

Lighting The Road To Freedom

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

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**Wendell Pierce and
Waiting for Godot**

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New Orleans brothers join together to: Walk a Mile for a Child



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Classic Time!



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Richardson



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Walk a Mile for a Child



By Edwin Buggage

Local men ban together to lift up our children

The future of the city of New Orleans lies with its young people, and after Hurricane Katrina the city saw a drastic decrease in the number of young people in the city, this in addition to a crime problem that has spiraled out of control and is claiming the lives of the youth of New Orleans everyday. This is a concern to many across the crescent city. Wilbert “Chill” Wilson and his partner Craig Stewart has come up with “Walk a Mile for a Child” as an antidote and a way to combat the loss of a

generation of the city’s children. He says how it came about, “It is a program that my partner and I put together to address the needs of kids and to also address the concerns of parents and to bridge the gap between the two.” Continuing he says, “With the respect, dignity and love we can work together to prepare our children to be caretakers of our community for the next generation, that is what the goals are for Walk a Mile for a Child.” Wilson has appeared on numerous television shows, newspapers and magazines including CNN, WWL TV, FOX News 8, and “Between the

Lines”, also he has been profiled in New Orleans City Business and the Times Ticaune for his perseverance in the community. He says that one of the components of the program is several daily questions that parents should ask themselves: Have you talk to your child today? Have you eaten with your child today? Have you paid attention to your child today? Have you told your child you love them today? Have you read a book to your child today? Have you told them they are special?

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Wilson says it is important that parents build better relationships with their children and that the program has helped give themselves and other parents answers to many questions regarding their children. These sessions have also been therapeutic according to Wilson, "These gatherings have helped a lot of people, who are still suffering from the after affects of Hurricane Katrina, and many of the kids are back and they are devastated as well." He says at one of these sessions that it reunited two people who were trapped on a roof together for several days.

In these gatherings Wilson says other issues of concern are discussed, "In our recent meeting we talked about the election and how we hoped that we can benefit from those who were elected."

"We also discussed what types of after school activities are available for our children and we discussed how we can better organize and become one when it comes down to representing everybody who is going to be a part of Walk a Mile for a Child."

Wilson who owns a barber shop initially used his business as a way to organize. "In my shop I have a flyer with what the concept was and told people about it and they went and told other people about it and they went and told other people in the community; at their places of work as well as churches." Walk a Mile for a Child has lead to Wilson going to school to talk to young people about staying in school and motivating and inspiring them to contribute to the future betterment of their community.

In the days, months and now two years following Hurricane Katrina, African American children have been absent from the equation of the rebuilding of New Orleans and Wilson feels that it is time to make young people the central focus if the city is to retain much of what makes it unique. "It is important we do what we can to put young people on top of the agenda and that's what makes what we're doing relevant." Then saying; "With all the things that are happening in New Orleans this is to show the kids that they

have a voice and that they can have a voice in shaping the future destiny of African Americans in New Orleans, the country and for that matter the world."

Shaping and molding the minds of the kids are the responsibility of the parents in the community, says Wilson. "It really does take a village to raise a child and in these tough times for our city and our nation we can not place the blame squarely on things outside of our community; because I think it boils down to us doing what we need to do to ensure our kids get

the things they need to be to be successful."

Wilson plans on continuing to have these marches to highlight the importance of young people. "My next march, which is my fourth, will be on December 9th." "I wanted to at least do four marches so that I could ensure parents and children that they had someone who is concerned and wanted to keep on the parents mind that these are our children and who and how they turn out is in our hands."

