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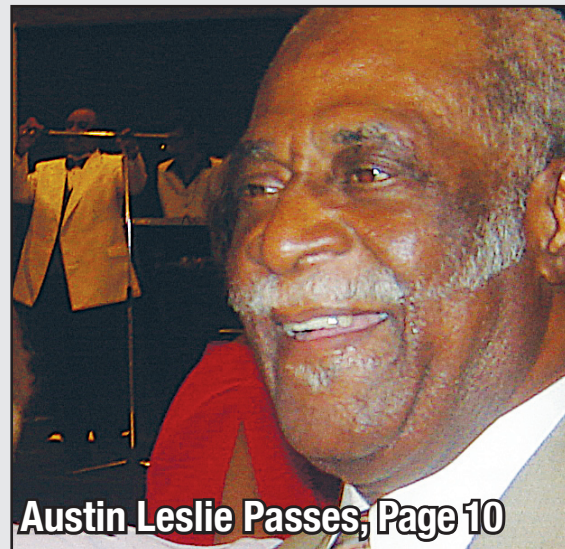


## Data Zone

Hip Hoppers  
Heal Da Hood

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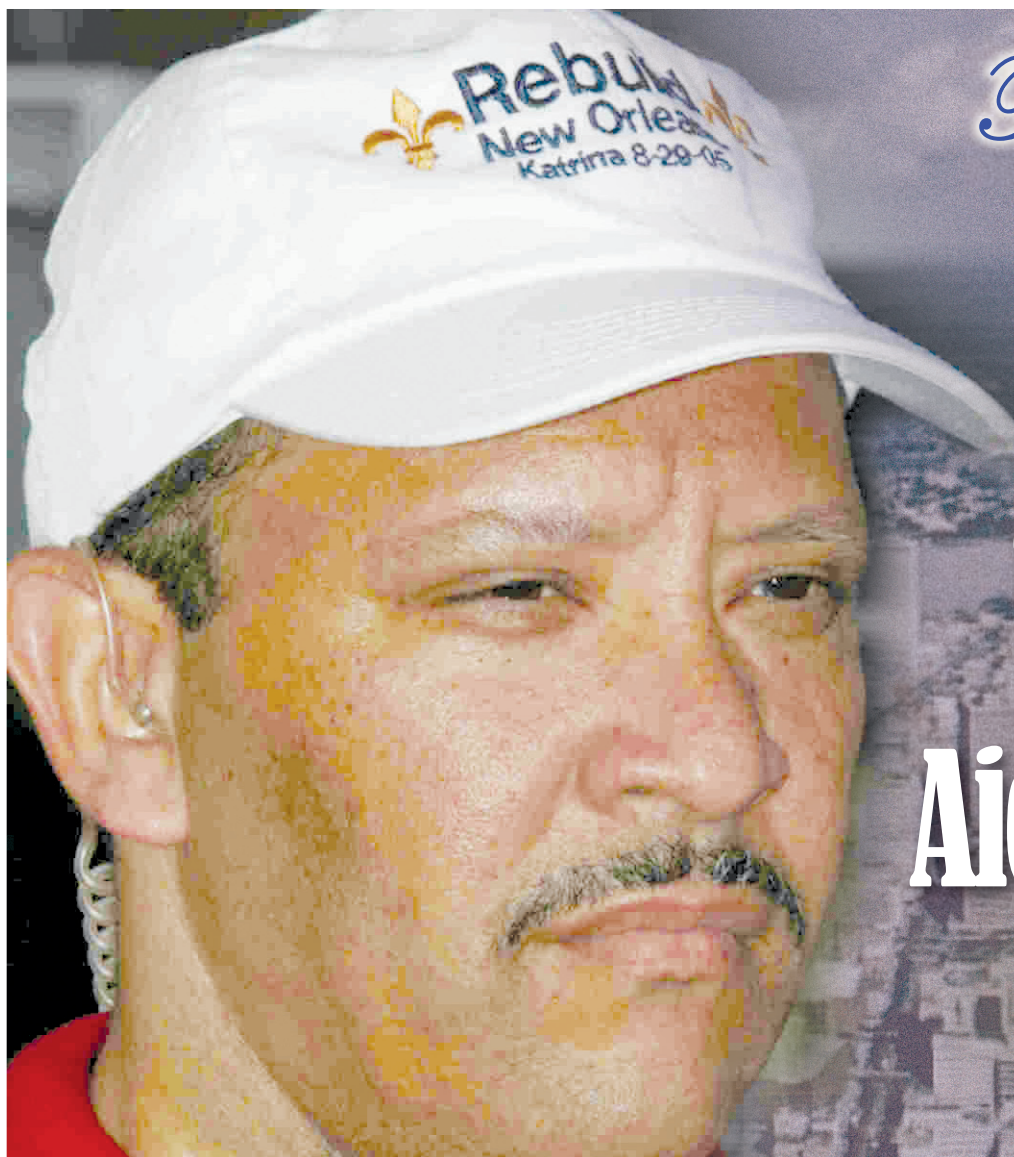


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October 8, 2005

39th Year

Volume 34



*The Spirit of New Orleans*

# Urban League Aids Katrina Survivors

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## COVER STORY

# Urban League Aids Katrina Survivors

Tanangachi Mfuni



**W**hen former New Orleans mayor, Marc H. Morial drove through the streets of his pulverized city, he was devastated.

"The signs of destruction were everywhere," said Morial, current president of the Urban League, "It showed me that the road back is very long."

As multitudes fleeing costal regions in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama abused by Hurricane Katrina attempt to reassemble their lives, they face joblessness and homelessness.

