,000 in funding thanks to the latest round of grants from the Entergy Charitable Foundation.

The latest round of charitable grants went to support education, economic development, the environment, disadvantaged residents and the arts in New Orleans.

"These grants represent a meaningful way for our shareholders and our company to make a difference in the city," said Melonie Hall, Director of Customer Service for Entergy New Orleans, Inc. "We take our responsibility to give back to the community very seriously and are happy to help support these organizations that do such great work in the City."

Among the programs supported in this award cycle include:

The New Orleans Start-up Fund, which received \$33,000 to help support Economic Development and job creation;

The Orleans Public Education Network, which received \$25,000

for its work in early childhood development and education;

Green Light New Orleans, which received \$25,000 to support their efforts to provide energy efficient light bulbs to area residents;

Victories in Service, Inc., which received \$15,000 to help children and families overcome the obstacles of poverty and crime.

School Leadership Center of Greater New Orleans and Start the Adventure in Reading each received \$10,000 grants to support educational initiatives. The group 4.0 Schools also received a \$6,720 grant to support education in the City, while the Foundation for Science and Mathematics Education received a \$5,000 grant to support summer internships that foster academic enrichment.

Other grants include \$5,000 to support the New Orleans Opera Association's Educational Programming and \$2,500 to the New Orleans Neighborhood Development Collaborative to help residents of Central City build credit scores to aid in home ownership.

Property Owners: Estimate your 2013 property tax bill at www.nolaassessor.com

Property owners can estimate the amount of their 2013 Property Tax bill, which they will receive from the City of New Orleans in late December, by utilizing the "Tax Estimator" function on the Assessor's website, www.nolaassessor.com, said Assessor Erroll G. Williams.

"This is a useful tool so taxpayers can budget the payment they will be expected to make in January," said the Assessor.

To use the "Tax Estimator", property owners should go to the website and follow these easy steps:

1. Find your 2013 tax assessment. A property's 2013 tax assessment can be found by clicking the "Search Records" link on www.nolaassessor.com which allows you to find property records by owner name, property address, tax bill number, or map. Once the property is found, click the link in the "Parcel Number" column and find the 2013 value for

"Total Assessed Value". Copy this number.

2. Go back to the nolaassessor.com home page (click "Orleans home" in the top right corner) and then click the "Tax Estimator" button in the menu bar, accept the disclaimer that follows and the tax estimator page will appear.

3. Plug in the 2013 "Total Assessed Value" you copied earlier, select tax year 2013 in the next prompt, and click the Homestead Exemption check box, if applicable to the property you are researching. Clicking the "Calculate" button will then produce a rough estimate of the your 2013 Property Tax bill.

According to the Assessor, the estimate does not include special taxing districts which may be applicable to an individual bill.

For more information, visit the website www.nolaassessor.com.

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Edelman/ Continued from page 8.

people to life and safety?

I hope these shocking Connecticut child sacrifices in this holy season will force enough of us at last to stand up, speak out, and organize with urgency and persistence until the president, members of Congress, governors and state legislators put child safety ahead of political expediency. And we must aspire and act together to become the world leader in protecting children against gun violence rather than leading the world in child victims of guns. Every child's life is sacred and it is long past time that we protect all our children.

Albert Camus, Nobel Laureate, speaking at a Dominican monastery in 1948 said: "Perhaps we cannot prevent this world from being a world in which chil-

dren are tortured. But we can reduce the number of tortured children." He described our responsibility as human beings "if not to reduce evil, at least not to add to it" and "to refuse to consent to conditions which torture innocents." It is time for a critical mass of Americans to refuse to consent to the killing of children by gun violence.

Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For more information go to www.childrens-defense.org.

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