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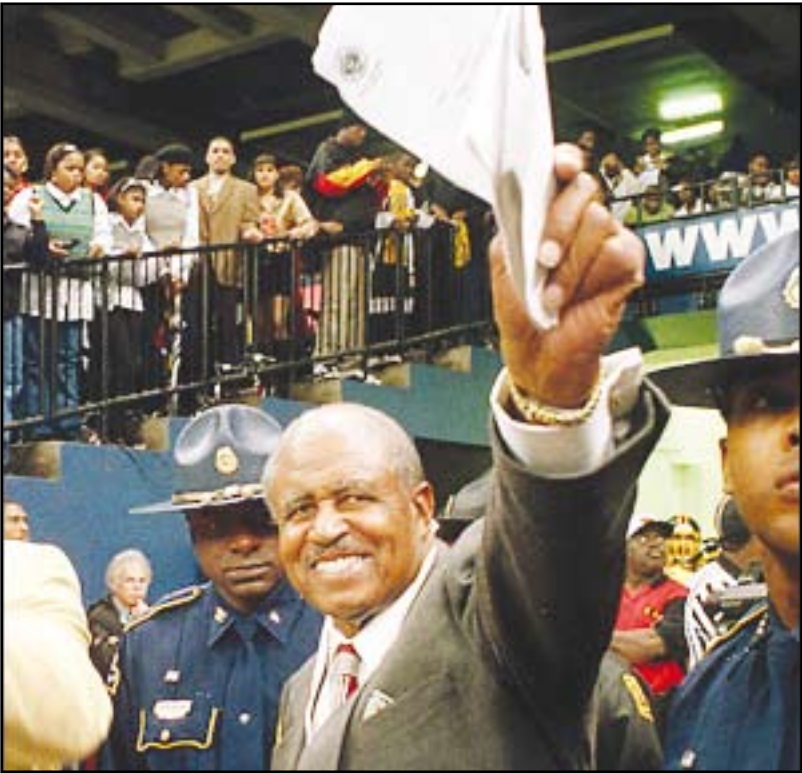
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matchup between these two Southwestern Athletic Conference rivals represents the best that collegiate sports have to offer: teamwork, tradition, passion and fierce competition.

The Bayou Classic will be broadcast live on NBC Sports on November 24th. Whatever your pleasure, there's no weekend like Bayou Classic Weekend in New Orleans. And if you can't make it to the game in person, kick-off time is at 1pm!

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Member-At-Large Results Bring a Shift in the Balance of Power for New Orleans City Council

By Cheryl Mainor

The Saturday night victory of Jackie Clarkson over Cynthia Willard – Lewis in the special election to fill the open Councilmember-at-large seat brings with it a new paradigm shift within the New Orleans City Council which has not existed in 25 years. The balance of power has now reversed and the two city-wide Council seats are now held by white members versus the former Black/white ratio, and the once-Black member majority which accurately represented the population, has given way to a white majority with a 4-3



Newly elected Councilmember-at-Large Jackie Brechtel Clarkson

margin. This has not been the

makeup of the Council since the 1980's.

And while it remains to be seen what effect this change will have on the fragile city and the underlying feeling by Blacks that not much will be done to ensure that those most adversely affected by Katrina and her aftermath will be able to return to living in New Orleans, Black residents are beginning to realize that the city's dynamics will be changing.

Clarkson, returning to the City Council after losing her election bid in 2006, won with 53 percent of the vote to Willard-Lewis' 47 percent with an official 16.5 percent

of her votes coming from majority Black voter precincts, while Willard-Lewis was only able to garner 10.9 percent of the votes from majority white districts, which may indicate that Black voters are more willing to look at a candidate who is diverse more than their white counterparts. Initial estimates of the race indicate that 30 percent of white registered voters turned out, while only 11 percent of Blacks cast ballots.



Former Councilman Oliver Thomas

According to the secretary of state's records show that fewer voters in majority black precincts cast ballots in Saturday's race than those in majority non-black precincts. The difference in the final vote count is significant given that Black registered voters outnumber non black voters by 92,000. However the fact cannot be overlooked that it is possible more outcomes like this are possible given the fact that an estimated 100,000-plus registered voters, the majority of which are black, have left the city and could be removed from the list in the future, which will continue to effect future political races.



Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis



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Seven Jefferson Parish Supervisors may face punishment in noose incident

METAIRIE, La. – Seven Jefferson Parish supervisors may be punished for not dismantling a display in a public works department office that included a noose and a bullwhip.

An investigation has found that the parish's policies and work rules were violated, Parish President Aaron Broussard said.

In an earlier attempt to discredit Terrence Lee, a black sewerage department worker, Defense attorney Scott McQuaig alleged that Lee has a history of lodging unfounded complaints, and that Lee had been scheduled for a three-week suspension after telling Hartline and Chauvin: "All of you are thieves and crooks and I'm going to take you down."

Danatus King, Lee's lawyer, said the objects showed deplorable race relations. King said his client was being mistreated because of his race.

Lee said last week that he felt racial hostility when he entered the work space occupied by his supervisors, superintendent Bill Hartline and foreman Michael Chauvin, and when he walked past the Confederate flag plate on a truck owned by general superintendent Glenn Miller.

In addition to the noose, Lee said there was a bullwhip and a dartboard with a photo of a black man as the bull's eye.

