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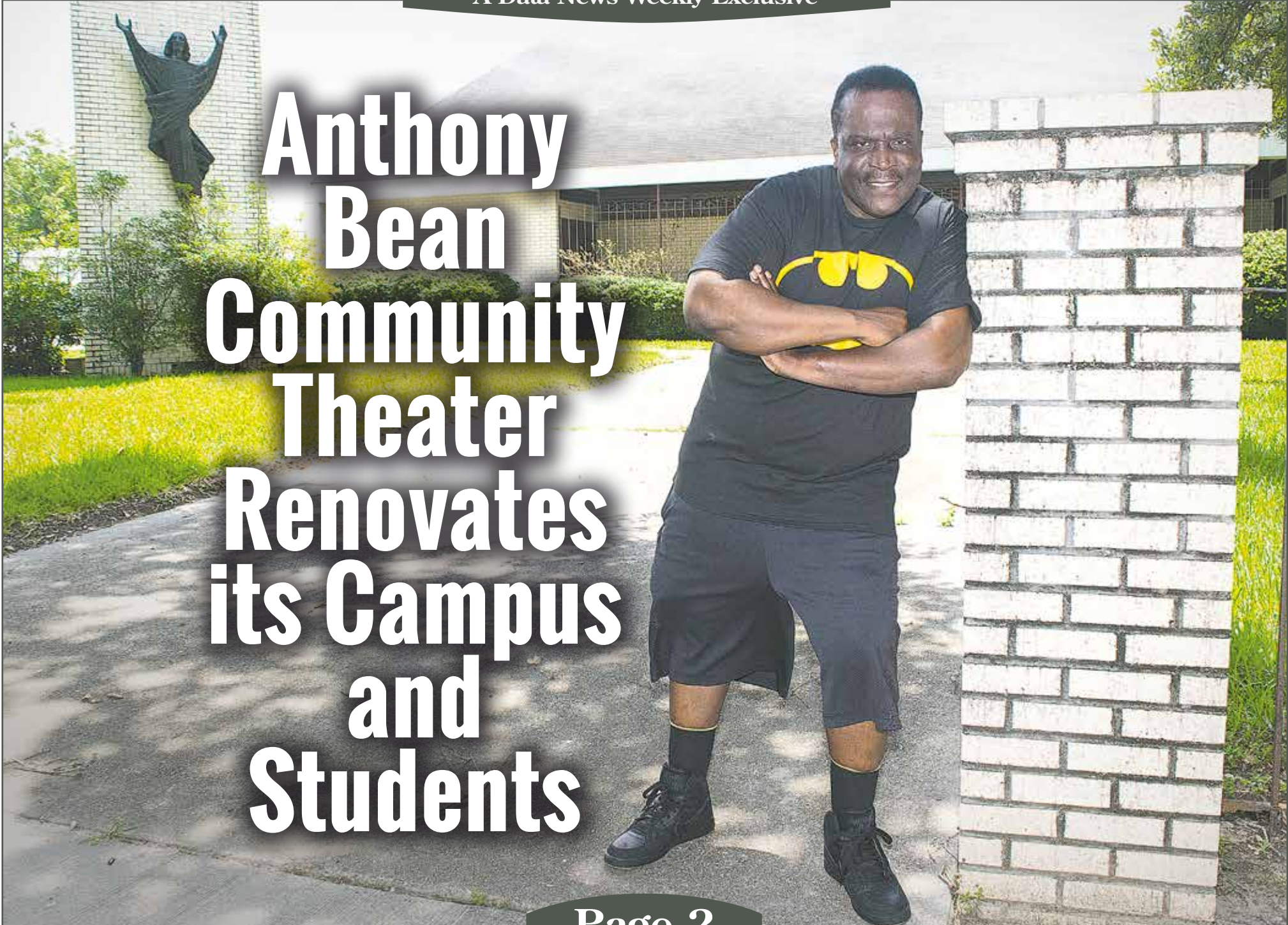
Happy Birthday Robert King!

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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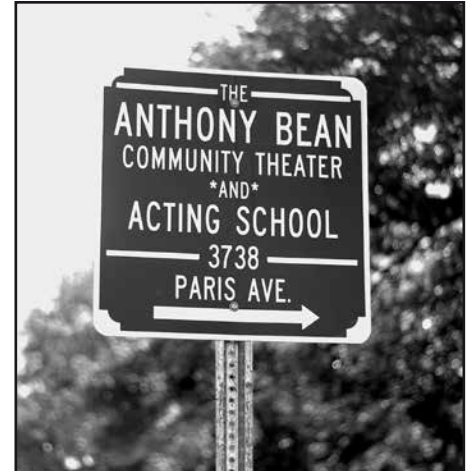


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Anthony Bean Community Theater Renovates its Campus and Students



Anthony Bean stands in front of his new Gentilly Anthony Bean Community Theatre campus. Renovations for the building are expected to be completed within the next two years.