Morial says his organization is committed to providing long-term relief to thousands of Katrina survivors, many of whom are low-income and African-American.

*Continued on next page.*

## DATA NEWS WEEKLY

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 51933  
New Orleans, LA 70151

(504) 822-4433  
Fax (504) 821-0320  
datanews@bellsouth.net

Terry B. Jones  
CEO/Publisher

Jawna Williams  
Business Manager,  
Advertising Director

Renetta Perry  
Editor-in-Chief

**Contributors**  
Karen Arceneaux  
Tanangachi Mfuni  
ChiQ DIVA • Phillip Manuel  
Juanita Haddad

**Staff Photographer**  
Alfred Peters

**Contributing Photographers**  
Granderson Johnson of 3 Streams

**Distribution Manager**  
Muhammad Yungai

**Account Executive**  
Juanita Haddad

**Editorial & Business Office**  
3501 Napoleon Avenue  
New Orleans, LS 70125  
Local Advertising Deadline  
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To this end, 95-year-old organization launched Katrina Fund last Wednesday in New York City. Through the fund, the league will team with corporate and non-profit donors to give Katrina victims—many of whom relocated to other cities—job training, placement as well as housing counseling.

Citigroup, Freddie Mac and the Nehemiah Corporation are among the first donors to pour into the fund, giving a total of \$2.1 million. The financial giant, Citigroup, and Freddie Mac, the mortgage broker each committed \$1 million, while the faith-based, non-profit Nehemiah Corporation gave \$100,000.

“Once the press leaves and once everybody has been immediately taken care of, the hard work truly begins,” said Nehemiah’s president Scott Syphax.

Donald E. Bowen, czar of the League’s relief efforts, agrees. Bowen, who heads the Urban League of Broward County in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, says that the \$2.1 million dollars will be shared among the ten Urban League affiliates with the highest concentration of evacuees in their service areas.

Unfortunately for New Orleans, there isn’t much the league can do in the city right now as the league’s affiliate there has temporarily re-located to Baton Rouge.

“It’s a different situation there, and I’m not sure how much immediate help the Urban League is going to be able to provide in

New Orleans,” said Bowen who said the fund will help evacuees from the city hardest hit by Katrina.

Morial has said whether evacuees choose to return to their homes in cities like New Orleans or settle where they are, the fund will be available for them.

“Although we realize that many survivors will want to return to their homes, may will resettle where they are, based upon housing and job opportunities in the communities that have received them,” said Morial.

The ex-New Orleans chief was critical of the response to Katrina at the city, state and federal level.

“The failed response caused so much of the human suffering,” said Morial. The two-term mayor said the inadequacy of government officials played as prominent a role in the city’s tragedy as the levees breaking.

“They were all slow, everyone was inadequate to a degree,” said Morial who explained that during his mayoral administration there was ongoing planning of the city’s response in the event the big one should hit the below sea level city.

Though the levees failed, at the very least, Morial said there should have been adequate food, water and supplies for residents who evacuated to the dome and convention center.

“I don’t understand it,” the former mayor lamented.



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The People's Paper



## NEWS

# Mayor Ray Nagin says “Come Back Home”



Reporter: Jim Shannon

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin spoke before a packed State Capitol on Wednesday September 28th and outlined the city's re-entry plan. Starting Thursday September 29th, all businesses can return to the targeted zip code areas. On Friday, all residents were going to be allowed to return to stay and live in the targeted zip codes – primarily areas in and around uptown, downtown, and the French Quarter.

Mayor Nagin first appeared in front of the senate Local and Municipal Affairs Committee. Then he took the podium to express his disgust with state officials he says are undermining his efforts to repopulate the city of New Orleans.

“We’re continuing to send mixed messages out to everyone,” he said. “I fought with the federal government on this issue earlier. Now I’m fighting with state government on this issue. And unless you guys make a whole bunch of noise, this is not going to change.”

Mayor Nagin was referring to a news release by the Department of Health and Hospitals urging anyone returning to New Orleans to do so at their own risk. But Nagin says starting September 30, in selected Zip Codes, come on in!

Those Zip Codes are 70114, 70131, 70116, 70115, 70118, 70130, 70112, and 70113. Then, the following Wednesday, even more good news.



“Starting the following Wednesday, October 5th, you will have pretty much full access [to the city], with the exception of the lower Ninth Ward. There are some

structure issues and homes are not safe. But the Upper Ninth, New Orleans East, every other areas of the city will be able to come in and look and see.”

The mayor says 75-80 percent of the dry areas in the city have power.

say the building is not safe. If if your house has a green sticker, go ahead and enter.

Water on the East Bank is okay to bathe and wash with, just don’t drink it. Also flush out your hot and cold water spigots for 15 minutes before using the water.

But Nagin also issued a warning: If you go back to you home and there is a red sticker on the door, please do not go in. City inspectors

## Governor Blanco to Call Special Session

BATONROUGE-Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco announced last week that a special session of the Louisiana Legislature to consider hurricane recovery measures is scheduled to begin on November 6th, 2005. The 12-day session will be narrowly focused, allowing legislators to concentrate on urgent matters.

The special session will be convened by a proclamation of the Governor to begin at 5 p.m. on Sunday, November 6th and end by 6 p.m. on Friday, November 18th.

In addition to the November special session, Governor Blanco anticipates the need for possibly calling a special session in January 2006. It

is expected that the revenue estimating conference, which meets later this year, will identify revenue problems which will need to be addressed before the 2006 Regular Session.

The next regular legislative session is scheduled to convene on March 27, 2006.





