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# New Orleans Gets Ready for Hurricane Season

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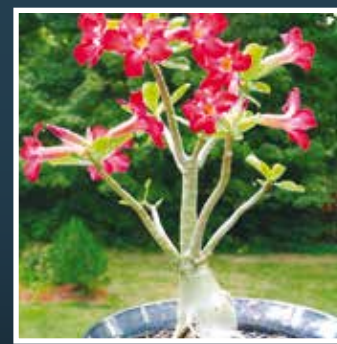
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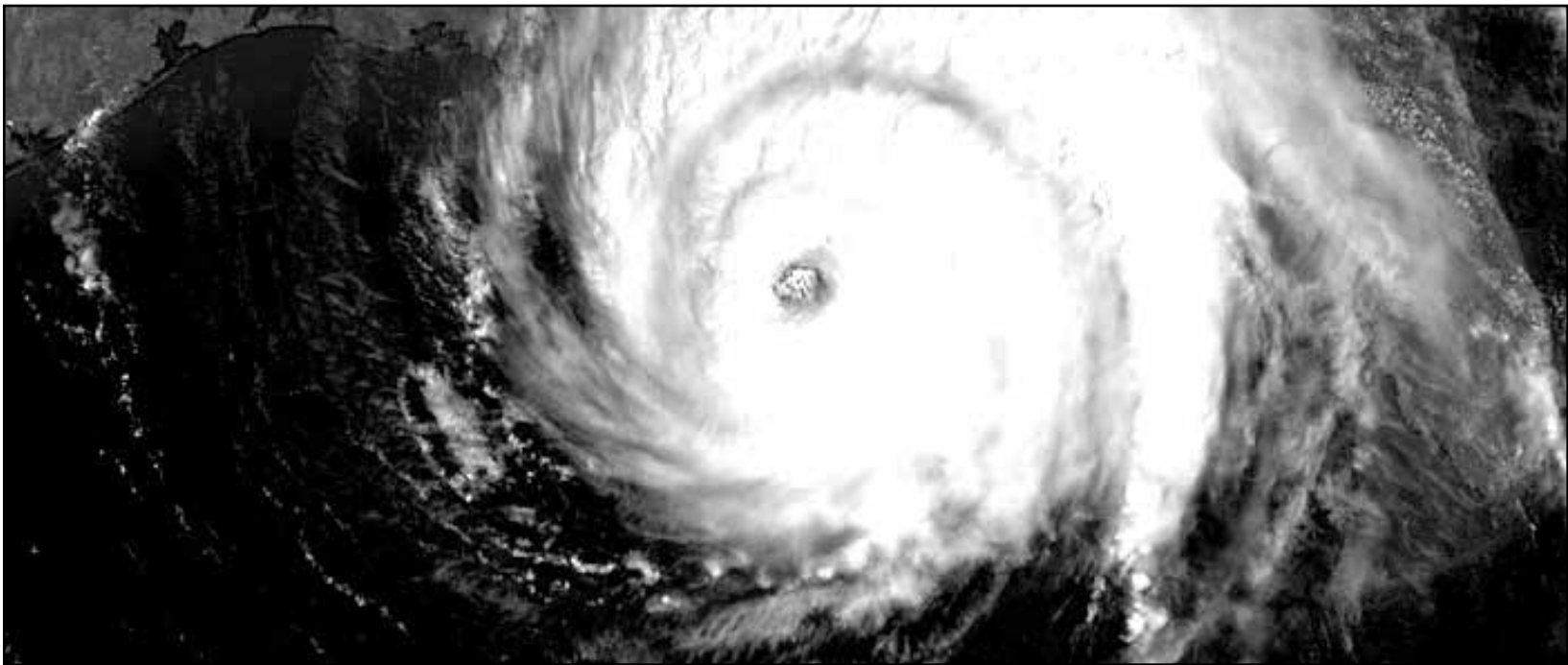
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# New Orleans Gets Ready for Hurricane Season



By Eric Connerly

### Hurricane Season 2013

It is again June 1st, the beginning of Hurricane Season which runs through November 30th. In 2005, Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans with the City being 80% underwater and over 200,000 homes destroyed and caused an estimated 81.2 billion dollars of damage. A City that once did not take the threats of storms very seriously is now on high alert when news of a storm is reported to possibly be headed in its direction.

NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) is forecasting an “active” or “extremely active” hurricane season in its annual Atlantic hurricane season outlook.

In its annual prediction, NOAA is reporting

that there is a 70 percent likelihood of 13-20 named storms (winds 39 mph or higher), seven to 11 hurricanes (winds 74 mph or higher) and three to six major hurricanes (winds 111 mph or higher).

These projections are above the seasonal average of 12 named storms, six hurricanes and three major hurricanes.

### Weathering the Storms Together

Natural disasters and unusual weather occurrences have become part of our recent history. Last year we saw Hurricane Sandy ravage the East Coast of the United States in addition to the recent tornado in Oklahoma. As these tragic weather events are taking place, people are coming together to help rebuild and restore hope in these devastated communities.

On May 24th Mayor Mitch Landrieu reacti-

vated the NOLA Pay It Forward Fund for New Orleanians to contribute to recovery efforts following the deadly May 20, 2013 tornado in Moore, Oklahoma. “Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone affected by this devastating storm,” Mayor Landrieu said. “The people of New Orleans know what it’s like to suffer through a catastrophe and we remember all of those who helped us when we needed it most. Through this fund, we hope to pay it forward to another community struggling to recover and rebuild.”

### Improving Infrastructure will be put to the Test and More Improvements are in the Works

Since Hurricane Katrina, the federal government has invested 14 billion dollars in rebuilding the levees that protect the City. During 2012

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## DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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## Cover Story, Continued from previous page.

and Hurricane Isaac, the levees in the flood prone areas of the City including the Lower Ninth Ward held and were not breached.

As the City continues to recover from Hurricane Katrina, much is still needed in the way of infrastructure improvements. In April, U.S. Senator Mary L. Landrieu, (D-La.), U.S. Rep. Cedric Richmond, (D-La.), and New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu announced \$27 million for sewerage repairs related to Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and St. Bernard Parish. The grants were provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Program.

In a statement to the media Senator Landrieu said, "We learned important lessons after Hurricane Katrina, including the importance of investing in our infrastructure," "Today's grants are for a basic service, but one that is critical for the public health and safety of our residents in New Orleans and St. Bernard Parish."

"The funds announced today are essential to the rehabilitation of neighborhoods in New Orleans and St. Bernard Parish," Rep. Richmond said. "I am committed to working with FEMA to ensure our communities recover from damage sustained by Hurricane Katrina, or any other natural disaster. Repairs to sewerage and water systems are vitally important to our mission to restore every neighborhood in the great State of Louisiana."

Speaking of the areas where the work will be done Senator Landrieu announced \$13.5 million for the replacement of water main lines in the Filmore, West End, St. Roch, Dillard, and Gentilly Woods neighborhoods which is critical to ensuring safe, reliable drinking water. She also stated that, "Nearly eight years after Hurricane Katrina, we are working to close out necessary funding decisions for repairs to damage left by the storm. FEMA continues to be an important partner in our City's recovery."

### Hurricane Protection from Citizens Points of View

There have been monies committed to infrastructure improvements in addition to certain parts of the City receiving resources for reinvestment. However, some wonder whether the City is ready for a storm of Katrina like proportions. There are many factors that citizens feel are problematic given some of the changes made after Hurricane Katrina. For example, there are no shelters of last resort, something that could leave some of the City's most vulnerable citizens stranded and in danger.

Cynthia Bradford is a homeowner in Kenner who suffered damage to her home during Hurricane Katrina and took one year to fully rebuild her home says, she does not believe the City is fully ready to take on a storm of Katrina like proportions. "In my view it is a matter of where you live; in some parts of the City, even if there is a hard rain you see street flooding." She continued, "So, while the millions com-

ing in for sewerage in some parts of town to do some repairs are a good thing, we still have to get through this hurricane season and also these improvements do not cover enough of the City where some of our neediest citizens reside."