The ABCT have over 140 students enrolled in its programs.

Eric Craig
Multimedia Editor

"504," "Simply Irma" and "Jungle Kings" are just a few of the many plays that this man's theater has displayed in the New Orleans commu-

nity over the last 16 years.

Anthony Bean, New Orleans-Native Playwright and Artistic Director, is currently overseeing new renovations for his Anthony Bean Community Theater. Bean is preparing the once Carrolton-bound site to move to a new

and larger campus located at 3720 Paris Ave, New Orleans. The location was previously St. Raymond Catholic Church, a site that has been vacant since Hurricane Katrina.

Despite the anticipated overhaul, Bean continues his Annual 2016 Sum-

mer Camp where he teaches students about the minority perspective in acting.

Brief History and the ABCT

Anthony Bean has been participating in theater for the last 45 years. At 16 years old, Bean partnered with his older

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Cover Story, Continued from previous page.



Gwendolyn Foxworth won Best Actress in a Play in the 2016 Big Easy Theater awards for her performance in the theatrical play "Fences," which was produced at the ABCT.

brother to create the Ethiopian Theater in New Orleans, which specialized in working with African-Americans in theatrical performances.

"I knew what I wanted to do since I was a teen. God has blessed me to follow my dreams and work in this field and only this field," Bean said.

"After 45 years of doing this, I still have the same vigor as I did when I was a young teenager," he added.

He furthered his work in theatre in Los Angeles for 10 years, fine-tuning his theatrical skills. In the year 2000, Bean developed the Anthony Bean Community Theater which aimed to give the African-American community in New Orleans a voice within the performance arts.

The ABCT is the only African-American theater in the City of New Orleans.

"I wanted to create quality productions that compete with the best," Bean said.

"This is something the students should be proud of. This was designed with Black people in mind, while many other institutions were not," he added.

In the past 16 years, the ABCT has put on several productions, including many original pieces written by Bean and other African-American playwrights.

Bean is extremely impressed with the performance of his students at ABCT.

Most recently, Bean's student, Gwendolyn Foxworth won Best Actress in a play in the 2016 Big Easy Theater Awards for her performance in the theatrical play "Fences." Foxworth is also the first African-American to win a Best Actress Award.

"The thrill of what I do is seeing

my students compete and win in competitions. And knowing that I have a lot to do with it," Bean said.

"If you talk to my students, they know who they are. As I teach, they have to become producers in this field," he added.

The Gentilly Campus

ABCT was previously located on Carrollton Avenue at the Central St. Matthews United Church of Christ for almost 16 years. However, in the beginning of 2016, the church planned to convert itself into a charter school, leaving no room for the ABCT.

Bean saw this as an opportunity for the organization to grow. He set east towards Gentilly to purchase a permanent space for the community theater.

"We were leasing in the predominantly White area in the City across the last 15 years," Bean said.

"This new area shows so much promise. There is so much land. We can do so much more for the community theater. We know that this is something that has never been done before with a Black Theater in New Orleans," he added.

The new campus for the ABCT will feature several new amenities, including a dance studio, a museum, a recording area and much more. The project is expected to be finished within the next two years.

Bean said the project is funded by personal loans and donations. The program receives no federal funding.

Before choosing the church-site as the new home for ABCT, Bean did some research. He noted the program has over 100 kids enrolled,

Cover Story, Continued on page 11.



Bean notes that all of the students in his program want to be there. For some students it's the first time being exposed to theatrical art, for others they are simply pursuing their childhood passions.

The Regency Reception Hall

"A Venue for All Occasions"

A photograph showing the interior of The Regency Reception Hall, which is a large, bright room with high ceilings, arched windows, and several round tables set up for a formal event. The tables are covered with white cloths and have black chairs around them.

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Federal Takeover Dismissed, Sheriff Gusman Finds Compromise

Eric Craig
Multimedia Editor

On Tuesday, June 21, 2016, Orleans Parish Sheriff Marlin Gusman held a press conference on the recent dismissal of the federal takeover attempt of the Orleans Parish Prison System. The conference was held in public at Lafayette Square Park.

Gusman was appreciative of the support he received from the community and the City.

In April of 2012, several inmates of the Orleans Parish Prison System filed a Class-Action Lawsuit against the Sheriff's Department. The plaintiffs cited several cases of unsafe living conditions and lack of mental health assistance.

The plaintiffs argued for a federal takeover of the Orleans Parish



Orleans DA Cannizzaro was impressed with Gusman's willingness to contest the federal takeover.

Prison System when Gusman's department did not meet the initial federal compliance in April 2016. After several hearings, the parties

came to a mutual agreement to dismiss the federal takeover.

"I'm pleased to announce that the US Department of Justice,



Gusman has contested a federal take over of the OPP since April 2016

the City of New Orleans and their plaintiffs have dismissed their pursuit of a federal takeover in light of the agreement that all the parties reached today," Gusman said on Tuesday's press conference.