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## STATE & LOCAL NEWS

# Sen. Landrieu: No More Broken Promises

*USA Today Op-Ed highlights national importance of aiding Louisiana; refutes critics' misstatements*

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Mary L. Landrieu, D-La., last week, published in *USA Today* an op-ed highlighting the national importance of urgently providing the much needed aid to Louisiana in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Sen. Landrieu's column is below.

As south Louisiana began rebuilding after Hurricane Betsy in 1965, President Johnson pledged that "the national government will be at Louisiana's side to help every step of the way." But as memories faded and



debates over how to help dragged on, the promise of strong and timely federal support faded, too.

A project that could have saved New Orleans from much of Hurricane Katrina's wrath languished in the courts. Countless requests for more flood and hurricane protection went unheeded. And initiatives to restore the USA's wetlands were repeatedly and irrationally opposed.

Tight-fisted ignorance and misstated statistics seem to push us down this tired road of broken promises

again. Some suggest that \$212 billion over five years is too much for rebuilding Louisiana's devastated infrastructure and diverse economy. They claim \$40 billion of it is too high for protection projects already authorized by Congress and recommended by the Army Corps of Engineers. Comparing the costs with the Corps' annual budget, critics fail to note that these projects will span decades and protect parishes across Louisiana — not just New Orleans.

*Continued on page 13.*

## Governor Blanco appoints Hitachi executive to lead Louisiana Family Recovery Corps

*\$10 million in initial funding requested to meet urgent needs of displaced families*



Baton Rouge, La. - Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco has named Hitachi executive Rod McCowan as acting Chief Executive Officer of the Louisiana Family Recovery Corps.

The Louisiana Family Recovery Corps (LFRC) is an endeavor initiated

by Governor Blanco to coordinate and deliver comprehensive humanitarian services to displaced citizens throughout the state of Louisiana, and to provide opportunities for return to those who are currently in other states. The LFRC will reduce fragmentation in the current network of humanitarian aid providers, which is leaving so many displaced residents underserved.

Governor Blanco said she is hopeful that the Recovery Corps' will soon get the funds it needs to start providing much-needed services to displaced Louisiana citizens. She said that \$10 million in initial funding is required to design and launch the

Recovery Corps and begin meeting the urgent needs of displaced Louisiana residents.

On Tuesday, the Governor met with former President Bill Clinton and requested a donation from the Clinton-Bush Katrina Fund that he and former President George H.W. Bush have created for hurricane victims. Clinton told the Governor that he is impressed with the Recovery Corps' concept and structure and is hopeful that his fund will be able to help.

"Our people urgently need our help. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita destroyed communities across the State of Louisiana and

*Continued on page 13.*

## Lack of Funds Forces Terminations

After weeks of working to secure funds to make payroll, The City of New Orleans today announced it has been forced to lay off up to 3,000 classified and unclassified City employees as a result of financial constraints in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

The City of New Orleans had requested funds from State government, the Federal Government and private resources in an effort to locate money for payroll.

Unfortunately, the City was not able to obtain sufficient funds, resulting in the implementation of the mandatory layoff. Employees who have not been contacted by their direct supervisor to report back to work should consider themselves part of the layoff.

"It is with great sadness that we announce we are unable to hold onto our dedicated City workers. I want to personally thank everyone who has served our city with dedication and professionalism," Mayor Nagin said.

The state of emergency declared by the Governor of the State of Louisiana and the Mayor of the City of New Orleans is of continuing force and effect. The state of emergency directly affects the continued employment of classified and unclassified employees of the City of New Orleans. Departments have been requested by the Mayor to immediately provide names of employees essential and critical to the City's recovery. These employees

*Continued on page 13.*

# COMMUNITY

## A message from BellSouth LA President Bill Oliver

*Dear Customer,*

It has been nearly six weeks since Hurricane Katrina struck a devastating blow to our beloved Crescent City. This was a hurricane like no other I have ever encountered in my 52 years in Louisiana, especially in the New Orleans area. Not only was this the most powerful storm to ever strike our state, but the subsequent flooding and other issues that erupted were unprecedented. Then, in the midst of that tremendous clean-up effort, we received another blow, this time from Hurricane Rita.

Everyone in our city has experienced varying degrees of loss. Many of you have lost your homes and all of your belongings to either storm surge or flooding; others of you have experienced loss of property due to falling trees or extremely strong winds. Virtually everyone in our area has been displaced.

BellSouth recognizes the difficulties our customers have faced and will continue to face as we work together to rebuild New Orleans. In addition to working hard to restore your communications services as quickly as possible, BellSouth also wants to ensure that you receive appropriate credits for periods of interrupted service. For our customers in the most devastated areas, BellSouth automatically applied an additional one-time monthly bill credit to cover specific BellSouth monthly service charges.

In order to help customers who were impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

stay connected to family, friends and customers, BellSouth is extending our Disaster Relief Plan which waives certain installation charges as well as provides one month free access to a number of services. Customers who are eligible to participate in the Disaster Relief Plan may sign up through October 31, 2005, for the following benefits:

- Service charges associated with providing local phone service to a new or temporary location will be waived, as well as charges for a move back to the original location.
- One free month of the following services:
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  - Remote Access to Call Forwarding, which allows customers to activate or deactivate call forwarding from any telephone equipped with touch tone. Please note that calls forwarded to long-distance telephone numbers will incur long-distance charges.
- Free unlimited back-up dial for BellSouth® FastAccess® DSL customers so that they may access their e-mail accounts from remote locations.

