

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

The Big Day is Here!



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Data News Weekly

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Election Day Draws Near Data News Weekly Endorsements for the December 6th Election



Janet Ahern



Mary Landrieu

Desiree Cook Calvin

By Edwin Buggage

It is time again to make it to the polls on December 6th to exercise your civic duty and vote. In this cycle leading up to the general election we lost a few days of early voting because of the Thanksgiving Holiday, but we must not let that stop us from getting out and vote on Election Day. As always we stress that these as are all elections important. And many have fought for our right to have our voices heard and to have a hand in electing those who serve us. We are at the finish line in this election cycle and we must get out and vote

because it is our future that is at stake. In the upcoming election we endorse the following candidates and millage that will help fund the rebuilding of some of our schools.

U.S. Senate: Mary Landrieu

After placing first in the primary Mary Landrieu has shown why she should be re-elected as our U.S. Senator; taking off the gloves and talking about why she and not Bill Cassidy should represent the people of our state on Capitol Hill. Throughout her career in politics Mary Landrieu has been a strong advocate for many

of the diverse people and interest in our state. She is a person who works with people on both sides of the aisle and is an independent voice that for nearly two decades has fought for what's best for Louisianan's regardless of their party affiliation, race or social class. She has a record of being a bridge builder bringing people under one tent finding areas of common interest unlike her opponent Bill Cassidy who is doing his best to emphasize our differences. This in my opinion hurts the people of our state.

When we look at her record we see clearly why she should be re-elected. Mary Landrieu has worked to

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fight for funds for our HBCU's (Historically Black Colleges and Universities). In addition she's worked to protect the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that has come under attack from Republicans to keep us away from the polls. She's also fought for our state to receive funding to help rebuild New Orleans and the surrounding areas post Katrina. Most importantly, she chairs and is on committees that are important to the future of Louisiana, and that is what this election is about the future of our state and moving it forward and not dragging it into the politics and policies of the past.

Judge Domestic Court Section 2: Janet Ahern

After a strong showing in the Primary Election we feel Janet Ahern is the best person to occupy the bench in Domestic Court. She has the experience and the vision to transform the court and move it into the 21st Century. While she has racked up endorsements from many elected officials she is also an independent candidate not tied to the past and we feel this is important. Ahern is an experienced attorney handling family law cases for over two decades. She understands that many of the cases she will be presiding over take someone who understands that a more holistic approach is sometimes necessary to address these issues. It is wellknown that sometimes problems in Juvenile Court arise where cases take longer than they should to be resolved, Ahern plans to change that. She says if elected she will be more effective and efficient and clearing her docket so there are no delays in her courtroom.

Judge Juvenile Court Section E: Desiree Cook Calvin

Desiree Cook- Calvin is a skilled attorney and has nearly two decades of experience as an attorney dealing extensively with cases and matters of family, juvenile, and criminal law. She is also civically active serving on the Board of Directors for Community Volunteers Association, the Board of Trustees at Household of Faith Church. In addition she's served as a Domestic Violence Attorney for the YWCA. This type of civic engagement is important because of the unique nature of being a judge in Juvenile Court. She believes Juvenile Court is the place to offer an opportunity to turn a life around. While tough she is compassionate and supports rehabilitation and giving youth a second chance. She feels this approach will not only save the City

money, but save the lives of young people. This is what we need in Juvenile Court, someone who is tough, but practical, compassionate and fiscally responsible. In these tough times for our City we need someone like Desiree Cook-Calvin on the bench.

School Building Millage: Yes

It is important that we vote yes on the school building millage. People from many different sectors are supporting this because we must invest in our children's future. It has been nearly 10 years and while we received almost 2 billion dollars to rebuild our schools which was great, but these building still need to be maintained. We cannot allow our schools to fall into disrepair; we must make this investment in our young people. This is a win win because we can extend and repurpose an existing millage for the maintenance of our schools without raising taxes or taking monies that are used for instruction. This is important we support this measure so that we ensure our young people have school building that are clean neat, safe and well maintained.



Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) Week: Easton Hosts 6th Annual SAVE/No Place for Hate

Challenge Day Program on Friday, Dec. 5

Lusher, McMain, St. Augustine and the International High School to participate in anti-bullying conference

Warren Easton Charter High School is hosting its 6th Annual SAVE Week, a unique educational awareness event focusing on effective ways to prevent and reduce youth violence and bullying. Warren Easton Charter High School and its Student Council will join the Student Council members of Lusher, McMain, St. Augustine and the International High School for this year's SAVE/No Place for Hate Challenge Day Program which will take place on Friday, December 5, 8am



High School. The school is located

- 2:30pm at Warren Easton Charter at 3019 Canal Street, N.O., LA 70119 in the school's auditorium.