"I'm pleased to enter into this agreement which addresses the concerns of all the parties and resolves long-standing issues that were previously gridlock," he added.

According the mutual agreement of the parties, Gusman is obligated to hire a compliance director that will help implement the changes needed to comply with the 173-item Federal Compliance Decree issued by the presiding federal judge.

Both the plaintiff and defense will nominate and recommend a person to fulfill the position as director. Within 90 days of the hire, the director will present an action plan with Gusman's approval that outlines how the department will fulfill the federal compliance list.

The compliance director will serve as an independent contractor communicating with both the sheriff and the court throughout the compliance process.

Both Gusman and the compli-

ance director will work on a budget they will present to the City to help fund their action plan. The director will communicate directly with City Officials and Liaisons about the most optimal way to fund the compliance demands.

Gusman's proposed plan will include pay increases for the deputies, a new dock facility to transport inmates to and from the court, and a new facility that will better address the needs of mentally ill and disabled inmates.

As the hiring of the new compliance director is underway, Gusman assures the public that the federal compliance will be met.

"In spite of the descriptive media headlines, the hearings of the past week have made clear that the Sheriff's office is making good faith efforts and progress to implement dozens of new policies, training techniques and to meet the consent decree," Gusman said.

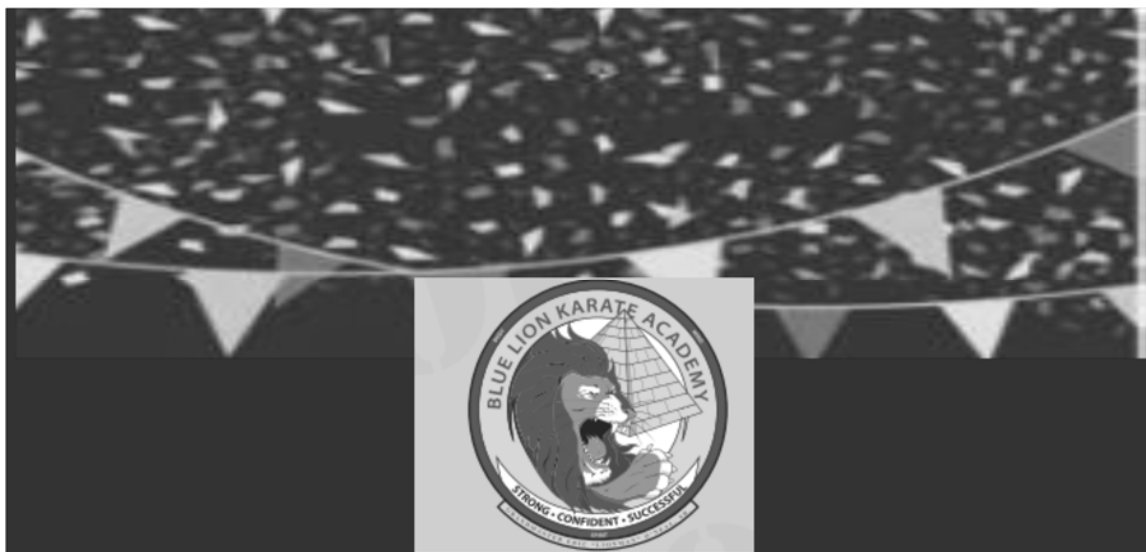
"The truth is that today every inmate in Orleans Parish lives in a brand new clean, humane, modern and fully-functioning facility," Gusman said.

Gusman was accompanied by Orleans Parish District Attorney Leon A. Cannizzaro, Jr. Cannizzaro was impressed with Gusman's willingness to contest the federal takeover.

"The Sheriff has been a tremendous partner to the district attorney in Orleans Parish, helping us fight the violent criminals in the City of New Orleans," Cannizzaro said.

"I'm very grateful that the result of the dismissal of this decree, Sheriff Marlin Gusman, the newly elected Sheriff of the City of New Orleans, will be, in fact, in charge of the jail in Orleans Parish," he added.

"Now is the time for cooperation in the common cause of public safety," Gusman said.