Additionally, BellSouth will provide one free jack and associated wiring at a customer's temporary location, regardless of whether or not the customer has the Inside Wire Maintenance Service Plan. Up to five jacks and associated wiring may be provided free of charge to plan customers when they return to their permanent location, while customers who do not subscribe to the plan will be provided one jack and associated wiring

at their permanent location at no charge.

For more information about these offers, or to discuss a credit for out of service periods, residence customers may call 888-757-6500. Businesses may call 866-620-6000. You may also contact us online at [www.bellsouth.com](http://www.bellsouth.com).

BellSouth employees are working hard to restore service as quickly as possible and our company is eager to assist customers

who have been impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Although we still have a tremendous amount of work to do, I am confident that together we can rebuild our beloved City of New Orleans.

Thank you,



William A. Oliver  
President-BellSouth  
Louisiana Operations

### Not having people like this would've been an even greater disaster.



The worst of times can bring out the best in everyone. BellSouth would like to salute the numerous emergency personnel who have been working long hours in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. And we would like to recognize our own employees for their tireless efforts to restore telephone service as quickly as possible. BellSouth is proud to be a part of this community. Nature may be a powerful force, but there is no force more powerful than people. Together, we can rebuild Southeast Louisiana.

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## DATA ZONE Entertainment

# Healing The Hood

*Hip Hop Community Raises Funds in the ATL*



By ChiQ DIVA

Ten thousand hip hop music fans filled the seats of Phillips Arena in Atlanta Georgia to join David Banner's efforts to "Heal the Hood," - citizens of urban communities devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Saturday September 18, 2005 was not about "celebrity" among the A list of participating entertainers, but a compelling individual responsibility to aid in what many are calling America's worst tragedy since slavery. As long as hip hop music has been around, its lyrics have been America's blame for violent crime and ignorance. Trailblazers like Public Enemy, NWA, Ice T, Uncle Luke, Ludacris and now Kanye West have fearlessly challenged the government's position and decisions that stereotype and compromise the quality of life for disenfranchised black people living and working in America. The David Banner Heal The Hood Benefit Concert was yet another such example of the "streets standing up for the streets."

The Atlanta effort was one spearheaded by New Orleans homegirl transplanted to Atlanta and owner of the infamous Juice Magazine - Juice. "After the continuous replays of the horrific chain of events, I knew there was something we could be doing in spite of the government's slow response. I had phone conversations with Young Jeezy who shared the same sentiment. So did T.I. He and I discussed the necessary steps to help ourselves. The next day, he and I took over a local radio station for four hours and the result was \$250,000 to the David Banner Heal the Hood Foundation. Juice also spearheaded a food and clothing drive at Club 112 and was able to fill four Ryder Trucks and one 18-wheeler that delivered much needed supplies to several Mississippi cities. You go girl!

Lil John, Boyz n Da Hood, Nelly, Busta, 8 Ball & MJG, Jermaine Dupri, Young City aka Chopper from Da Band, Big Boi, Sleepy Brown and T.I. and David Banner of course, gave SHOWS to generous Atlanta hip hop music.. 100% of the proceeds raised will directly benefit a family affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Equally as passionate, King of The South T.I. maintained an active fund raising role by donating a whopping \$51,000 himself and challenging everyone in entertainment to either make a contribution or publicly announce their individual plans for supporting the Katrina survivors. In four hours a quarter of a



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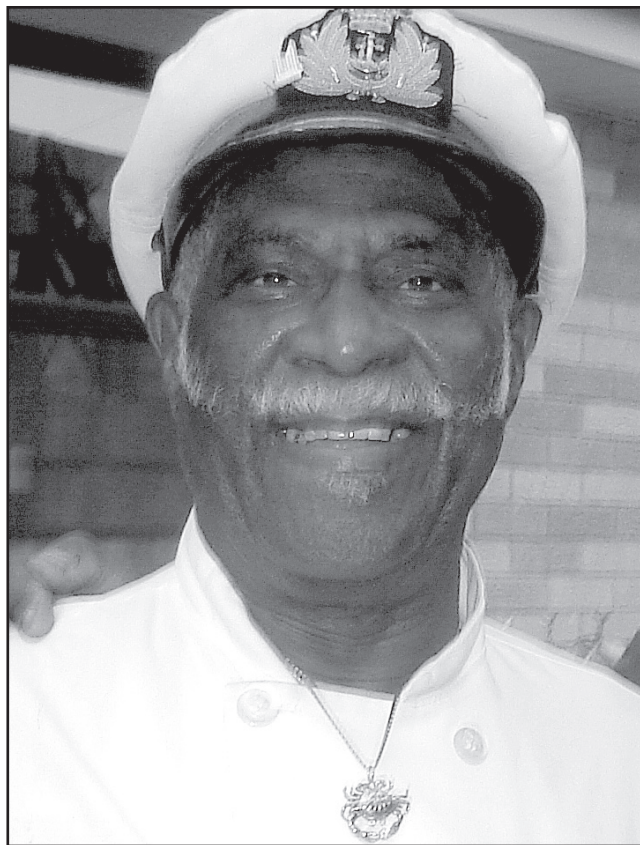
The People's Paper



# LEGACY

## Chef Austin Leslie – Gone But Not Forgotten By New Orleans!

By Juanita A. Haddad



**C**hef Austin Leslie, African American Master Chef, the Godfather of Fried Chicken passes in his sleep on September 29, in Atlanta, GA. According to Aaron Allen, nephew of Leslie, Leslie's equilibrium was off and he went to the Atlanta Medical Center. During the night about 4:30 AM he suffered a heart attack and did not recover.

