

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

14th Annual Holiday On the Boulevard

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Cover Story

14th Annual Holiday On the Boulevard



Clockwise from upper left: Delfeayo Marsalis, Delfeayo Marsalis on trombone, with the Uptown Orchestra, The audience joins in dancing, Dr. Foots Displays his sterling silver jewelry, Carol Bebelle poses with Baba Kwanzaa (John O'Neal) and Mama YéYé (Olayeela Daste), Michaela Harrison delights the audience.

Story by Eric Connerly Photos by Peter Nakhid

It is again that time of the year where for the fourteenth consecutive year, music and merriment are the order of the day as Ashé Cultural Arts Center lights up the boulevard with musicians, actors, merchants, and the community, creating an astonishing holiday family festival and marketplace in Central City New Orleans. The Ashe' Cultural Center since opening its doors has become a beacon light for the arts community and Central City. Located in the Cultural District at 1712/24 Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard in New Orleans, the festival will bring together a hefty mix of talented individuals from a variety of art forms including many from the world of music that over the two day festival will showcase the best the City has to offer in the fields of jazz, hiphop, R&B, gospel, folk, reggae, sprinkled with spoken word and incredible dancers.

> Cover Story, Continued on next page.



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Cover Story

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"Holiday on the Boulevard is an opportunity for folks to begin the process of slowing down to enjoy the bonds of family, friendship and community. It is a time to assess the blessings of the rapidly departing year and to set expectations and goals for the New Year. Such deep thoughts then combine with music, good food and fellowship to offer an unfrenzied and unbothered respite from the demand of too full lives," says Carol Bebelle, Co-founder of the Ashe' Cultural Center and its commitment to the betterment of the New Orleans community not just doing the holiday season, but year round.

In the spirit of preserving and recognizing our cultural traditions on Friday, December 6th , "Holiday on the Boulevard" kicks off with the Annual Kwanzaa Demonstration led by our special holiday icons Baba Kwanzaa (John O'Neal) and Mama YéYé (Olayeela Daste). Young people will learn about the principles of

Kwanzaa, the meaning behind its terminology and the significance of the lighting of the Kinara. Afterwards, at the Imagination Tour, participating children will travel the continent of Africa. With some of the youngsters dressed in African attire and becoming dancers led by Mama Jamilah, while others take to the drums to play rhythms taught by master drummer Luther Gray of Bamboula 2000. That afternoon, the community is invited to learn more about Ashé and its programming at the Annual Luncheon and Open House.

The importance of the festival is more than simply a display of the cultural arts, but it also provides economic opportunities for small businesses offering a variety of services with visibility that will hopefully expand their customer base and increase their revenues. "Holiday on the Boulevard" allows us to practice economic development at the community level. Small vendors, artists and entrepreneurs are able to participate in the money changing that happens in such high volume during the end-of-the-year holidays. We call it cooperative economics or "Ujamaa" in the Nguzo Saba--Seven Principles of Kwanzaa," says Bebelle of the "Holiday on the Boulevard's" larger purpose.

It is free to the public and those attending are encouraged to don their dancing shoes, because it is promised that the grooves will make you just want to move. As with some festivals the weather is a problem, but not with this one for all the entertainment is indoors, free, and open to the public.

The festival as always will feature the best in local talent and will kick into high gear for two fun-filled days starting on Saturday, December 7th , and Sunday, December 8th , with a list of artists that span lyrical spoken word to instrumental delights. The performance line-up for Saturday, December 7th , includes the youth of Ashe's' Kuumba Institute, the ladies of Sistahs Making a Change, the smooth sounds of The Yisrael Trio, the island romp of Rudy Mills and the Caribbean Funk Band, with remarkable Trumpeter Hannibal Lokumbe closing out the day.