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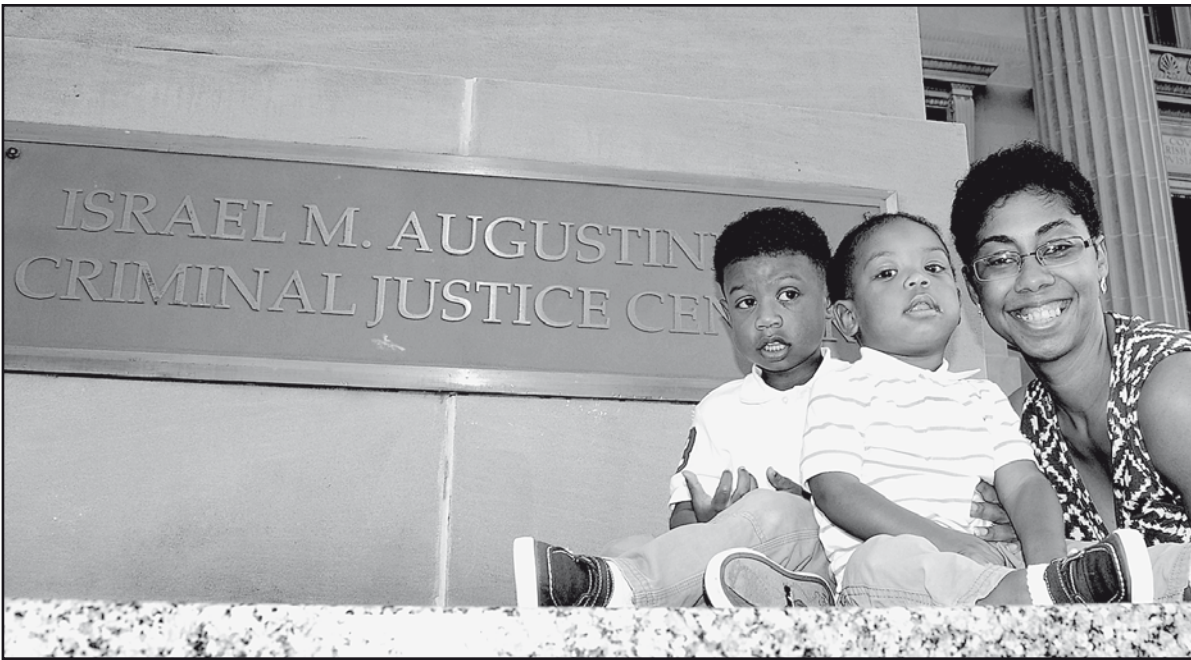
Judge Israel Augustine is Honored



CEO & President Marc Morial, National Urban League and former Mayor of New Orleans



Judge Arthur Hunter, Marc Morial, CEO and President of NUL and the Augustine Family



Judge Augustine's grand-daughter, Angele Barthe' Taylor and great-grandsons, Justin Jr. and Noah

Kaelin Maloid Data News Weekly Contributor

A graduate of McDonough 35 High School and Southern University in Baton Rouge, New Orleans-native Judge Israel M. Augustine Jr. was honored in a rededication of the Judge Israel M. Augustine Jr. Criminal Justice Center located at Tulane Avenue and S. Broad Street. The honor and rededication took place Friday, June 10.

Born Nov. 16, 1921, Augustine took his leave Aug. 29, 1994, after complications with Lou Gehrig's Disease. Prior to his death, Augus-

tine had many accomplishments.

After graduating from SUBR, Augustine attended Lincoln University in St. Louis, Mo. to obtain his law degree. In 1951, he was admitted to the Louisiana Bar, and in 1962 he was allowed to practice in front of the U.S. Supreme Court.

He was an African American lawyer, activist, and judge. He was the first African American elected as judge in the Criminal District Court in Louisiana. He presided over the Black Panther Trial in 1971, and established many programs, such as the Roots Home Coming Program, the First Offender, and Angola Awareness. Israel Meyer Augustine

Middle School in Orleans Parish was later named after him for his accomplishments.

A man of this many accomplishments had many speakers at the ceremony, some of which included: Honorable Chief Justice Bernette J. Johnson; Honorable Moon Landrieu; Honorable Marc H. Morial; Dr. Norman Francis and more.

This event was brainstormed by the Judge Arthur L. Hunter, Jr. and coordinated with the Judge Terri F. Love, both of which participated in the rededication.

"This was brainstormed be-

Augustine, Continued on page 10.



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First Annual Reggae Festival

Harvey Brown
Photographer

Festivals are some of New Orleans flagship attractions, and there is always room for more. The First Annual Roots Reggae Culture Festival was hosted at City Park between June 18-19, 2016. The event was produced by Rolling Along Productions with the intent of spreading the love, culture and history of reggae music and Caribbean Culture in New Orleans. Through the use of live performances, artistic displays and various other experience, attendees were able to immerse themselves in different attributes of Caribbean and Reggae Culture. According to the production company, there has not been a similar festival since Hurricane Katrina. Despite the heavy and anticipated rain, several people still attended the festival. The lineup consisted of several artists including Third World, The Ambush Reggae Band and the Reggae Business. The Roots Reggae Culture Festival highlighted a variety of authentic Caribbean food, clothes and jewelry vendors.



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

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Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Robert King's Birthday Celebration at the Craig Cultural Center

Photos by
Glenn Summers
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Robert King of the Angola Three, celebrated his birthday recently at the Craig Cultural Center. Surrounded by family and friends, Mr. King enjoyed the gift of another birthday and the celebration of all he has overcome in his life. Happy Birthday Robert King!



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Sen. John McCain Foolishly Blames President Obama for the Massacre in Orlando



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

The cretin who took an assault weapon into Pulse, an Orlando nightclub, on “salsa night” is beneath contempt. Was his target the LGBTQ community, Latinos, or simply human beings? After all, it is somewhat reductive to simply describe Pulse as a “gay club.” It catered to the LGBTQ communities and allies. Some of those who were massacred were not gay. They just wanted to dance.