As part of Easton's SAVE week, Easton is uniting several high schools in their efforts to address bullying by hosting an in-school violence prevention conference on the campaign's "Challenge Day". Roundtable discussions among students will devise strategies and action plans to reduce youth violence and bullying throughout the year.

Challenge Day is a transformational day of fun, leadership and empowerment that can change the way people view one another by providing tools to students to help stop the teasing, violence and alienation that can be a part of the school experience for many young people every day. Challenge Day will have games, trust-building activities, presentations, motiva-

tional speakers and more. The focus will be on teen pregnancy prevention and LGBTQ, and HIV/ AIDS Awareness via the Institute of Women and Ethnic Studies.

Challenge Day was started by Warren Easton's alumnus Bernell Elzey in 2009 and was so successful, Easton began inviting other schools to attend. This year's attendees include Lusher High School, McMain High School, St. Augustine and International High School. The program has allowed Warren Easton Charter High School to be nationally recognized as the only SAVE School in Louisiana and a No Place for Hate School.

According to the National Crime Prevention Council, about 160,000 kids won't go to school today for fear of being bullied.

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Phillis Wheatley School Welcomes a Special Guest



During a support trip to New Orleans in support of Senator Mary Landriey, former Governor of Delaware Tom Caper (pictured above with students), stopped by the Phillis Wheatley School to greet the staff, the school board admin-

istrators and students. The New Orleans School Superintendent and Gov. Caper discussed the progress the students have made in all areas of curriculum, followed by Mr. Nolan Marshall, President of the New Orleans Parish School Board.



Mayor's Office Announces 2018 Commission Leaders for NOLA's 300th Anniversary

On Monday, Dec. 1, 2014, Mayor Mitch Landrieu introduced the leadership charged with developing New Orleans' 300th anniversary celebration activities in 2018. The 2018 Commission will organize international, national and local partners for the planning of celebrations in honor of the city's history and future.

"As we approach 2018, we have the unique opportunity to thoughtfully set a course to a better city," said Mayor Landrieu. "New Orleans is already on a roll-schools are improving, our economy is getting stronger, and murder is at a historic 30-year low. However, we still have work to do. I have enlisted the help of key leaders in our community to ensure that when we reach this 300year milestone, New Orleans is the city we always wanted her to be."

The 2018 Commission is a privately-funded endeavor that aims to

implement programs and projects throughout the community that appropriately celebrate the 300th anniversary. With Mayor Landrieu and First Lady Cheryl Landrieu serving as Honorary Co-chairs, the commission will work to lead a fully recovered New Orleans into the next 300 years. The Mayor and First Lady identified a group of individuals who have demonstrated leadership in their chosen fields to serve on the 2018 Commission. Mark Romig, President and CEO of the New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation will serve as the director.

Over the next three years, the Executive Committee will advise the commission on the best way to celebrate the city's journey as a people since its founding in 1718. Executive committee members include: Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews; Tom and Gayle Benson; Donna Brazile; Drew Brees; Leah Chase; James Carville; Patricia Clarkson; Harry Connick, Jr.; Dr. Norman Francis; Steve Gleason; Russel Honore; Walter Isaacson; Rita Benson LeBlanc; Wynton Marsalis; Mary Matalin and Sybil Morial.

"Celebrating the 300th Anniversary of New Orleans gives us a rare opportunity to not only commemorate our past, but to also evaluate and shape our future. I am honored to be help lead this historic effort," said Dr. Francis.

"The 300-year history of New Orleans is a tale of creativity, enterprise, turmoil, triumph, and the magic of diversity," said Isaacson. "I look forward to celebrating it all and looking at how it propels us into the future."

In addition to the Executive Committee, Mayor Landrieu chose individuals to chair eight subcommittees that focus on specific sectors of the community. The Racial Reconciliation Committee was formed to create opportunities for citizens to come together to have open dialogues about race relations in the city of New Orleans and to build relationships that will lead to a more inclusive city in 2018 where everyone can prosper. This committee is co-chaired by Flozell Daniels, Allison Plyer, Matt Wisdom and Carol Bebelle.

The other seven committees will also have distinct goals within their industries. The Finance Committee is co-chaired by Warner Williams and Norma Jane Sabiston; the Cultural & Historical Education Committee is co-chaired by Lee Hampton and Priscilla Lawrence; the Community Engagement Committee is co-chaired by Jade Russell

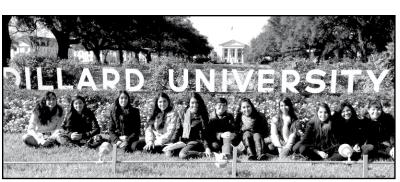
and Curry Smith; the International Engagement Committee is chaired by Frances Fayard; the Media and Branding Committee is co-chaired by Leslie Jacobs and Michael Hecht; the Expat Engagement Committee is co-chaired by Deborah Elam and Tim Williamson; and the Signature Events and Hospitality is co-chaired by Darryl Berger and Michael Smith.