On Sunday, December 8th, festival goers will experience the melodious vocals of the Golden Voices Choir with special guest Rev. Lois Dejean; Songbird Michaela Harrison, the explosive Tereasa B & N'Style, and Reggae Masters Zion Trinity. Closing out the festival is the amazing homegrown Trombonist Delfeavo Marsalis & the Uptown Orchestra. The weekend also includes other surprises, including a "Lyrics, Beats & Masterpieces" showcase and an appearance by the winners of the Central City Fest Dance Contest.

As we enter the Holiday Season, it is important that this time of the year we use as a time to reflect on what it is we can do to build a better community. And what is dawning on 14 years, Holiday on the Boulevard has come to symbolize the community at its best coming together in the spirit of "UMOJA" (Unity), "HA-RAMBEE" (Working together in Unity) and "UJIMA" (Collective Work and Responsibility).

Bebelle is excited about another year and encourages the entire community from all backgrounds, saying this festival is for everyone. "Why should you attend "Holiday on the Boulevard"? Easy, because it offers a great benefit to you individually as proof of what a community like Central City working together can accomplish. It benefits the vendors financially. It benefits the community spiritually by bringing in the energy of lots of people, along with the vibe of togetherness, relaxation and calm. So we invite you to please come to "Holiday on the Boulevard" and relax, relate and renew with fun fellowship, family and friends in Central City, and get a taste of the soul of New Orleans."

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Bayou Classic Fan Fest Highlights

Photos courtesy of Bonneefied Images, LLC

Champions Square provided entertainment at the 2013 Bayou Classic Fan Fest. Q93 Sponsored the event featuring musical artists Juvenile and Mannie Fresh, Iris P, Shorty, August, Sevyn Streeter and Rico Love along with the Q93 crew.

















Fan Fest Crowd 2. Iris P. 3. August
Juvenile and Mannie Fresh 5. Shorty
Wild Wayne and Rico Love 7. Wild Wayne and Sledge 8. Sevyn Streeter and dancers

Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events



Bayou Classic Honors MillerCoors' Moses Brewer

Photos courtesy of Bonneefied Images, LLC

Moses Brewer, Director of Multicultural Relations at MillerCoors, was honored for his longstanding support of the Bayou Classic. Brewer, who recently announced his coming retirement was presented with an Appreciation Award for his 31 years of support for HBCU Football Classics, and was also presented with a special framed photo collage titled "Mr. Bayou Classic". Colleagues, friends, and family gathered in the MillerCoors Suite at the Superdome to watch the game, and cheer on both teams, and of course, Data was there!



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Real Talk for Real Times...

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The Joy of the Gospel



By Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr Founder & President, Rainbow PUSH Coalition

Pope Francis is displaying an extraordinary style and passion that demands our attention. He addresses the needs of the poor, embraces the outcasts, and loves those on the margins of society. In this recent "apostolic exhortation," The Joy of the Gospel, he raises a moral challenge to both his church and his world.

Like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Pope Francis calls upon people of faith to "go forth" to preach and practice their faith. "I prefer a church," he writes, "which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a church which is unhealthy for being confined and from clinging to its own security."

Pope Francis raises a profound moral voice against "trickle-down theories," which put a "crud and naïve trust in the goodness of those wielding economic power." We have created "new idols," he warns, in the worship of money and markets. The result is that "human beings are themselves considered consumer goods to be used and then discarded." We have witnessed "a globalization of indifference," in which the poor are dehumanized and ignored.

Pope Francis's exhortation, more than 50,000 words long, deals broadly with the church, the papacy, and matters of the faith. He is not a revolutionary. He states that the priesthood will remain open only to men, that the church's opposition to abortion will continue. But he directs new focus and passion to the growing inequality between and within countries, the stark contrast between the wealth of our technology and invention and the poverty of our ethics.