In the wake of the massacre of 49 people, and the injury of another 53, the networks have offered sunup to sundown coverage. Analysis and opinions have been more than plentiful. Some of the most disgraceful comments came from Senator John McCain (R-Ariz.), who blames

President Obama for the massacre in Orlando.

To be sure the Senator quickly retracted his words and said that he “misspoke.” But he started out by saying that he held President Obama “directly responsible” for the massacre in Florida. He explained that, because President Obama pulled U.S. troops out of Iraq, he created the vacuum that ISIS came to fill.

McCain was harsh in his exco-riation of President Obama, and his harshness was misplaced when it was issued, on the same day that President Obama visited Orlando to meet with the families of those murdered. If you look into a dictionary under “sore loser” you will find a photograph of Arizona Senator John McCain. He still has not recovered from the whipping he took when then-Senator Barack Obama beat him for the Presidency. While he can only blame himself, his poorly executed campaign, and his poor choices (Sarah Palin, anyone?), he is far more comfortable venting against President Obama than he is exploring his own failures.

Florida’s Republican Governor

Rick Scott is another politician who has made unfortunately inappropriate statements. Deflecting questions about assault weapons, he says he prefers to talk about eliminating ISIS. He behaves as if legislators have only a one-track mind. While it is appropriate to talk about managing ISIS, it is also appropriate to talk about the easy access that anybody has to assault weapons. If you are on the no-fly list, the adage goes, you ought to be on the no-buy list. Not that it helps as much as it should – there are too many ways to buy guns, ammunition, and body armor legally and under the table.

It does not erode anyone’s second amendment rights to restrict their right to assault weapons. One does not need a automatic weapon and thousands of rounds of ammunition to protect oneself or, for that matter, to “hunt.” Whenever those NRA folks start talking about hunting, though, I really want to know what (who) it is they want to hunt. It is entirely appropriate to restrict access to assault weapons, but for some reason rabid Republicans resist.

President Barack Obama has had to take on the role of Empa-

thizer-in-Chief several times during his presidency. In the last year, he has had to deal with the shootings at Emanuel AME Church (June 2015, 9 casualties), at the Chattanooga Recruiting Center (July 2015, 4 casualties), Roseburg Community College (October 2015, 10 casualties), the San Bernardino Community Center (December 2015, 14 casualties), and now the tragedy in Orlando. He has been consistent in calling for assault weapons bans, and his opponents have been consistent in opposing such bans. And they have been irresponsible in their rhetoric of opposition. Senator John McCain stands at the tip of the iceberg.

Donald Trump is worse than Senator McCain. He has said that our President is sympathetic to ISIS terrorists. Like McCain, he quickly suggested that President Obama has some culpability in the Orlando massacre. What nonsense! Trump should be ashamed, if he is capable of such, for turning a tragedy into political manipulation. So should McCain.

McCain says he “misspoke,” but what he really needs to do is apolo-

gize. He has no right to accuse President Obama of being “directly responsible” for the Orlando killings. He was wrong, simply wrong. His statement was not a slip of the lip, but a calculated attempt to disparage our President for partisan purposes. McCain has been a victim of Donald Trump’s venom.

In the wake of a tragedy, our nation’s leaders ought to follow our President’s leadership in offering empathy. We ought also look at ways to prevent further tragedy. Banning assault weapons is one way to offer some solutions, and some Democrats have attempted to deal with that, despite resistance. Loose lips are inappropriate in the wake of this tragedy. Shame on you, Donald Trump and John McCain, for attempting to turn tragedy to your political advantage with your foolish words.

Julianne Malveaux is an author, economist and Founder of Economic Education. Her latest book “Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy” is available to order at www.juliannemalveaux.com. Follow her on Twitter @driplastword.

“Where are the African American and Latina Mark Zuberbergs and Sheryl Sandberts?”



Hill Harper
NNPA News Wire
Guest Columnist

The question, which came from a participant in a minority business empowerment seminar, quieted the room. The answer is simple: “They’re out there. But they don’t have a data plan.”

That seems glib. But truth comes best in a simple package. The digital divide is real. Millions of brilliant, creative thinkers are still left behind, because they don’t have

affordable access to the Internet. So what can we do to change this paradigm? We can go mobile.

Mobile technology has changed our world. Those of us who are already part of the mobile revolution know this innately: to be without our smartphones is to be isolated. It’s standing in a field, watching the train flash by. It’s trying to find a book in the dark when others are holding flashlights.

But we’re not done yet – not until we’ve brought that change across the digital divide. We know what it means to be connected. And we know that to fully bring change, we have to bring that connection to the populations who today may not have access. Mobile tools don’t work when you can’t get to them.