In the coming months, the 2018 Commission will continue to engage the community to serve in various capacities. The commission also seeks to collaborate with organizations across the city to create a comprehensive calendar of all events, conventions or programs related to the 300th anniversary.

The public is invited to visit www.2018nola.com to sign up to receive more information and updates on the 300th anniversary activities

Dillard Welcomes Language Learners from Mexico





Dillard University's Center for Intensive Language (CIEL) welcomed a group of Proyecta program to study the English language over the course of four weeks during Fall 2014. The Proyecta 100,000 Program is an effort by the Mexican government to provide opportunities for its citizens, both students and teachers, to study at institutions of higher education in the United States. The group arrived on November 13 and will depart on Dec. 13.

Dillard is one of the 157 U.S. English as a Second Language (ESL) programs that will host 20 participants from Mexico's over 7,500 Mexican learners. "The goal of the Mexican Government is to send 100,000 college students and teachers to the U.S.," said Aurea Diab, interim director of the CIEL Program. "We hope this group is the first of many others who will come to Dillard throughout next year".

Over the past two years, Dillard has trained 106 learners in its CIEL program: 48 teachers and 55 students from Brazil and three students from Pakistan.



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HEART OF OUR WORK



A Winner Never Quits and and Loser Never Wins

Photos and Story by Brisket

This celebration was not just a single celebration, Grambling University wasn't able to pull off this year's Bayou Classic against Southern University, however, Korick Wilkerson a graduate of Grambling did. Congratulations are in order for his discipline, persistence and accomplishment. On December 9th. 2014 Mr. Wilkerson will receive his MASTERS Degree in Sports Administration from Grambling and while he's walking down the aisles of success his cousin, St. Augustine's graduate, Stanley Morgan will be packing his bags for the University of Nebraska thanks to his football scholarship, drive and family support. A private "Great Job" celebration was held by the graduate's parents, close friends and family members with a special appearance from New Orleans born, former Saints defensive back, Tyrone C. Hughes.

Hats off to both Korick & Stanley, good luck, From us at Data weekly News. We are proud of both of you and behind you 100%.



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

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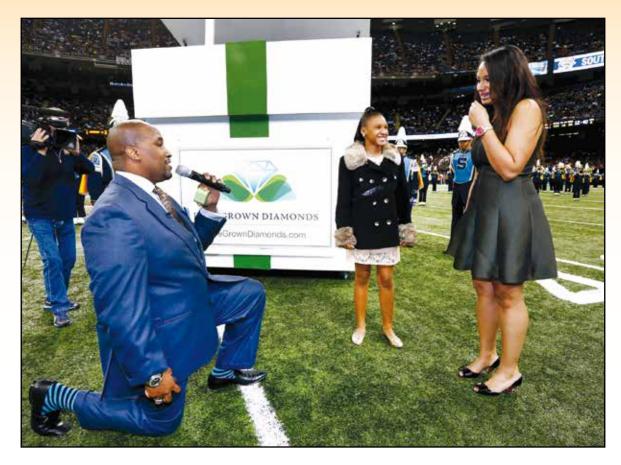


Real Talk for Real Times...

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She Said Yes Y'all!

Former Jaguar Proposes During Bayou Classic Halftime



As Southern University's Marching Band formed human letters spelling-out, "Marry Me," a special half-time squad rolled-out a ginormous Pure Grown Diamonds gift box to mid-field where alumnus Calvin Mills, Jr. proposed to Brittany Ramsey before a crowd of 52,700 at Saturday's 41st annual football game with Grambling State.

Ramsey's 12-year-old daughter, Ajaya, ascended from the massive box-top and handed-off a 2.62 carat, pearshaped Pure Grown Diamonds ring to Mills. Whilst on one knee, he slipped it on Ramsey's finger when he "popped-the-question."

"She said, Yes!" lit-up on the Superdome's Jumbotron. The Baton Rouge fiancé and Fiancée received a standing ovation from thousands of spectators that witnessed the marriage proposal.

Mills, 37, is a native of New Orleans; a three-time champion Southern University Jaguars' forward back (1997 – 1999); now President and CEO of Baton Rouge's, CMC Technologies.

Ramsey, 30, is a public advocate for the Louisiana Housing Alliance and AmeriCorps. She is one of the first people to preview one of the most unique diamonds in the world – the results of decades of research and development.

The proposal event and the engagement ring were provided by Pure Grown Diamonds of New York.