Parish investigators said the seven supervisors had a responsibility to uphold the rules but did not do so.

The next step will be pre-disciplinary hearings for each of those supervisors. The hearings are expected to be completed by Monday, Nov. 26.

JMJ Foundation TRAIL BLAZERS

A Tale of Survival: **Gwendolyn H. Richardson**

By Tre Connerly

She is a warrior for those who sometimes do not have the courage or the strength to fight for themselves. She is an advocate for the disenfranchised. A community activist with a heart of gold; Gwendolyn H. Richardson has the spirit of solving problems in the community in her blood. Her cousin is renowned playwright Lorraine Hansberry author of "Raisin in the Sun", but she says her father George Hansberry was her first inspiration in getting involved in community work. "I was one who was always community based because my father worked with his fraternity, and was involved in all types of organizations which were community based and I was right there along side him."

Much of her community work is centered on children with behavioral problems and domestic violence, "Early on I began working with children with behavior problems; I worked at the Adolescent Service Center and I really enjoyed working with the kids from that population." "I worked with and got along well with them. It was my introduction to child abuse and sexual assault issues."

For thirty years she has been an advocate against violence against women and children. During this time she has spoken to citizens ages 3 to the elderly about these pressing issues. She has also taught self-defense workshops. She says abuse is another one of the silent killers in the community. It is one of those things people don't want to discuss and says she is glad that she is able to provide a forum where people can come out and speak in such a forth-



Gwendolyn H. Richardson

right way about what they feel may be a private matter, and feel some sense of relief when they know they are not alone.

She feels her workshops are helpful because there are many people who are afraid to talk about abuse, and feels that what she does helps survivors deal with what happened to them in a healthy way. "In the audience I find there are always people who have been victims, who are survivors who are still trying to work through the pain of abuse and sometimes people do this in very unhealthy ways. What we try to do is let them know they are not alone and give them what they need so they can overcome and lead a healthy life."

For seventeen years she worked with the YWCA as a volunteer coordinator and community educator. "I trained workers to run the crisis line from their homes, I prepared them to be legal advocates, and medical advocates to meet survivors at the hospitals, and trained them to go out and speak about domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse." Presently she works with the ASHE Cultural Center she says of her involvement, "I got involved about six years ago because one of my sons was interested in African drumming, he learned it through a summer program that was held there taught by Baba Luther Gray, and wherever my children are I participate whether it's the soccer field

or the bowling alley, and I wound up helping the kids in the neighborhood, so I ended up becoming a mentor to a lot of the kids in Central City."

Her work also extends into helping many New Orleans artists recover during these hard times. In her work with ASHE she is involved in a program called Side by Side. "In the program we help people who have been affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, like for example, I lost my home, and so have so many others or they had to deal with FEMA or insurance companies, and the resources that we were able to identify we share with other people to help them avoid the hurdles to make their transition smoother in returning back to the city." They also have provided funding and resources to artists, "Once a month we have artists come in and entertain or display their work, also we have food and it's also a networking place for them because I feel it is important for us to get some of our artist back into the city because it is such a vital part of our culture."

She feels strongly about being back in the city and thinks of herself as one of many pioneers, "I tell my sons all the time that we are pioneers for the new New Orleans." And while she understands that some who have made better lives for themselves outside the city she feels they are still part of the heartbeat that is New Orleans, "I think the people who are not here are still part of what makes the city special because they were once here, but for us who are the pioneers we are the ones who will determine where we go from here."

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Wendell Pierce

The Heart of an Artist

By Edwin Buggage

Art at its best can provoke thought, uplift a people and inspire a community. Over the years the work of New Orleans born actor Wendell Pierce has been a journey of many successes garnering acclaim and awards he has appeared in film, television, and theatre. Showcasing his extreme versatility as an actor he has come to epitomize excellence and is one of the most sought out character actors of his generation.

Recently, he was in New Orleans where he starred in a poignant and powerful play called *Waiting for Godot*. He says of the play, "It is a great play written in the 1950's by Samuel Beckett it is theatre of the absurd that is really speaking to man's ability or search for the ability to deal with this journey of abandonment and how do you find the strength to rely on yourself." He says the theme struck a chord with him because of what has happened to the people of New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, "It interesting how vivid this play speaks to what's going on in New Orleans without changing a word, it is about what are we going to do here, are we going to wait for someone to come and do something for us, or we going to challenge the people who are not doing anything for us, or are we going to do something for ourselves and hold on to hope instead of falling into despair."