This issue matters more than ever because being “unconnected” now means so much more than not having the chance to stream Netflix or send tweets. It means being unable to access the myriad of business and entrepreneurial opportunities that exist across today’s vibrant technological landscape. It means not having an on-ramp to healthcare and educational information that could transform or save a life. It means being stuck in the 20th century at a time when the 21st century economy is finally kicking into high gear.

Imagine someone who isn’t connected or someone that has a mobile device, but can’t access more online data because they exceeded their monthly allotment. For them, free data could be the

key. Free data is an offering that allows you to use more mobile content without having to worry about exceeding your monthly data allotment. This leaves more data to use on other things like social media, and gives you the option of switching to a lower cost plan, if you have too much data left over, because the content you love is covered by free data program. It’s expanded opportunity at no cost. If you see that you can watch an unlimited amount of video as part of a plan, then that might just be enough to entice you to cross the digital divide. And once online, you’ll inevitably use your mobile device to explore the web, allowing your device to be the transformative tool that it can be.

Until we get people online, they may not know the resources on

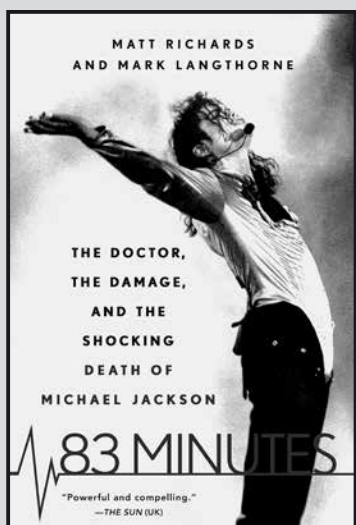
which they’ll build. Creators and innovators need access to the Web to connect with others and to expand their world. Indeed, our embrace of mobile innovations like streaming media and free data can serve as the light we use to illuminate the world around those who remain in the digital dark. Dr. King’s vision of a “world-wide brotherhood” comes from those connections, those ties that grow a fully empowered and engaged community that refuses to let any more opportunities pass us by.

Our vigilance and advocacy will build the momentum we need to close the digital divide once and for all. Join me in this monumental task and be #MobileLikeMe.

Hill Harper is an American film, television and stage actor, and author.

83 Minutes

The Shocking Death of Michael Jackson



**"83 Minutes:
The Doctor, the Damage, and the
Shocking Death of Michael Jackson"**

by Matt Richards
and Mark Langthorne

c.2016, Thomas Dunne Books
\$27.99 / higher in Canada

426 pages

By The Book Worm Sez
Data News Weekly Guest
Columnist

It doesn't take very long.

An accident, a murder, a surprise can happen in an instant that can seem like a lifetime. It doesn't take very long – or does it? The odd thing about time is that it's shapeable, as you'll see in the new book "83 Minutes: The Doctor, the Damage, and the Shocking Death of Michael Jackson" by Matt Richards and Mark Langthorne.

On June 25, 2009, when the 911 call came into the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles, medical staff had no idea they were in the middle of pop culture history. The emergency operator and the paramedics he dispatched didn't know the identity of the man they were asked to help, but they learned soon enough that their patient was Michael Jackson.

For Jackson, it had been a long, rough road to that moment.

Throughout his life, he'd survived loneliness, physical abuse, estrangement from family, accidents, and scandals. Outwardly, he was a survivor,

driven, a perfectionist. Behind closed doors, though, there was something more sinister.

In the days following the making of a commercial in which Jackson so famously received scalp burns, he was understandably in pain. Doctors administered narcotics to alleviate his suffering and, consequently, Jackson became increasingly dependent on drugs. Later, he complained of insomnia, and he visited several medical providers for more, different prescriptions. He even asked for help from the doctor his children had been seeing for their allergies.

Dr. Conrad Murray was happy to oblige.

Whether Murray was officially hired to be the personal physician for Jackson's come-back tour is a matter of opinion but the authors say that Murray needed money, and assuming Jackson's care was his chosen method. That included giving the singer drugs which allowed Jackson to sleep but which fueled his addiction. It didn't take long before Jackson needed more-powerful drugs, which Murray procured in large quantities.

And on June 25, 2009, one of those drugs shook the world...

It's rare for me to like a book before I even get to the end of Page One, but that's what happened with "83 Minutes." This is an easy book to dive into.

Starting with what became a crime scene, authors Matt Richards and Mark Langthorne then take us back 50 years to show how Michael Jackson's death seemed to be decades in the making. To rehash Jackson's biography may seem redundant – haven't there been enough MJ books? – but it's actually a fascinating scene-setter for the re-creation of the dramatic events of seven years ago.

Richards and Langthorne go on to imagine what may have happened, based on what's known. Was Michael Jackson murdered – and if so, by whom? Their hypotheses are intriguing, especially in light of the aftermath of Jackson's death, his will(s), and the legacy he left.

They say you'll always remember where you were when you hear of certain tragedies, and "83 Minutes" takes you there again. For fans, definitely, as well as students of pop culture and true crime aficionados, immersion in this book won't take long.