Data News Weekly is Hiring

Data News Weekly Newspaper, The People's Paper, is hiring for two positions in our New Orleans Office.

Editor/Reporters

About the Job

Journalists — tired of reading of layoffs, closings, the dire straights of the profession? Recent college graduates — think your job prospects are bleak? Not with us!

At Columbia-Greene Media, we are expanding! This includes starting a print newspaper/digital endeavor in one of the most dynamic and exciting cities, New Orleans.

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If interested, send your resume, cover letter and at least three clips of your work to Terry Jones Publisher, Data News Weekly, 3501 Napoleon Ave, New Orleans, LA 70125, or via email to terrybjones@bellsouth.net. or call (504) 821-7421.

Sales Manager/Retail Ad Manager

About the Job

Data News Weekly Newspaper is the leading African American media company in New Orleans, publishing a weekly newspaper. Additionally, its website under ladatanews.com is the most read Black website in the region.

We are currently seeking a strong leader to proactively manage broad aspects of the advertising division. You will be working in a positive team-oriented atmosphere which has a modern press, leading website and award-winning newspaper.

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- Drive online and cross platform advertising sales
 Identify, create strategies, develop influential contacts,
- and help close new digital products
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- Develop a team sales atmosphere

Our ideal candidate will possess the following education,

- skills and experience:
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 - Self-starter, capable of executing within all phases of sales cycle
 - Strong relationship building and client service background
 Strong organizational, communication and presentation
 - skills
 - Team player and leade
 - Understanding of Analytics and ad serving technology
 - Strong motivational skills
 - Recruit talent

Our company provides a competitive salary, and an environment that encourages personal and professional growth. We are an equal opportunity employer.

If you are interested in a rewarding career, email a cover letter and resume to: terrybjones@bellsouth.net or mail to: Data News Weekly, c/o Terry Jones, Publisher, 3501 Napoleon Avenue, New Orleans LA 70125

Mr. President: Come to Ferguson, Mo.



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

Ferguson is too important to be treated on the margins. It is too important to lead the news one day, and disappear the next. The shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, the police response to the demonstrations that followed, the horror of a clearly biased prosecutor driving a grand jury to fail to make an indictment – all this isn't simply about Ferguson. There is a Ferguson in every metropolitan area of America. At times, a single incident throws a powerful light on a reality. Ferguson is one of those times. And to insure that this reality is not simply discussed in passing, but dealt with, elevated to the top of the national agenda, President Obama should come to Ferguson.

In 1965, one week after the police riot that greeted peaceful demonstrators trying to cross Edmund Pettis Bridge in Selma, Lyndon Johnson addressed a joint session of Congress, calling on them to pass the Voting Rights Act, and making the electric promise that "we shall overcome." Johnson knew that the Selma horrors exposed a reality that could no longer be ignored. It was time to act. He committed his presence and his presidency for force that action.

In 1967, after riots broke out in cities across the country, Johnson convened a commission headed by Illinois Gov. Otto Kerner with a mandate to probe the causes of the riots and recommend actions so that these tragedies would not be repeated.

The Kerner Commission's conclusion - that we were moving toward " two societies, one white and one black, separate and unequal" - captured the nation's attention. The commission concluded that African Americans saw the police as an occupying force, dispatched to protect the privileges of Whites, and insensitive to the protection of the minority community's lives or rights. It found that disparate underlying conditions providing the kindling that could be sparked by incidents at any time, and that these conditions were present across the country, including racially segregated communities, scarred by inferior schools, high unemployment, inadequate public services from public

transport to parks to hospitals.

The Commission called for action, and demanded that it be accompanied by a budget sufficient to make the changes necessary. The growing war in Vietnam squelched those hopes.

Twenty-four years later, after Los Angeles riots that followed acquittal of the four white policemen in the beating of Rodney King ended in 60 deaths and a billion dollars of damages the Christopher Commission was created to probe the causes, finding that not much had changed.

The country cannot afford neglect for another quarter century. It is time to act. President Obama should come to Ferguson. He should lay out the structural realities that lie exposed in the wake of the shooting of Michael Brown – and that are common to cities across the country. He should demand action on an agenda for reviving these communities, and rebuilding trust and hope.

A high level commission, chaired by distinguished bipartisan leadership, could probe the conditions that produce that shooting and others like it across the country. Its focus should be less on the behavior of police and more on the conditions of the community. It should assess the system of criminal injustice, but go beyond to the structural realities that create Fergusons. Its report should be clear and pointed; its reform agenda comprehensive, with a budget attached. The president should include that in his next budget, and call on the Congress and the country to act.

Ferguson, like Selma, exposes injustice that has been building for years. The president's engagement can make Ferguson, like Selma, a Commentary, Continued

on page 11.