Trying to survive being a black artist is hard work, yet Pierce has found a way to continue to do quality roles that run counter to many of the roles available to African-American actors. "I think African-American actors should remain vigilant about the images that are portrayed of us because the power of the media is very strong." But Pierce realizes that serious dialogue still needs to take place about the images of African-Americans in the media.

Although he spends much of his time on both the East and West Coasts, Pierce says New Orleans is a truly special place that is dear to him. "The culture of



Actors J. Kyle Manzay, left, and Wendell Pierce appear in *Waiting for Godot* in New Orleans' Lower Ninth Ward.

New Orleans is some of the most valuable culture in the world, culture is where people intersect with life, and we have created some of the greatest culture in human history in our cuisine, in our music, and the way we deal with life, and that culture is examined and explored and revered all over the world, and oddly, one of the few places its not is right here in the city." Con-



Wendell Pierce

tinuing with passion ringing in his voice he says, "So that's why I remain a vigilant advocate of the culture and I continue to revere and protect the culture because many of the things New Orleans is known for came from African-Americans; you take the Black people influence out of the cuisine, the music and the architecture it would take away much of what is unique about New Orleans."

Pierce who appeared in Spike Lee's *When the Levees Broke* feels that the recovery effort has been lackluster and so much more needs to be done.

"The pace of the recovery is criminal; that people are not allowed to come back home in public housing, its criminal that insurance companies were allowed to take premiums from people for 50 years and then just pay out a couple of hundred bucks. It is criminal that money has been ap-

propriated by the federal government and it sits in the bank. Its criminal that they set up the Road Home and people still are not getting the money they need to begin to rebuild their lives, and I think what is going on is an active attempt to destroy a community and force some people out of the city."

He feels that there is a larger scheme in place where gentrification may be on the horizon "It seems that there is a plan to get rid of the working poor; people who go to work every day to get them out of the city." But he feels that there will be dire consequences for the city, "What you reap is what you sow and so eventually the city which is made up of it's people will never be able to regain itself if it doesn't allow the people that have made it what it is today to come back home." He says it is essential that the leadership do something to bring the people back if it is to retain its special place as the most interesting city in America saying, "There is no place on this earth where the culture is so tangible in everyday life as it is in New Orleans."



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Kermit Ruffins and the Barbecue Swingers Celebrate 15th Anniversary

Story and Photos by Glenn Summers

Renowned New Orleans trumpeter Kermit Ruffins was a founding member of Rebirth Brass Band. In 1992 he left the band, founding his own group Kermit Ruffins and the Barbecue Swingers. On Friday November 9, 2007 he threw a party celebrating the 15th anniversary of the band sharing the stage with Rebirth Brass Band to a packed house at Tipitina's.



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The survival model for humans has always been a cooperative endeavor. The only reason slow running, naked humans with no fangs or claws came to dominate the grasslands of Africa is their love for one another.

Humans became dominant because we supported one another's survival. Ultimately this means that our natural and deepest feelings will be inline with how we feel about our connections to one another, and whether we feel a partner "has our back".

The pressure of modern western living, and the shortsightedness of corporate wealth has many of us trying to succeed all by ourselves, and in doing so feeling unsupported and then not providing support for our partners. Now everything becomes hard, and neither partner gets to relax as interactions become tugs of war rather than people pulling in the same direction. Tugs of war are notorious for consuming a tremendous amount of energy, producing very little movement and creating a winner and a loser, rather than two winners. Its easy to get caught up, actually, considering all the pressures, you are almost guaranteed to get caught up and miss out on the freedom and serenity that comes from being supportive of all your partners, regardless of why the partnership exist. Hell, I was as caught up as anybody, but I was blessed with a woman who is strong enough to communicate her feelings. I was going through a tough period, working my buns off and began to feel like I wasn't getting the kind of support I used to get earlier on in the business, before I almost bankrupt us with my bright ideal of opening a reception hall, back when we were building our independence. Well I communicated my feelings and found myself confronted with a "hands on hip" sister who had just heard enough. My Boo asked me flat out, when had been the last time I was supportive of something she wanted to do, and for how long had she supported my desire to earn my living independently? Well, I got it! What makes me the "Love Doctor" is not my brilliance, but my ability to see my own foolishness. Here I was pouting, when all I had to do was be more supportive of some of my wife's endeavors. I reminded myself that I had enjoyed her support even when I made a mistake that hurt us, so what the hell about being positive helpful and playful about the next picnic, or holiday celebration, or re-decorating, or being more patient when I got caught in a shopping situation. The reality is that I was going to be involved in all these activities anyway, so why not en-

hance her (and it turns out, my own) pleasure with the things she thinks are special. I get all the support I need from my Boo, since I mended my ways, and she doesn't even think about it, she just feels like being supportive, and that taught me something about leadership.