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Mayor Landrieu Marks New Orleans' Progress Over Last Six Years During Annual State Of The City Address

Data Staff News Edited Report

On Tuesday, June 21, 2016, New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu recognized the city's progress after the last six years in areas of education, healthcare, job creation, transportation and infrastructure in his annual state of the city address. This year's address was given on the rooftop of The ReFresh Project. Landrieu made many comments on areas the city can improve.

The Mayor announced a new five-year strategy to increase affordable housing in the city, hailed the four-year progress of the City's NOLA FOR LIFE comprehensive murder reduction strategy and encouraged residents to participate in the City's new #EquityNewOrleans initiative to drive systemic change



that will ensure equity within City government at all levels.

"The state of our city is as strong as it has been in 60 years, and it is getting stronger," said Landrieu.

"Since taking office six years

ago, we have shown the world what we can do and I am even more optimistic about our future. Our goal is to not just rebuild New Orleans the way she was, but how she was always meant to be. That means building a stronger, more resilient and equitable city where promise and opportunity are abundant for everyone. We cannot leave anyone behind. We must all move forward together," Landrieu said.

District A Council member Susan G. Guidry commented on the state of the city after the address.

"The economic outlook of New Orleans has never been brighter, with hundreds of millions of dollars in new economic activity and investment bringing new jobs and rising property values. While the State may be in a fiscal crunch, New Orleans continues to be an economic dynamo," Guidry said.

"But with this good fortune comes responsibility. We, as a City, must make sure that all New Orleanians have the opportunity to be a part of our continued progress and prosperity," she added.

Public Safety

In his address, Landrieu stressed the importance of public safety in New Orleans.

Through NOLA FOR LIFE, the City's comprehensive murder reduction strategy launched in 2011, New Orleans has reduced murder more than any other similar peer city. The Multi-Agency Gang Unit, led by NOPD and combining the resources of the Louisiana State Police, Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office, State Department of Corrections, Probation and Parole, U.S. Marshalls Service, DEA, ATF, FBI, the District Attorney and U.S. Attorney, has launched dozens of investigations leading to 118 gang or group member indictments. In 2011, 55 percent of New Orleans murders were gang or group related. That number has been cut in half today. This year, New Orleans is on track to have the lowest number of murders since 1971.

Public Housing

Landrieu also noted the need to increase the access to public housing.

The mayor noted that New Orleans along with increasing population and job growth, rent has increased by 50 percent since 2000. Mayor Landrieu announced a new five-year strategy to build more affordable housing in the City.

In close collaboration with public and private stakeholders, the Housing for a Resilient New Orleans strategy will create or preserve another 4,000 affordable housing units for working people of New Orleans over the next two years. In addition, by working with the New Orleans City Council and City Plan-

ning Commission, the City will put into place new inclusionary housing policies that will require more affordable units at major new private multi-family developments. The City will also develop and completely redesign public economic incentives to further increase affordable housing production.

Economics of New Orleans

Landrieu also commented on the economic growth of New Orleans.

The mayor noted that retail growth has led to a 5% increase in sales tax collections, doubling the state. After closing a \$100 million budget gap inherited upon taking office in 2010 and fixing the firefighters pension fund, S&P has upgraded the City's credit rating three times and is now A+, saving millions on lower interest rates, according to the city report.

Landrieu, in his address, stressed residents and businesses must join the ongoing efforts to expand the circle of opportunity for all New Orleanians in order for our city to progress.

The mayor also pushed his STRIVE initiative, the City's flagship job training program that is part of the Mayor Landrieu's Economic Opportunity Strategy, recently celebrated its eighth graduation. STRIVE creates pathways to prosperity through a crash course on everything professional. Combined with programs at local Opportunity Centers, STRIVE has connected 241 mostly African-American men to jobs and 80 percent are still working after 6 months.

For more information on the State of the City Address, visit www.nola.gov

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Augustine/ Continued from page 5.



Honorable Chief Justice Bernette J. Johnson

cause all of the artifacts and items to let you know who the building was named after was destroyed during the storm," said Demetric M. Mercadel, a member of the program's re-dedication committee.

During this event, the group

unveiled a restored painting of Judge Augustine, which will hang in the Court Building. There was also a presentation of the American Flag that was raised on the building for the first time since Hurricane Katrina.

"It was a need to pull some more items in and put some information to them. There was also no longer a flag on that building, so the flag was also dedicated and hung on the capitol building," Mercadel added.

After the ceremony, there was a reception in the Grand Hall with over 150 attendees.

Clinton Warns, President Trump would Plunge U.S. into Recession

Data News Staff Edited Report

Hillary Clinton said Tuesday that her rival Donald Trump could not be trusted with the U.S. economy and would bankrupt the nation as he did to some of his former businesses.

In a bruising speech in Columbus, Ohio, the presumptive Democratic nominee used Trump's own words against him, echoing the style of her San Diego speech earlier this month that mocked his foreign policy statements.