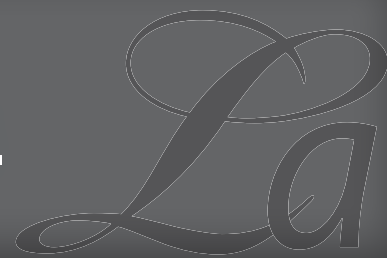
Almore Cato is a New Orleans East homeowner who had eight to nine feet of water in his home on those horrid days in 2005. He feels the City is better prepared than in '05, but he and his family will still evacuate if need be. "We always evacuate to my wife's home town in Mississippi and we don't have to spend a lot of money, all we need to do is have enough gas to get there and everything else is taken care of; I know a lot of people aren't as lucky as we are in this regard."

The question for some to choose to evacuate or not can come down to a matter of resources. Particularly in a down economy many do not have the money to leave or what little monies they do have does not go very far. "People are stretched

out financially regardless of their social class and some do not have the money to put on the side for expenses associated with evacuation" says Cynthia Bradford, "I think there needs to be more coordination in evacuation to where people go that will not deplete them of their savings because when they come back they still have bills and other things they have to take care of, so I think that cities, need to do a better job identifying partners such as community groups, churches or companies that can help people not go broke trying to evacuate."

New Orleans continues to rebuild nearly eight years after Hurricane Katrina, and while the City still has not fully recovered it is still a special place, a point not lost on Bradford something which prompted her return, "This is my home and there is no other place like it even after a storm it is still an amazing place with it's amazing history, culture and the warmth and of the people that you don't get anywhere else."

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# Shoot Ya Best Shot!

## Southern University 2013 Commencement Exercises

Photos provided by Southern University

Congratulations to the 2013 Graduates of Southern University and A&M College.

We wish you all the best!



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# Shoot Ya Best Shot!

## Seagram's Especially Exclusive Event

Photos by Darnell "Dyce" Jackson

Seagram's Gin hosted their "Especially Sexy & Exclusive Event" on May 23rd at Eiffel Society in New Orleans. The invitation-only event was an opportunity for premium networking for fashion, entertainment music and film professionals and featured music and a uniquely Seagram's Gin experience. Of course, Data was there.





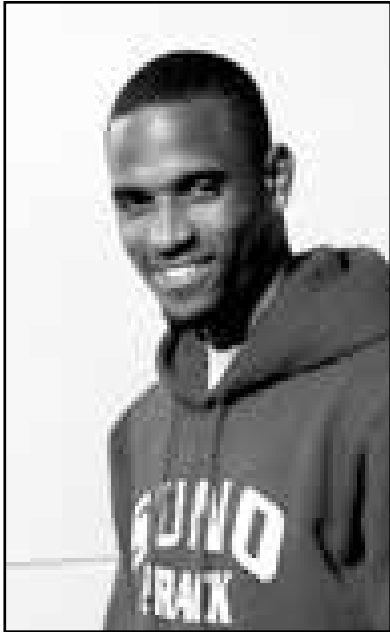
## SUNO's Sheldon Williams Earns National Championship In Men's 400 Meter Hurdles

*Dillard produces five All-Americans at NAIA Nationals*

For the first time in seven years, Southern University at New Orleans has an individual national champion in track and field. Junior Sheldon Williams won the men's 400 meter hurdles with a time of 51.81, edging out Nathan Magstadt of Dickinson State by just four-hundredths of a second. The last athlete to earn an NAIA title for the Knights was current head coach Yhann Plummer, who won the 100 meters in 2006.

"It was an amazing feeling to win," said Williams. "SUNO has such an amazing tradition of All-Americans, Olympians...and for me to be a part of that as a national champion is an honor."

On the women's side, Junior Tamara Hunter earned All-Amer-



SUNO's 400 Meter Hurdler and NAIA Champion Sheldon Williams

ica honors after an eighth place finish in the Women's 400 meter hurdles.