Here he addresses directly the plight of today's America. We suffer mass unemployment while the stock market hits new highs. Profits set records, but working people don't share in the rewards. The top 5 percent pockets literally all of the rewards of growth, while the remainder struggle to stay afloat. This extreme inequality, Pope Francis writes, is the direct product of "ideologies which defend the absolute autonomy of the marketplace and financial speculation. A new tyranny is born" and with it widespread corruption and tax evasion among the most powerful. Money, Pope Francis argues, "must serve, not rule."

This is not a secondary concern, but the heart of the mission of today's church. Pope Francis says just as the commandment says, "Thou shalt not kill," we must say, "Thou shalt not" to an economy of "exclusion and inequality. Such an economy kills."

He warns of the corruption and the ethical poverty of ignoring the poor. In our politics, poverty has become literally unspeakable. Politicians talk about defending the middle class, or "middle out economics." The poor are scorned as lazy or incompetent. Politicians vote to cut off food stamps, to cut unemployment insurance, even to cut back programs of nutrition for impoverished mothers and infants, while they refuse to close the tax havens that allow multinational corporations and the wealthy to avoid paying taxes.

Too many politicians devote their energy to raising funds from the affluent and protecting their interests. They seek careers and fortunes not public service. Pope Francis sees this as a moral corruption, and calls for "more politicians who are genuinely disturbed by the state of society, the people and the lives of the poor."

At the same time, Pope Francis issues a stern warning to the complacent. Without justice, there can be no peace. Building up police and armaments offers no answer. Peace will come only when there is hope, and a committed effort to provide opportunity and justice to those who are locked out or pressed down.

Economic populism is not foreign to the Catholic Church and has been articulated by previous holders of the papacy. But Pope Francis's clear words and bold style make his message compelling. This is an authentic worldchanging gospel of good news. This is a return to the original gospel that Jesus taught. It seeks not pity for the poor; it seeks their emancipation. And churches cannot be silent in the face of growing inequality and desperation. People of faith must "go forth" and be willing to be "bruised, hurting and dirty" in the cause of justice. This is a charge all of us, whatever our faith, should take to heart.

Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. is founder and president of the Chicago-based Rainbow PUSH Coalition. You can keep up with his work at www.rainbowpush.org.





Entergy New Orleans is Prepared for Winter Weather

Company offers safety, money-saving and other tips

Winter weather has arrived in the New Orleans area.

Here are some convenient tips for keeping your family and home warm and safe this winter season. For more, visit Entergy's safety page.

Stay Comfortable for Less

Besides urging customers to keep safety at the forefront, Entergy New Orleans also offers tips to help customers battle winter's chill, while still keeping a lid on energy bills:

- Adjust the thermostat. During winter months, grab a sweater or a blanket to stay toasty, and set the thermostat to 68 degrees. Every degree higher can add 3 percent to your bill.
- Conserve hot water. Wrap your electric water heater with a water heater blanket and set the thermostat to 120 degrees or medium.
- Replace air and furnace filters every 30 days or as required by the type of filter.
- When you change your light bulbs, replace them with energy-efficient models. Entergy

recommends Energy Starqualified compact fluorescent light bulbs that use 70 percent less energy and last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

• Seal air leaks. Install weather stripping around doors, windows and any location where there may be a path between the inside and outside of your home.

More tips, as well as clear, do-it-yourself videos, to help put these ideas to work can be found at entergyneworleans.com/savemoney.

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Q93 Clear Channel DJ Wild Wayne is Invited to Participate in 2013 White House Youth Summit

New Orleans radio personality, Q93 deejay, Wild Wayne (Wayne Benjamin) has been invited to the 2013 White

House Youth Summit. The Summit, being held Wednesday, December 4, 2013 in Washington, D.C., is a briefing and discussion with Senior White House and Administration Officials on the Affordable Care Act and other issues affecting young Americans. Benjamin will be participating in forum discussions, with other community leaders and young people, regarding the Affordable Care Act and it's impact on America's youth.