Nobody Knows the Trouble We've Seen



Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. NNPA Columnist

Nobody knows the trouble I've seen Nobody knows my sorrow Nobody knows the trouble I've seen Glory hallelujah!

Those are the opening lyrics to "Nobody knows the trouble I've seen," a spiritual with roots as a slave song. It was originally called, "Nobody Knows The Trouble I've Had." The enormously gifted Marian Anderson popularized "Nobody knows the trouble I've seen" in 1925. Different versions were subsequently rendered by Lena Horne, Paul Robeson, Louis Armstrong, and Sam Cooke.

In the wake of the latest mis-

carriage of justice in the Michael Brown case in Ferguson, Mo., the song once again has a relevance to the continuing reality of racial injustice for Black Americans.

> Sometimes I'm up, sometimes I'm down Oh, yes, Lord Sometimes I'm almost to the ground Oh, yes, Lord Although you see me going 'long so Oh, yes, Lord I have my trials here below Oh, yes, Lord

Nobody knows the pain of Michael Brown's parents. Nobody knows the utter disgust of the Black American community across the nation after the grand jury in Ferguson failed to indict Darren Wilson.

The writing and singing of spirituals are an important aspect of the tradition and long struggle for freedom and justice in America. We are a spirit-filled people. Our poetry, songs and cultural responses to the conditions and contradictions that we face have always helped us to not accept injustice, and to persevere even in the face of violence.

Marching for equal justice is also therapeutic. The NAACP, our oldest civil rights organization, is about to conclude a 7-day march from Ferguson to Jefferson City, the state capital, to protest the Michael Brown injustice and to proposed corrective remedies. NAACP President and CEO Cornell William Brooks stated, "We stand committed to continue our fight against racial profiling, police brutality and the militarization of local authorities. Our 'Journey for Justice: Ferguson to Jefferson City' march is the first of many demonstrations to show both the country and the world that the NAACP and our allies will not stand down until systemic change, accountability and justice in cases of police misconduct are served for Michael Brown and the countless other men and women who lost their lives to such police misconduct."

We hope that the march and the other protest activities that are being planned will involve the growing number of young activists and leaders who are emerging in St Louis County and on the national scene. We need to propose solutions to local, state and federal bodies to take corrective action. Beyond singing and marching, we need to get more civil rights laws enacted to stop police brutality and racial profiling.

Fifty years ago, in response to the racially-motivated police violence to suppress the voting rights of Black Americans in Selma, Ala. and throughout the Deep South, the Civil Rights Movement was successful in getting the 1965 Voting Rights Act passed by Congress and signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

There are numerous issues that arise out of the killing of Michael Brown. Unjustified propensity by police officers to use deadly force against Black Americans and other persons of color, the improper and inadequate training of police officers, racism in the flawed criminal justice system, prosecutorial misconduct, and the systemic racial oppression are all issues that need be addressed more effectively.

We support the efforts of President Barack Obama and some of his key domestic policy advisers, such as Roy L. Austin, Jr., who are proposing the development and enactment of the "Michael Brown Law." If enacted, the new law would require all state, county, and local police to wear a body video camera. Of course this is just one solution, but it is a much needed and achievable step in the right direction to hold police officers accountable for their actions, especially when deadly force is used.

If a picture is worth a thousand words, a fully-functioning video camera attached to police officers could be worth millions of words – and save thousands of lives in the process. As we campaign for passage of the law, we must continue to be vigilante and never cease singing our spirituals.

If you get there before I do

Oh, yes, Lord

Tell all-a my friends I'm coming to Heaven!

Oh, yes, Lord

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and can be reached for national advertisement sales and partnership proposals at: dr.bchavis@ nnpa.org; and for lectures and other professional consultations at: http://drbenjaminfchavisjr.wix. com/drbfc

"Double Bill" Cassidy the Wrong Prescription for Louisiana Voters



Terry B. Jones Publisher, Data News Weekly

As we are nearing Election Day it is becoming clearer that we must elect Mary Landrieu and not Bill Cassidy for the U.S. Senate. During the debate it was evident who would best serve the people of our great state. Mary Landrieu showed that she has what it takes to be a leader and that is someone who can build coalitions and bring people together around the issues that matter the most to voters. Also she showed something that Cassidy seems to lack and that is honesty, integrity and not afraid to defend her record.

This is what we need in the U.S. Senate someone who has integrity. We need someone who is honest and will work for all the people of Louisiana. This is something that was on full display during the debates. Landrieu had it and Cassidy did not. For these reasons and many others Bill Cassidy is a bad choice for Louisiana voters.