Leslie a recent evacuee from New Orleans was stuck in the attic of his New Orleans home for two days during Hurricane Katrina. He was rescued by helicopter and taken to Dallas, Texas, later joining his family in Atlanta, Ga.

Leslie, born and raised in the 7<sup>th</sup> Ward of New Orleans, became a national figure for his outstanding fried chicken. In 1975, Leslie took over the Chez Helene Restaurant from his Aunt Helen DeJean Pollock. His Creole cuisine and genuine personality lead to the airing of "Frank's Place," a TV series based on the New Orleans Restaurant. As reported in the New York Times, "Leslie traveled around the country and even cooked gumbo at a restaurant in Copenhagen. But he longed to get back to New Orleans. In an interview with the Southern food authority John T. Edge for the 2004 book 'Fried Chicken: An American Story,' Leslie said: "There's nothing like cooking Creole food in New Orleans. That's your toughest audience, your best one."

Allen (Leslie's nephew by marriage), recalls meeting Leslie in 1972 when he was in Junior High School. He stated the grand prize for the "Miss Bell" Contest was dinner at Chez Helene Restaurant. The ladies were voted in but the men were selected based on their GPA, which had to be a minimum of 99. Laughing, he continues he had to work hard to bring up his grades and he was able to escort the second Princess in the contest. He recalled Leslie coming out of the kitchen in his Chef coat looking so nice and advised the 20 students present to continue striving for excellence." Allen is a Corporate Chef and Director of Culinary Operations for Concessions International (A national Food and Beverage Concessionaire) and credits Leslie for being a shining example in his career. He just never forgot anyone, Allen further stated, after the evacuation, he came to my house and said to me, 'I am so glad we got along all these years, because you opened your house when we had no where to go.' He continues, "Leslie is a 'no frills' kind of guy and he would cut his own seasonings and ingredients with a knife and cutting board, no matter how large the audience. He would say, "It's in the hands, Baby."

In 2004, Leslie returned to the 7<sup>th</sup> Ward with his culinary skills to Pampy's Creole Kitchen. Owner of Pampy's

Creole Kitchen, Stanford Barre stated, "Austin was what the culture of New Orleans was all about. He was always trying to feed people." Leslie was honored by many groups and organizations to include, the New Orleans African American Museum's Black Skillet Cooking. Upon receiving this award, Leslie stated, "I am pleased to be able to pass down what I have learned so that others may continue the tradition. The "Black Skillet" is as much a part of our culture as anything else," states Leslie in an interview with Vincent Sylvain, publisher of the New Orleans Agenda.

Leslie was also featured in a recent edition of the *Data News Weekly Cover Story of August 27, 2005*. Lloyd Dennis, reporter states, "With his cookbook, "Creole Soul" between us on the kitchen table, I had coffee and three hours of conversation with the great, world renowned Chef Austin Leslie. As I waited for him, I picked up his hefty and in-depth cookbook. "It is really complete. I put it all in there," he said. "You could run a restaurant off that book..." And then we talked! Denis wrote, "According to Leslie, Creole cooking is a mixture of Caribbean, African and French. What made it so sophisticated was that it all came together. At one time we were under seven flags and then we were a port town. You see in New Orleans, even in slavery times, when black folk worked inside for white folk, they paid attention and would go home and set the table

and teach their children how to use the knife and fork. Everybody was called to diner at one time. No one was allowed to come in one at a time and eat. You ate breakfast, lunch and dinner called together, and that's what made black dining so sophisticated in New Orleans. Now country folks, they cooked over a big pot. That's the Cajun! See they came from Canada and migrated to Louisiana. They used the oil from the pig to fry some food, but it wasn't sophisticated, but when you came down to New Orleans, it was elegance"

"The last meal Leslie helped prepare was for his family, where he chopped the seasonings for the stuffed peppers and red beans and rice," states Allen.

Chef Austin Leslie's funeral arrangements are scheduled for Friday, October 7, 2005 at 12:00PM, at the First Congregational Church, 105 Courtland Street NE, Atlanta Georgia. Visitation will be held prior to the services from 10:00AM to 12:00PM. For information on directions to the church, call (404) 659-6255. His wife, Victoria, his daughter Tracey, his stepdaughter, Shannon, and a host of family and friends survive Leslie.

Chef Austin Leslie lost but not forgotten by New Orleans.



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# QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR AARP SERVICES?

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Contact us at 1-888-OUR-AARP.

AARP Louisiana estimates that nearly 60% of our members have been displaced by the storms. If you have questions about services through AARP, please call 1-888-OUR-AARP. Let the operator know you are a displaced AARP member and that you are requesting information about a service you have purchased such as insurance or pharmaceutical services. AARP volunteers will also be visiting shelters around the state with this information.



[www.aarp.org/la](http://www.aarp.org/la)



# ENTERTAINMENT

## Love Doctor Live Escape From New Orleans

I've been back in New Orleans for about a week now and I've noticed how much this city misses its poor people. As the more affluent and those who own property in the less damaged Algiers and uptown areas return, they no longer have the conveniences to which they had become accustomed. There's little fast food available even in places where the buildings were undamaged and utilities have been long restored. Supermarkets and discount stores are only open for limited hours, single shifts. New Orleans was a place where the affluent lived very well because service workers were plentiful, and worked cheap, one third of the population competing for the crumbs offered by old money, food service and a hotel industry which discovered and perpetuated this abuse of the working poor to make their New Orleans properties the most profitable within the borders of America.