Benjamin's foothold in the New Orleans community, as a radio personality and philanthropist, including The Benjamin Foundation, the non-profit he founded and chairs, makes him uniquely knowledgeable when it comes to understanding the plight of New Orleans youth. "New Orleans youth have died violently at an alarming rate for decades. I'm interested in discussing with White



House Administration the idea of keeping them alive and how the Affordable Care Act has the potential to improve their quality of life," Benjamin stated. "If they're not alive healthcare is irrelevant."

According to the New Orleans Health Department's 2012 Behavioral Health in New Orleans Report: "Ensuring that behavioral health is an essential part of health and well-being for children, youth, and families in New Orleans is a step towards ensuring a healthy community. However, the behavioral health and mental system in New Orleans remains a

community is mental health analysis. Post Katrina there has never been a systemic and holistic analysis on the overall psyche of the youth of New Orleans." He continued, "After such a catastrophic event, a strongly funded initiative should have been orchestrated. More than likely the wave of youth violence and turmoil is a direct correlation to the PTSD and mental health issues from Katrina's effect." Benjamin also hosts a weekly talk show called Real Talk New Orleans that has addressed the city's lack of mental health initiatives and programs available to the New Orleans youth community.

The New Orleans Health Department lists: a lack of coordination within the behavioral health system, poor linkages between behavioral health service providing agencies, a lack of coordination with other service providing systems and limited coordination and leadership for community visioning and strategic planning, as specific challenges to behavioral health in the New Orleans community.

On Monday, December 2nd at 8:00 p.m. ET, the public can join White House Deputy Senior Advisor for Communications David Simas, Kal Pen, and Young Invincibles for a Google+ Hangout. The live video chat will include: an announcement about the winners of the "Healthy Young America Video Contest," a preview of the upcoming Youth Summit, and questions taken about the Affordable Care Act. The public can watch the Hangout live on the White House Google+page at http://plus. google.com/+whitehouse. Additionally, on December 4th, The Summit will be streamed live starting at 2:00 pm ET on Whitehouse.gov/live.



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fragile system that is continually evolving with the changing landscape of health care." Benjamin says, "A major issue in the New Orleans youth

Tulane Green Wave Accepts 2013 R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl Invitation

Louisiana Teams to Face Off at 13th Annual Bowl Game

R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl Officials today invited the Tulane Green Wave to represent Conference USA against the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns at the 2013 New Orleans Bowl on Dec. 21 at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome.

Executive Director for the bowl, Billy Ferrante, voiced his excitement for having the Green Wave in the game for the first time. "We're looking forward to having Tulane in this year's matchup. It's very exciting for us to have a team located right in our own backyard, and we couldn't be more pleased to share this bowl experience with their team, coaches and fans. Having two Louisiana teams playing in the Dome for the first time will undoubtedly let the good times bowl."

Tulane finished their season 7-5, and will make their first



bowl appearance since the 2002 ConAgra Hawai'i Bowl. Entering his first bowl experience as the Green Wave's head coach, Curtis Johnson was excited to accept the invitation on behalf of his team. "Playing in our first bowl game in over a decade, and having it in our

hometown is an ideal situation for our team. We have worked extremely hard to get here and we're excited that our fans will get the opportunity to experience the highlight of our season."

The Green Wave's dynamic defense has only allowed 21.2 points

per game, which is 22nd overall in the NCAA and a huge improvement over last year's average of 38.4 points per game. Sophomore cornerback Lorenzo Doss is tied for second in the NCAA in interceptions with seven this season, and Tulane is tied for seventh in team interceptions with 16. The Green Wave leads college football in interception yards with 362.

This will be the Green Wave's first appearance in the R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl. They join former Conference USA representatives East Carolina, Southern Miss, Rice and Memphis.

The 2013 R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl will be played on Dec. 21 at 8 p.m. (CST) in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome, and will be broadcast on ESPN and ESPN Radio.

For more information on the R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl, visit www.neworleansbowl.org.