Throughout this election cycle Dr. Bill Cassidy speaks about his experience as a physician; even appearing in some of his political ads with scrubs and a lab coat. This is interesting in light of a recent report that raises questions about time sheets that indicate Cassidy was charging for work he didn't perform as a member of LSU Medical School staff. Cassidy was paid \$20,000 a year to teach in LSU medical school clinics.

It's been reported that on at least 21 different occasions during the last two and a half years, Rep. Bill Cassidy billed Louisiana State University Health Science Center for work allegedly performed on the same days as Congress voted on major legislation and held important committee hearings on energy and the Affordable Care Act, according to records first posted by Jason Berry of The American Zombie.

In light of these allegations LSU will investigate the part-time employment of Congressman Bill Cassidy, according to a statement released on December 1, 2014. "Based on concerns that have surfaced in the news media, we will review any information we have regarding Dr. Bill Cassidy's employment with LSU, just as we would any other employee," according to the statement released by the LSU Press Office.

Questions surround his "double billing" was brought up during a recent debate with incumbent U.S. Senator from Louisiana Mary Landrieu. At which time he did what he's been known to do is to avoid answering questions about his record and mention the two words that's become synonymous with his campaign "Barack Obama."

This has become what he's relied on for way too long. Hiding from his record, now as we get closer to Election Day it is important that people know the truth about "Double Bill Cassidy" a man who runs from his record and the truth. But one thing is certainly true and that is that Dr. Bill Cassidy is the wrong prescription for Louisiana, so on Election Day cast your ballot for Mary Landrieu.

Parent Choice is the Path to Success



Derrell Bradford The New York Campaign for Achievement Now

When I graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in the mid 90's, I moved to New York City. And I did what most young folks did then: found the cheapest apartment I could afford in the nicest neighborhood possible. That place was a first-floor front studio near Central Park. The block was lovely, but I lived in the worst building on it. Sanitation workers used to wake me up when they threw the cans against my outside windows. In the winter, I heated the place with my open stove. And if anything broke, it took forever to get it fixed.

I paid about three-fourths of what I made to live in that apartment, and my landlord knew that. And because of this, our relationship was uneasy. I only pushed so hard to get things fixed because I couldn't afford to move. She only did enough to make it barely livable. And we both knew there were hundreds of kids, just like me, ready to take my spot if I decided to head back home. It was all win for her and, because I could not move, all lose me.

My relationship with my old landlord is the same relationship most parents and children of color, particularly in cities, have with their neighborhood schools and school districts. The quality of instruction is poor and, according to the Office of Civil Rights, students are far more likely to be taught by a teacher who is out of subject specialization than elsewhere. There are 90 schools in New York City, for instance, where not one minority child passed the recent round of state tests. These kids and families are stuck with their schools just like my old landlord and I were; the school only giving what it must, and the family desperate to get more for their child's education.

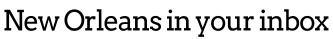
Eventually I got lucky, got a new job, and moved to a better apartment. For most folks, however, moving to a better "building," or a school or school district in this case, just isn't an option.

If you have money or influence in America, you don't even blink when your local school doesn't deliver. You know you can "move" to a private school or another school district, and the local school does too. So if that power is good enough for the wealthiest and most influential, why shouldn't we give low-income families in southwest Baltimore where I'm from, or Newark, or New York the same options? As a child I got a scholarship to an excellent school and that changed my life, forever, and there is no day I don't wake up and know how blessed I am because of it. "Parent Choice" in education is the one thing that can help families, just like mine, and help them today. Take a lesson from my old landlord. Your zip code and your income might dictate where you live...but they shouldn't determine your child's future.

Derrell Bradford

Executive Director The New York Campaign for Achievement Now (NYCAN)

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10 Ways to Wake Up Without a Cup of Coffee

by Kate Bratskeir

NNPA Newswire - Coffee is good. Coffee is great. More than half of adults in the U.S. think so, drinking a cup of the stuff every day. The habit has been shown to lower the risk for diabetes, depression and some cancers.

While many of us count on a cup to wake us up in the morning, drinking coffee isn't the only way to energize yourself for the day ahead. Whether you're trying to cut back on your coffee consumption or have never been able to warm up to the beverage's bitter taste, check out the 10 other things that can invigorate your sleepy mornings.

Try Some Uplifting Stretches

"Fish pose" — lie flat on your back and bring your hands underneath your hips. Then, lift your chest above your shoulders and stretch your head back slowly. Fish pose is just one yogic move that stimulates the body

Chomp On An Apple

Taking a bite of this energizing fruit is a delicious way to jolt your body into gear. Apples contain

natural sugars and other carbohydrates that can help stabilize your blood sugar. Other fruits, like bananas and oranges, will do the same. Pair a fruit with a protein, like a serving of Greek yogurt, for sustained satiety.