"I'm so proud of both Sheldon and Tamara, and also of our entire team," added Coach Plummer. "This is a great day for the University and something they will remember for the rest of their lives."

In overall team competition the men's team finished tied for 29th out of 60 teams with the women finishing tied for 53rd.

The women's 4x100 Meter Relay Team for Dillard University finished sixth in the nation during Saturday's final with a time of 47.09 in Marion, Indiana, at the 2013 NAIA Men's and Women's Outdoor Track & Field National Championships on the campus of Indiana Wesleyan University.

## Volunteers Needed for Free Medical Clinic

*Clinic to Be Held July 3rd in New Orleans*

Both medical and non-medical volunteers are needed to participate in the latest effort to provide medical care to Louisianans who lack health insurance and access to medical care. The National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics (NAFC) will return this July for its fourth massive free medical clinic in New Orleans since 2009.

The clinic event will be held at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center on July 3 from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

"This free clinic is not just for the sick but also for anyone who has little to no access to medical care and has not seen a doctor recently," NAFC Executive Director Nicole Lamoureux said. "All participants will receive preventive primary medical care and be connected to the area's safety-net providers."

According to the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, 23 percent of non-elderly individuals in Louisiana are uninsured.

This will be the 13th in a series of large C.A.R.E. (Communities Are Responding Everyday) Clinics held around the country to bring together physicians and other health care professionals, as well as non-medical volunteers, to serve the needs of thousands of people who might otherwise go without medical care.

More than 3,000 patients received medical care at the three previous New Orleans clinics between 2009 and 2011.

Information on the event and how to register is available online at: [www.nafcclinics.org](http://www.nafcclinics.org). Information on how to donate and support this and future clinics is also available at that address by clicking on the "Donate Now" button.

### Are You a Media Professional In Search of the Perfect Position? Data News Weekly is Now Hiring

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#### Qualifications and Requirements:

- 3-5 years of print sales and 1 year digital media sales experience
- Basic Mobile, Social and integrated Marketing knowledge
- Relationships with top tier agencies and their respective brands
- Very strong with Microsoft Office Suite

If you are the right person for this position, send your cover letter salary history and resume to: [datanewsad@bellsouth.net](mailto:datanewsad@bellsouth.net) with ad accounts manager in the subject line.

#### Social Media Coordinator

Our vision is simply to get people talking, about our brand, Data News Weekly. We start with the brand and branch to the people. We are looking for a Social Media Coordinator who can create engaging interactive content – both in business development and consumer communication. By successfully driving both interactions, we can effectively build awareness. The equation is simple: Great people build great brands. The beauty? Infinity is present in that equation. Once a story gets told, another is born. The communications tree never sleeps.

#### Responsibilities:

- Majority of time spent growing our social media networks through creative posts, contests, ad placements, etc.
- Must have excellent knowledge of social media sites and tools. Must have ability to manage concurrent projects and have strong organizational skills as well as excellent writing skills.
- Will participate in client calls and may visit clients/industry shows as needed. Must be able to demonstrate social media skills and experience. Must have four-year college degree relevant to the position.

If you are looking for an exciting position, send us your cover letter and resume to: [datanewsad@bellsouth.net](mailto:datanewsad@bellsouth.net) and include social media coordinator in the subject line.

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## International High School Of New Orleans Hosts Annual Gala This Saturday

### June 1 International Benefit will highlight cultural facets from around the world

The International High School of New Orleans will showcase food, music, art and culture from around the world at its second annual gala in the lobby of the First NBC Bank at 210 Baronne St. this Saturday, June 1, 2013 from 7-10 p.m.

Patrons will sample various cultures from every continent of the globe including unique international cuisine and music. The annual gala is a charitable benefit that supports the rigorous programs of the International High School of New Orleans, a Type 2 charter school.

"Last year's inaugural gala

was a grand success, and we are hoping to host more than 200 guests for this year's gala. The environment at the International High School is culturally diverse and attributes to our capability to host a gala which celebrates worldly cultures, food and entertainment," said Anthony Amato, Head of The International High School of New Orleans.