Ignorance was powerful in New Orleans and not by accident. The poor were kept ignorant enough to ensure that the working poor was kept poor and working, sometimes two and one half jobs to scrape by on minimum wages and no benefits. Adding insult to injury, New Orleans and Louisiana fund themselves with sales taxes where the poor pay the same taxes as the affluent and more in today's Internet world, where those with credit cards and computers escape sales taxes by ordering from out of state. The credit card-less poor, without automobiles (as demonstrated by their being stranded when others evacuated for Katrina) tend to make all of their purchases locally, with cash, paying almost 10% of their purchasing power as taxes which supported the roadways, schools, police, city government and state agencies which serve the affluent as well.

New Orleans was a contrived hell for poor people, but they were kept ignorant and in the dark about labor movements or any progressive movements by local media which carries no news that might create labor or class unrest in the "big easy". The "big easy" was only easy if you already had

money, or were lucky enough to earn a livable wage. While to most people Mardi Gras is a party, to New Orleans it is the clique, groups of organized wealthy people determined to maintain a "way of life" for themselves as the ruling class, with cheap labor to clean and keep their homes and children and to make their businesses more profitable by keeping wage expectations low.

Actually, some people believe that it was a pent up need for self respect that drove so many of New Orleans working poor to demonstrate their artistry and creativity as brass band street musicians, Mardi Gras Indians or as members of "second line" marching groups or in the demonstration of culinary arts in the preparation of "feast" for friends and family. In other words, much of what made New Orleans such an attraction for international travelers bubbled up from the oppressed as expressions to declare themselves as more than abused and underpaid workers in a city that forgot to care about them long before Katrina demonstrated the fact. Going to places where adult workers expected to make eight or ten dollars per hour and expected schools to be clean and safe and expected even public housing to be maintained and clean was a tremendous eye opener for people who had to send toilet tissue and paper towels to school and work split shifts for minimum wage and no benefits. People who had accepted the lack of opportunity in New Orleans as simply the way things had to be for poor people had learned that they had been abused. So many have decided not to come back and God bless them and the better lives they will lead in places where there are no Mardi Gras organizations to conspire to maintain the status quo.

Many have gone to real cities which are not so steeped in southern history that they are willing to forego growth in the economy, to maintain tourist appeal. In many ways tourism is what made New Orleans a third world society at the mouth of the Mississippi. Flipping mattresses and bussing tables was all

New Orleans had to offer and because there were so many poor people desiring work, they were constantly played against one another. Every worker knew that there were several people who would take their job tomorrow if they demanded more pay or better hours or working conditions.

But alas all that has changed for the moment and I pray from now on, as owners children are having to work in the fast food outlets. (I'll wager they get more than minimum wage. People needing cooks, security guards, cashiers, nurses assistants, hotel workers and laborers are now offering sign up bonuses and full shifts, things that were unheard of before the escape from New Orleans.) There was a terrible side to Katrina; over a thousand people died. The loss of loved ones is always a dreaded event, but hopefully their deaths will have some meaning because the same disaster spelled migration and relocation for tens of thousands of people who lives will be more hopeful because they have landed in better places where their charm and hospitality are so appreciated that some stores and business have learned to see coming from New Orleans to mean friendly and accommodating (especially when we feel respected and valued).

I hope they never come back, for their own good and for the good of those poor working people who remain, because now there are not enough here to take for granted, not enough to play one against one another, but hopefully enough to allow New Orleans to still be authentic. (Other than the parade floats, few people visit New Orleans to enjoy what affluent white people create).

The escape from New Orleans, perhaps a silver lining in a cloud named Katrina.

Go To LOVELOGISTICS.COM for more information. Lloyd Dennis is also available as a speaker; email him at LD@LLOYDDENNIS.COM

# OPINION

## Will New Orleans Ever Be the Same? I Hope Not!

By Phillip Manuel

I heard a musician friend say it on CNN the other day. In fact, I've heard it a thousand times in the past week – a week that feels more like a month. "New Orleans will never be the same." I say good! While there is much about my beloved city that I would never change, like the soul and generosity of its citizens and native sons; the beauty and charm of our neighborhoods and architecture; the grandeur of the life-giving Mississippi that embraces us in its fertile crescent, there is also much that needed changing.

It is more than unfortunate that it took a hateful wind named Katrina to bring it about. And, while he will always be considered such, perhaps in the years to come, when our hearts aren't so heavy, our minds so weary trying to comprehend the loss, she may also be viewed as a fateful wind of change.

Those of us who love New Orleans had grown weary of the crime and violence that plagued our streets. Embarrassed we were at being dubbed the murder capital of the United States more than once in the last 20 years. Our public education system consistently ranked at the bottom of every national survey done on the subject. Nepotism, cronyism and thievery were so commonplace among political figures as to be not only accepted, but expected. And of course, as the world knows, our marshlands needed protecting and rebuilding, and our levee systems a complete overhaul.

In spite of the fact that some of New Orleans richest neighborhoods are bordered by some of its poorest, the polarization existing between the haves and the have-nots was wiser than ever, a fact laid bare over the last few weeks as we witnessed the poorest in our city suffer and die under the filthy flood waters.

Will New Orleans ever be the same? I hope not. Whether we wanted it or not, New Orleans has been purged, physically, spiritually and emotionally. I grieve at the loss of life of so many of my fellow citizens and neighbors; the poor, the old and infirmed, the babies. But I believe in my heart of hearts that New Orleans will come back better than ever before, mostly free of the crime; free of the housing projects where many good people had to live among the miscreants; free of the complacency that placed us fact to face with the greatest natural disaster in the history of the United States; free of the attitude that we can push the poor and underprivileged off to the side to fend for themselves.