"Just like he shouldn't have his finger on the button, he shouldn't have his hands on our economy," Clinton said Tuesday.

The attack on his business record appeared to bother Trump more than her foreign policy speech. During her remarks, Trump tweeted nearly a dozen times attacking Clinton's own economic record and broader questions about her "judgment." And his campaign fired off a flurry of anti-Clinton statements to reporters, which appears to be the first time the campaign has deployed a rapid-response operation.

In recent polls, Trump leads Clinton on many economic issues,



including job creation, among voters. Her Tuesday speech was an apparent attempt to chip away at the perception that her billionaire rival could help grow the U.S. economy. Voters already give Clinton, a former secretary of state, the advantage on most foreign policy issues.

Clinton mined Trump's past statements to paint him as a reckless out-for-himself businessman who made his money on the backs of working people. She hit Trump especially hard for referring to himself as the "king of debt" in the past and for declaring bankruptcy several times.

"He's written a lot of books about business — they all seem to end at Chapter 11," she quipped.

"The American dollar is the safest currency on the planet. Why would he want to mess with that?" Clinton said. "We can't let him bankrupt America like we're one of his casinos."

Meanwhile, Trump continued to respond to Clinton via twitter throughout her speech, tweeting: @realDonaldTrump. I am "the king of debt. That has been great for me as a businessman, but is bad for the country. I made a fortune off of debt, will fix U.S.

11:55 AM - 21 Jun 2016

Clinton painted Trump's "America First" stance as hypocritical, pointing out that his companies' own products have been made in Mexico, India, Slovenia and other countries. She also said that he frequently criticizes his own country.

"Donald Trump never misses a chance to say that Americans, he's talking about us, to say that Americans are losers and the rest of the world is laughing at us," Clinton said. "Just the other day, he told a crowd that America is — quote — 'not going to survive.' I do not know what he is talking about." Clinton flashed anger as she asked why anyone who believed "that" would run for president.

Clinton said she took Trump's companies' occasional refusal to pay contractors "personally" because her father was a small businessman. "In America, we don't begrudge people for being successful, but we know they shouldn't do it by destroying other people's dreams," Clinton said.

On Tuesday, the Clinton campaign also unveiled a website mocking Trump as a "below-average successful businessman" whose record is "sad."

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numbers the organization has not seen since pre-Hurricane Katrina. Most of the kids enrolled were coming from New Orleans East and the West Bank.

"In the past Gentilly support has not been there. Now we know we have support from the community," he said.

As the school continues to grow, Bean has plans to expand the theater beyond theatrical plays.

"I would ideally like to make it into a charter school. Similar to New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, but for minority and middle age kids," Bean said.

The playwright wants to use the opportunity to put more emphasis on African-American contribution to arts within his school.

While Bean has several ambitions, he understands that it will take time for them to develop. However, Bean said that working to that point has been invigorating.

"This is a 2.3-million-dollar project; mostly on loans and donations.

Getting rich off of this theater is not priority or a desire; my desire, pay-off and passion comes from what I do," Bean said.

"When I get to that building, I'm fully charged. When you're living you design-design, your purpose in life, it's like a battery on its charger," Bean said.

The Philosophy

While ABCT undergoes several renovations in the next couple of years, He plans to keep his same paradigm teaching minority students.

Currently Bean is hosting a summer camp at his temporary location. The camp has over 140 total students, aged between 7-17 years old; all participating students had to audition to be a part of the program.

Bean notes that all of the students in his program want to be there. For some students it's the first time being exposed to theatrical art, for others they are simply pursuing their childhood passions.

However, Bean puts a unique spin on the way he teaches theater to his students.

While Bean utilizes some of the standard theatrical technique, one of Bean's primary goals is to have the students recognize who they are as a person and as a community.

"We are to build up their self-esteem and confidence. Knowing who you are can be the strongest instrument when going out into the world," Bean said.

"It's like a pot of stew; carrots, potatoes and onion are all ingredients, each one brings its flavor. But you can still taste the difference between the vegetables," he added.

Bean critiqued that many Black actors and actresses have a tendency to lose their self-identity in assimilation within the theatrical community. Instead, Bean prefers to harness their self-identity, encouraging students to use it to their advantage.

"Before we talk about acting and technique, we have to talk

about the vessel," Bean said.

"No one teaches the students how to go into themselves, to find themselves; instead, the world around them dictates that they're no good," he added.

Bean sees theater as a tool that can help other people.

"I never wanted to do art for art, for art sake. I was never inspired, it's like a ministry. I want to use it to build lives; using theater to make better lives, building small worlds: self-esteem and confidence," Bean said.

Bean promotes his students to become producers and not followers in the field of theater. According to his philosophy, he pushes his students to put a spin on theater and to teach the world what acting is about from their individual perspective.

For more information about Anthony Bean Community Theater, and how to contribute to the ABCT cause, visit anthonybean-theater.com.

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