Gala tickets are on sale at \$75 for a couple and \$40 for individuals by calling Kari Ayala at IHSNO at 504-613-5726. Tickets can also be purchased online at <http://ihsnogala.eventbrite.com/>. All funds raised for the evening event benefit the school which has a current enrollment of over 450 students. IHSNO, now in its third year, will celebrate its first graduating class June 10, 2013.

# Care Free Succulents

By MG Calla Victoria

Data News Weekly Columnist

I love succulents because they add beauty, color, sculptural design, and texture to our gardens; and all we have to do is buy them and plant them in a sunny dry spot. They don't require any further attention from us because they store water in their leaves, spines, or bases and water themselves. One of my favorite cacti is the Golden Barrel Cactus (*Echinocactus grusonii*). They are round, squat, and look like prickly stools. They are covered with large golden spines and gives off the most beautiful yellow blooms.

Cacti are succulents but all succulents are not cacti. Our spiny friends of the cactus family absorb water in through their spines, which is why they have so many of them, and store water in their trunks. Other succulents like Ponytail Palms sometimes called Elephant's Foot (*Beaucarnea recurvata*) are called caudiciforms or fat plants, and store water in their bulbous swollen bases. Pachycauls are plants with disproportionately thick stems for their length and few branches. One of my favorite succulents the Desert Rose (*Adenium obesum*). It is both a pachycaul and caudiciform. Its fat base makes it a caudiciform and because the trunk is so much larger in proportion to its few branches makes it a pachycaul. This plant gives you so much bang for your buck. It



had architectural interest in its few sculptural branches, its base is huge, gnarly and squat; so most people think that it is a bonsai. You water it only every three weeks, and on top of all of that it gives off the most beautiful deep red blooms. I purchase one a few months ago and placed it out in my garden along with a few other plants that I had purchased. And

of all of those plants my neighbor asked, "Calla what is that weird little tree looking plant you have over there?" Of course she was inquiring about the Desert Rose; it is such an attention getter. It is slow-growing, great as a house plant, and can grow five feet tall by three feet wide.

Many succulents conserve water in their thick, fleshy leaves.

The thicker a plant's leaves are, the less you have to water them. The Variegated Century Plant (*Agave Americana*) is an excellent example, and is most content with just the morning dew and whatever rain that the Good Lord gives it. This sculptural specimen can grow to be over five feet tall by five feet wide, so place it in a dry sunny spot where it can thrive. It is called the century plant because supposedly it can take up to 100 years to bloom, and when it does bloom it sends up a flower spike over fifteen tall. In reality the Century Agave will bloom in about twenty years, but one is not bored the years coming up to the big bloom event because this plant just keeps growing and sending out pups (baby plants) that you can leave or separate from the mother plant and keep them, sell them, or give them as gifts. Other succulents like String of Pearls (*Senecio rowleyanus*) also called String of peas because they resemble a string of green beads hoard water in its spherical leaves. So if you want lots of groovy shapes and textures in your landscape without all of the work, by all means think Succulents!

Send your gardening questions to me at [sowing@thegardeningdiva.com](mailto:sowing@thegardeningdiva.com)

And check out my website at [www.thegardeningdiva.com](http://www.thegardeningdiva.com)

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## Local Girl Competes in National American Miss Pageant

Meet Miss Lyric Melei Lee. Lyric has been chosen as a State Finalist in the National American Miss Pageant which will take place on Saturday, June 1 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Baton Rouge. The National American Miss Pageants are held for girls ages 4 - 18. Lyric will compete in the Jr. Pre-Teen division along with other outstanding young ladies from across the great state of Louisiana. In her free time, Lyric enjoys spending time with family,



making new friends and playing with her pets.