The real "Love Doctor" move was when I took what I learned about my woman and applied it in a situation where I became supervisor of 150 men and women of different ethnicities. Very few partnerships are truly peer relationships. Generally there is a leader and a follower. As these folks supervisor I had their opportunities in my hands, but they had my performance in each of theirs. I had 150 partnerships in which my decisions determined other people's paychecks, time off, and how they were treated when they were accused of doing wrong. (The contractors we supervised resented us because we forced them to do complete, correct and safe work picking up storm debris for the US Army Corps of Engineers) Never having such management responsibilities, I used what I had learned so well at home. I figured out that there was no way for me to make 150 people do the right thing if they didn't want to, so I understood that I needed all 150 of my partners to feel my support. We promised and delivered their first paychecks correct and on time. My staff of six managers went over the numbers several times. I hired more people and created time off opportunities so local people who were hired to work seven days a week twelve hours a day could handle reconstructing their personal lives. When we had Easter off and the Muslims that worked for us wanted their Holy Day, we helped them swap with cooperative and supportive co-workers. And when someone was accused, we successfully lobbied the Corps to use due process before we fired or suspended anyone. The result was the Corps received no citations for illegal materials going into the wrong dumps and no loss days due to injury on the job for the work crews we supervised, no contractor accusations were upheld and my boss made every dime in the contract because attendance was never a big issue. There was minimum stress on the job and very little competition. I had each of their backs, and they had mine.



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Deadline to schedule initial appointments is December 1, 2007.

If you applied to receive assistance through *The Road Home* program, it is required that you complete an initial appointment with a program housing advisor. This initial appointment must be scheduled by **December 1** and completed by **December 15, 2007** or you **will not be eligible** to receive *Road Home* assistance.

First appointments must be made by calling 1.888.762.3252. Appointment times will be based on availability. You are encouraged to call as soon as possible to schedule your appointment.

Where are appointments available?

Appointments are available at 11 Housing Assistance Centers throughout Louisiana and in Houston. Advisory Service follow-up appointments will still be available after the **December 15** deadline.

What if I only applied for mitigation money?

If you applied for mitigation money only, you must still schedule an initial appointment by **December 1, 2007** and complete it by **December 15, 2007** in order to be eligible.

What if I live out of state?

Applicants who live out of state may choose to complete a phone interview and an application packet through the mail. However, program managers strongly encourage homeowners to complete appointments in person if at all possible. This will help expedite the processing of the homeowner's application. Out-of-state applicants must still call to schedule their appointments by **December 1**, and all materials must be returned by **December 15, 2007**.

Don't Wait. Call Today!

To schedule your
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1.888.762.3252
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NFPA \$100,000 Donation to NO Fire Department

Superintendent Charles Parent was pleased to accept a check from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) for \$100,000 to help purchase a command vehicle for the New Orleans Fire Department (NOFD). The NOFD is grateful that the NFPA recognizes that we still have tremendous needs facing us in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

The donation was presented to NOFD Superintendent Charles Parent by NFPA President James Shannon and NFPA Board Chair Warren McDaniels. McDaniels is the former Superintendent of the New Orleans Fire Department.

"As a lifelong resident of New Orleans, I was personally devastated by the tragedy that struck not only individuals but the fire service," said McDaniels, "Rebuilding is hard but critical to the



Superintendent Charles Parent is at the podium surrounded by National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) board members and New Orleans Fire Department (NOFD) staff members as he was accepting a donation from the NFPA for \$100,000 to help purchase a command vehicle for the NOFD.

future of our city. I am proud to be a part of NFPA and grateful for their support of our fire department."

Chief Parent said, "We are grateful to accept this much needed donation, it brings us one step closer to purchasing a command vehicle, which will assist the NOFD members to perform firefighting duties." Chief Parent added, "I wanted to thank NFPA President James Shannon and especially our own NFPA Board

Chair Warren McDaniels for their support. Without these individuals this significant gift would not have been possible."