Roll Out Of Bed And Work Out Heading out-

side for a morning run may be the last thing you want to do while comfy under warm covers, but lacing up your sneaks in the a.m. has been shown to boost your mood and energy levels. Exercise releases endorphins that'll make you feel good and more prepared for the day. You don't have to go on a five-mile run to reap these benefits. Try something like the seven-minute workout (which takes about the same amount of time it'd take to brew and drink a cup of coffee) and earn yourself a jolt.



Get Some Fresh Air And Sunlight

If you're really not down for a morning workout, consider going for a gentle stroll for your boost. The proverbial "breath of fresh air" has been shown to reduce feelings of stress and fatigue. Getting a dose of morning sun is linked with better mood and lower BMI — a double-win.

Take A Cold Shower

Yes, it's miserable (but you will get used to it if you turn it into a habit), but the instant change in temperature can actually relieve stress and make you feel more alert.

If the idea is too much (or too cold) for you, start simple by splashing your face with some cool water. It'll have similar stress-relieving powers.

Pour Yourself A Very Cold Glass Of Water

Still feeling temperature shy? Compromise by drinking a cup of ice water first thing in the morning. Like the shower, it'll trigger your adrenaline and boost blood flow to vour brain.

Try Tea

If you enjoy the ritual of sipping something warm in the morning, swap your cup of coffee for tea. The drink still contains caffeine (though considerably less) for a little buzz, as well as many other benefits, including strengthening the immune system and lowering blood pressure.

Call Mom

Chatting up anyone with whom you feel a close personal connection can help charge you up.

But Mom may be best at it. She may have been the one to holler your name during the days you slept on a bunk bed, and she still might be the one to pull you from your groggy state. Research suggests merely phoning your dear mother could help decrease feelings of stress.

Give Yourself A Massage

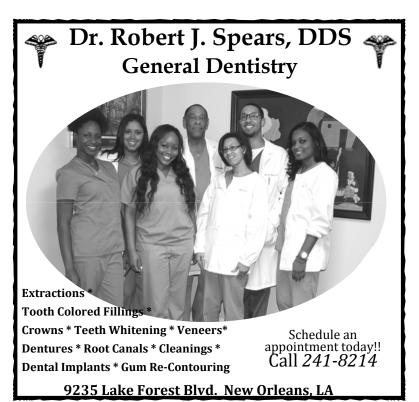
One study found that performing a little acupressure could assist in providing a bit of energy. As Huff-Post reported in 2013:

The study had volunteers stimulate five pressure points on the body for three minutes each: the top of the head, the point between your thumb and index finger, right below the center of the knee cap, below the ball of the foot and the base of your neck.

Make Morning Its **Own Soundtrack**

Craft yourself an a.m. playlist packed with your favorite energizing tunes and listen to it while you're getting ready in the morning. It'll help jazz you up.

Everyone with Diabetes Counts Program to Offer Free Classes to Community



NNPA Newswire - National Diabetes Awareness Month may have just ended, but, the Quality Insights Quality Innovation Network's Everyone with Diabetes Counts (EDC) program is gearing up to provide free diabetes education to Medicare beneficiaries throughout Louisiana.

The EDC program is a national initiative of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). It is administered by Quality Insights in Delaware, Louisiana, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The program offers free classes that are open to people with Medicare, their family members and caregivers. The classes are designed to help participants take control of their diabetes and change their life. Participants will learn about diabetes risks, nutrition, weight management, how to properly manage



Everyone with Diabetes Counts

medications and much more.

Month gave us an opportunity to reflect on the impact that diabetes has on the community and discuss how people can take action to make a real difference," Chris Gatlin, Project Manager for the EDC program in Louisiana, said. "The key message is that people can control their diabetes and change their lives."

In addition to offering free classes to the community, the EDC program will work with health care

providers and community volunteers by training them to teach classes themselves. The program will also engage community partners and

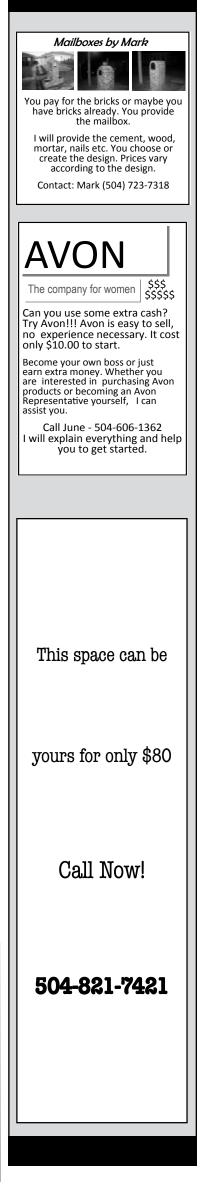
stakeholders to support efforts by "National Diabetes Awareness promoting classes within the community, donating meeting space, recruiting potential new trainers and much more.