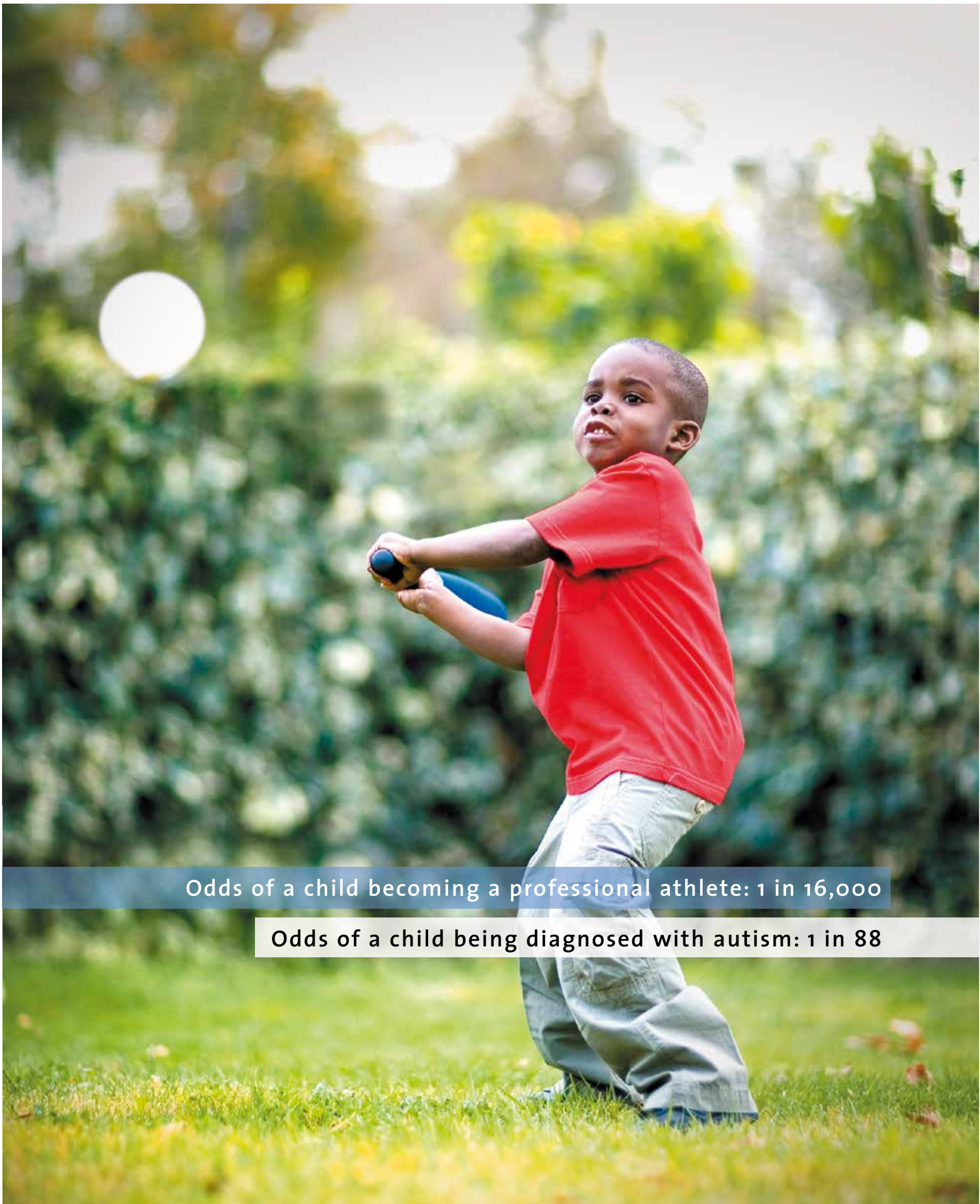
The winner of the Pageant will receive a \$1,000 cash award, the official crown and banner, a bouquet of roses and air transportation to compete in the National Pageant in California. The National American Miss Pageants are dedicated to celebrating America's future leaders and equipping them with life-long skills and awards over 1.5 million dollars in cash and scholarships.

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Odds of a child becoming a professional athlete: 1 in 16,000

Odds of a child being diagnosed with autism: 1 in 88

**Some signs to look for:**

No big smiles or other joyful expressions by 6 months.

No babbling by 12 months.

No words by 16 months.



**To learn more of the signs of autism, visit [autismspeaks.org](http://autismspeaks.org)**



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