Many say they will never return and that is unfortunate. Not only will I return, but I hope to be a catalyst for change. I will give to my beloved Crescent City as never before. I will do all I can to make her more than she was, greater than she was, more beautiful and, if possible, more generous and giving than she was.

Will New Orleans ever be the same? I hope not. It will be better.

Phillip Manuel is a singer/writer and native New Orleanian now displaced to Atlanta



# STATE & LOCAL NEWS *continued*

*Senator Landrieu Continued from page 6.*

We have long understood that coastal projects are part of an integrated system, but critics oppose vital navigational projects without which the effort would be akin to a highway without exit ramps. Coastal protection continues to be our priority, making up more than 95% of this \$40 billion proposal and 84% of my 2006 Corps funding request for coastal Louisiana construction.

The USA depends on Louisiana as a lifeline for energy and commerce and cannot afford to fall victim again to shortsighted pundits with little understanding of our unique and valuable coast. The proposed PELICAN Commission ensures knowledgeable experts will make the important judgments quickly.

With the majority of seats appointed by the president, the commission will protect federal interests. I am open to adding a delegate from the Environmental Protection Agency to ensure that environmental concerns are appropriately weighed. But decisions should lead to effective, immediate action, not decades of bureaucratic delay. Unfortunately for the good people of Louisiana, we've been down that road before — and it leads only to disaster.

Louisiana's spirit remains unbroken. So too should America's promises.

*Governor Blanco, Continued from page 6.*

displaced roughly 1.5 million of our residents," Governor Blanco said. "Those families are now scattered across the United States, living under a wide range of conditions. Many who are displaced within the state of Louisiana have urgent unmet needs for basic human services, as well as for intermediate and long-term assistance in restoring their lives and communities."

Blanco said that over 150 organizations - including state, local, and federal governmental agencies, domestic and international non-governmental organizations, and various types of private sector entities - are valiantly attempting to respond to those needs as quickly and collaboratively as possible. The problem is that they are doing so without a clear, central, coordinating mechanism.

"The Recovery Corps will coordinate the many organizations that want to

help our people recover," Governor Blanco said. "It will be staffed by trained people from within the state who can be sent into the field to work one-on-one with individuals and families affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita."

McCowan will lead the effort to serve these displaced citizens. An executive on loan from Hitachi with extensive public and private sector leadership experience, McCowan is the Senior Vice President of Human Resources at Hitachi Data Systems. He has previously served as the President of Herman Miller East Asia and Executive Vice President for Human Resources and Corporate Communications at Herman Miller, Inc.

In order to begin operations, Governor Blanco said the LFRC will need a \$10 million infusion. She said the timeframe for the initial start-up operations for the Recovery Corps is

estimated at a maximum of eight weeks in order to ensure fast results for over 10,000 displaced Louisiana families in need of recovery services.

The \$10 million infusion will result in the following returns:

- More than 350 Family Liaisons on the ground in eight weeks, delivering social services to displaced residents.
- Over 32,000 Louisiana residents receiving comprehensive recovery services within 8 weeks
- It is expected that 91% of funding will be invested in direct humanitarian services, with only 9% of the budget set aside for administration.

A proven model for creating a sustainable system of rebuilding will lead to large scale, statewide disaster recovery.

*Terminations Continued from page 6.*

have already been notified by their department heads. Due to loss of revenue, the City will proceed as follows:

- Unemployment Benefits - Employees affected by the layoff may be entitled to unemployment compensation benefits and should contact the nearest unemployment office to determine their rights.
- Payroll - Employees who have direct deposit have not missed a payroll check as a result of Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita. All City administrative employees will receive a payroll check on October 14, 2005. All Police and Fire employees will receive a payroll check on October 21, 2005. This will be the last payroll check for non-essential employees. If employees do not have direct deposit, they should call the City's Call Center at 1-866-795-2427 to have a payroll debit card mailed to them.
- Contact Information - Employees must call 1-866-795-2427 to report their whereabouts by October 14, 2005. Employees must contact this number to provide updated contact information in the event the City is able to reinstate employees in the future.

• Retirement - Employees who may be eligible to retire should be prepared to provide retirement information either for regular retirement or retirement under Rule 80.

• Cobra - The City will use updated contact information to provide employees with information regarding Cobra. Employees who have been terminated and want to maintain Cobra coverage must elect this coverage within 30 days from October 8, 2005, and send their Cobra payments to IMG, Marketing, P.O. Box 229, Okema, OK 74859. To get Cobra forms, contact the Hospitalization Department at 504-658-8615.

• All City employees who are part of this layoff must immediately return City property, including cell phones, cars and fuel cards. If City-registered vehicles have been driven out of the city or state due to the evacuation, employees should contact Jay Palestina at (504) 658-8635, (504) 915-9845, or (504) 915-9846.

New Orleans  
**DATA**  
News Weekly



SPECIAL SECTION

# Going Home

## New Orleans Citizen Information: Frequently Asked Questions

If you are looking to return to the City of New Orleans and surrounding parishes, Mayor Nagin has posted the following information for citizens to be able to make an informed decision before returning.

**Am I allowed to come back into the city?**

The re-entry plan allows business owners and residents in zip codes 70112, 70113, 70114, 70115, 70116, 70118, 70130 and 70131 to return as of September 30, 2005. Those areas include Algiers, the Central Business District, the French Quarter and Uptown.

On Wednesday, October 5, 2005, residents and business owners in the rest of New Orleans, with the exception of the Lower 9th Ward, can return.

Some homes may be uninhabitable. Have a backup plan in case you cannot live in your home.