> Visit www.qualityinsights-qin. org for more information about the EDC program or contact Chris Gatlin, Quality Improvement Manager, by calling (225) 248-7035 or emailing christine. gatlin@hcqis.org. For more information on Diabetes Awareness Month, visit www.diabetes.org.

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Blacks Still Trail Whites and Latinos in Getting Treated for HIV

By Freddie Allen NNPA Senior Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – Blacks who have been diagnosed with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) continue to lag behind Whites and Latinos when it comes to getting linked to care, increasing the chances that they could spread the disease to others.

Just 76 percent of Blacks, who have been diagnosed, are linked to care for HIV, the lowest rate of all racial and ethnic groups. Eightyfive percent of Whites who are living with HIV are receiving treatment.

"Engaging and retaining people in HIV care has to be a top priority in our HIV response, said Jonathan Mermin, the director the National Center for HIV, Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention at the CDC.

There are more than 1.2 million people living with HIV and 70 percent (839,336) of them have not achieved viral suppression, according to a recent report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). That's why the CDC has stepped up efforts to get more people who are living with HIV the healthcare they need.

Tom Frieden, the director of the CDC, said that because most people achieve viral suppression with the proper medication, it's important that people start treatment as soon as they're diagnosed. Viral suppression is suppressing or reducing the function and replication of a virus.

"HIV care and treatment not only work to improve health and prolong lives, but also to prevent new infections," said Frieden. "Yet, we're not reaching nearly enough people."

Frieden continued, "Treatment is particularly important, because



people with HIV who achieve viral suppression aren't just healthier, they are also less likely to infect others."

Blacks account for almost half of all new infections in the United States each year (44 percent) and more than one third of all people living with HIV (41 percent), according to the CDC.

"Among Blacks, men account for 70 percent of new HIV infections and women account for 30 percent," stated the CDC.

Eugene McCray, the director of the CDC's Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, said that within the Black community the disease really doesn't show any favoritism.

"It affects men, women, gay and straight, young and old," said Mc-Cray, adding that gay and bisexual men are the most affected, followed by heterosexual women. "But young Black, gay and bisexual men are by far the hardest hit."

• The CDC reported that young

Black men who have sex with men (MSM) account for more new HIV infections than any other subgroup of MSM.

- African American women accounted for 64 percent of AIDS diagnoses among all women in 2010, compared with 17 percent of Latino women 15 percent of White women.
- Although Black teens represent only 17 percent of the American teenager population, they account for 70 percent of new AIDS diagnoses among all teens.

McCray said that one of the greatest challenges to getting young Blacks into treatment is the lack of a diagnosis.

"Many don't know that they're infected," said McCray.

A lack of a strong social support system, lack of health insurance, lack of adequate youth friendlyservices, especially for Black youth, can all lead to poor access to care, McCray said. In an effort, to increase linkage and retention to care and access to prevention services and to decrease HIV/AIDS related deaths among people of color, the CDC launched the Care and Prevention in the United States (CAPUS) Demonstration Project. CAPUS provides \$44.2 million through eight state health departments in Georgia, Illinois Louisiana Mississippi, Missouri North Carolina Tennessee and Virginia.

McCray said that by targeting these states the CDC also hoped to have a particularly positive impact on the Black community, because with the exception of Missouri, each state has a higher population of Black residence than the national average.

In order to qualify for grants, jurisdictions had to have an AIDS diagnosis rate of more than 6 per 100,000 in 2010.

In FY 2012, more than \$14 million was awarded through CAPUS, the first year of the three-year project.

CAPUS program was designed to increase the number of people with HIV receiving ongoing medical treatment while reducing social, clinical and economic barriers to preventing HIV.

"The key to controlling the HIV epidemic is controlling the virus and that's true for all communities," said McCray. "Just 30 percent of people living with HIV have achieved viral suppression in all communities, Black and White. We need to improve our health outcomes along the entire continuum."

McCray added: "African Americans still bear the brunt of the HIV crisis in the U.S. When people get tested, if they learn that are HIV positive, it's important that they get linked to care and retained in care."

Commentary, Continued from page 8.

spur for long overdue reform. The risks of failure are great. The first African American president has understandable reluctance to challenge the country on civil rights or on the rights of Black communities. His cautious speech after the prosecutor's announcement of the grand jury decision reflected that.

But the risks were great when Eisenhower dispatched the troops to Little Rock to enforce school desegregation. They were great when Johnson promised to overcome in his speech on Voting Rights after Selma. Leadership involves taking risks. And the costs of acting, even if the Congress refuses act, are far less that the costs of moving on from Ferguson until the next child is shot and the next impoverished and isolated community erupts.

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.



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