**Is a curfew still in effect?**

YES. CURFEW IS IN EFFECT FROM EVERY DAY UNTIL

FURTHER NOTICE. In zip codes 70112, 70113, 70114, 70115, 70116, 70118, 70130 and 70131 the curfew is from midnight to 6 a.m. In all other areas of the city, the curfew remains 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. You may not be outside during these times, either in a car or on foot. Keep identification with you at all times.

**Will emergency officials be available to me?**

YES. There are limited Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

Call 911 for Police, Fire, EMS and other emergencies, or (504) 525-9261.

**Are there medical facilities available?**

YES, but they are limited. Critical needs patients, elderly residents who are not active and in good health and others with

special needs should not return at this time.

Touro's Emergency Room is operating, along with Ochsner, West Jefferson, East Jefferson, the USS Comfort at 600 Poland Ave. and a support hospital at the Convention Center.

Clinics include:

- Algiers Community Health Clinic (Fishers) 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
4422 General Meyer, Algiers
- Covenant House (Downtown) 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
611 North Rampart St.
- Ida Hymel Health Clinic Satisfactory Open 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
1111 Newton St., Algiers
- Tulane CBD Practice Plan Clinic - at Harrah's (mobile unit)

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
512 S. Peter St.

- Uptown Square Clinic (mobile unit) 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Appliances such as refrigerators (emptied of contents), stoves, and air conditioners. White goods (appliances like refrigerator, stoves, etc.) will be picked up on Wednesday, October 5, 2005, in Uptown and on the West Bank.

- Household hazardous wastes such as pesticides, paints, solvents, automotive fluids and cleaning products. We are working on developing a program to handle these items, which will be announced at a later date. In the meantime, please store them in a safe place.

**It is against the law in Orleans Parish to have any open fire without a permit.**

Residents should not burn any storm debris because of potentially toxic fumes. Smoke from fires can also impede visibility for aircraft in the area. Open-flame cooking is also prohibited in multi-family dwellings or dwellings with two or more stories, or within 10 feet of a building.

**Is public transportation running?**

YES. RTA buses are operating limited service routes in Algiers and the CBD except during curfew hours. Amtrak announced it plans to resume operations in and out of New Orleans on Oct. 8, 2005.

**Are there gas stations open in the city?**



## SPECIAL SECTION

There is limited gasoline available in the city. Travel is permitted only within your zip code, so move about only when necessary and make sure you have a sufficient amount of gasoline in your vehicle.

### Are there parking restrictions?

YES. You may not park in restricted or passenger zones. Vehicles cannot block intersections. Towing is in effect.

### What does it mean if there is a red tag on my home?

A red tag means that a visual inspection of the home was performed and indicates that the home appears to have sustained significant structural damage that could make occupancy dangerous. It is not tantamount to condemning the property. It is merely a means of helping residents make an informed decision about entering the property. However, the City strongly recommends that anyone with a red tag on a property should not enter until a full structural assessment is made.

### If I have property damage, what steps should I take before using electricity and gas, if they are available?

Electric customers with property damage must have the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker TURNED OFF. Don't step in water to get to the fuse box or circuit breaker. Call a licensed electrician for advice when necessary. A LICENSED ELECTRICIAN MAY NEED TO INSPECT

YOUR PROPERTY'S ELECTRIC WIRING BEFORE ENERGY CAN RESTORE POWER TO A HOME OR BUSINESS. TREAT ALL DOWNED WIRES AS LIVE.

Natural gas customers: DO NOT ATTEMPT TO TURN GAS ON YOURSELF. Please have repairs made by a licensed plumber and certified by a city inspector. Call Entergy at 1-800-ENTERGY (1-800-368-3749) when repairs are complete.

### What should I do if my home or business was flooded?

Do not turn on or plug in anything electric until it has been checked out.

Do not turn on gas until checking with the gas company.

Do not turn on switches when standing in water.

Throw out any wet furniture, mattresses and pillows.

Wash clothing, towels and bedding in hot, soapy water. Remove drywall and insulation that has been wet.

Place a fan blowing outwards to dry the house without spreading the mold.

### How can I find my pet?

The Louisiana Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has rescued thousands of animals left behind. Go to [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com) to locate rescued pets. Animals which are not claimed by October 15, 2005, will be available for adoption.

### Should I try to shelter stray animals?

NO. The LASPCA is working to rescue all animals. Many are hungry and could be dangerous if approached. However, you may place food

and water out for stray animals until rescuers arrive.

### Where can I get more information?

The City of New Orleans' toll free hotline, (877) 286-6431, is

regularly updated with important information. Unfortunately, the City cannot return messages left at this number. Detailed Situation Reports are also posted on this website, [www.cityofno.com](http://www.cityofno.com)

## SCHOLARSHIP MATERIAL?



It's the person, not the package. That's why Anheuser-Busch invests in promising young men and women who are working toward the bright future they deserve.

Through the United Negro College Fund, Tom Joyner Foundation and other community based organizations, we support students whose individual style makes them unique in every way.

Check us out at: [www.africanamericanbud.com](http://www.africanamericanbud.com)





# RENEW ORLEANS

**GMAC FINANCIAL SERVICES**

Renewing a community is challenging. But, with perseverance, patience and persistence, those challenges can be met by bringing people together to rebuild homes, restore buildings, reopen businesses and make transportation available and accessible to everyone. As you look toward recovery, know that you are in the thoughts of all of us here at GMAC, the financial services people of General Motors.

[gmacfs.com](http://gmacfs.com) [SmartEdgebyGMAC.com](http://SmartEdgebyGMAC.com)

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GMAC Insurance • GMAC Bank • GMAC Mortgage Corporation • GMAC Real Estate • GMAC Residential Funding Corporation