This is a great example of the partnerships that will help to rebuild New Orleans. Private business coming forward to make sure the NOFD has much needed equipment to continue our high level of quality service to the citizens of New Orleans.

"NFPA is pleased to support the recovery efforts of the great city of New Orleans and in particular its fire service," said NFPA President James M. Shannon. "In ordinary and extraordinary circumstances, the public has come to rely on its first responders to be there and to be prepared, just as they were when Hurricane Katrina struck. This donation will help ensure the New Orleans Fire Department will continue to meet the needs of their community."

College Scholarships Available For Cancer Survivors

New Orleans, LA – Young cancer survivors preparing for higher education may be eligible for scholarships from the Mid-South Division of the American Cancer Society.

For the sixth consecutive year, the Mid-South Division will award \$1,000 scholarships to eligible individuals who have fought cancer and are attending an accredited university, college or vocational/technical school.

"Childhood cancer survivors have faced incredible challenges and overcome them," said Carlette Hines, survivorship director for the Mid-South Division of the American Cancer Society. "Awarding these scholarships is our way of saying congratulations on winning your fight and keep up the good work."

To be eligible, applicants must be under 25, have had a cancer diagnosis before age 21 and be a resident of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, or Floyd or Clark

counties in Indiana and a United States citizen. Candidates must also have a GPA of at least 2.5 and been accepted to an accredited school.

Since the inception of the American Cancer Society college scholarship program in 2000, more than 950 scholarships have been awarded. Last year, 216 survivors were awarded the scholarship.

Applications are due by February 1, 2007. Scholarships will be awarded based on financial need, leadership, academic achievement and community service.

For more information on the scholarship program or to obtain an application, call 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit www.cancer.org.

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide, community-based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives and diminishing suffering from cancer, through research, education, advocacy and service.

Mayor's "Merci Beaucoup Dinner" pulls a big turn-out

NEW ORLEANS – Mayor Ray Nagin thanked his city's residents for being in the city nearly 27 months after Hurricane Katrina, telling hundreds gathered for a community dinner on Canal Street tonight that their resilience helps send the message that New Orleans is coming back.

The "Merci Beaucoup Dinner," held a week before Thanksgiving, was billed as an event, "honoring you for your resilience, patience and commitment to the recovery of our city."

The dinner, which closed down a portion of one of New Orleans' most famous streets, featured a city staple – red beans and rice – along with such dishes as seafood pasta, cornbread, chicken and cheesecake.

The city said no public dollars were used for the food or the brass band entertainment. Those who came were asked to bring a canned good for Second Harvest food bank, where the need for donations is great, according to Second Harvest's Tony Ellis.

The city estimated as many as 3,000 people would participate in the dinner; the crowd gathered by the time Nagin spoke appeared far smaller.

As people ate beneath white tents emblazoned with the sheriff's department logo on a clear, crisp fall night, Nagin paused for pictures as he worked the crowd. He said he was most thankful for people "enjoying the best of this city."

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March For Justice

Plagued by Injustices, Blacks Find Solace in Family This Week

By. Hazel Trice Edney
NNPA Editor-in-chief

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – The chants of “No justice, no peace!” have momentarily subsided. The buses have arrived back home. Marching feet prepare to rest under tables full of turkeys, collared greens and candied yams as African-Americans across the nation – battling daily with racial inequities – pause to count their blessings at Thanksgiving.

“I don’t hang on the streets. I don’t sell drugs. But I can’t even find a job because of the way I look and the way I wear my hair and basic stereotypes,” says 21-year-old Erick Dickerson, among the protestors in last Friday’s march on the U. S. Department of Justice and the “Enough is Enough Stop Hate Crimes and Police Brutality” rally held the next day at the Washington Monument. “It’s crazy that it’s harder to do the right thing than to do the wrong thing,” says Dickerson.



The 24 hours of protest in the heart of the nation’s capitol had started the day before in Freedom Plaza with a march organized by the Rev. Charles Steele of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Martin Luther King III of the Living the Dream organization and the Rev. Al Sharpton of the National Action Network. Preparing to lead tens of thousands to march seven times around the

was shot 10 times Nov. 12 and then handcuffed by New York City Police officers;

- Megan Williams, 20, the West Virginia woman who was tortured and made to eat dog and rat feces by six Whites who repeatedly called her a N*****;
- Martin Lee Anderson, 14, of Tallahassee, Fla., a sickle cell

anemia patient who died in a juvenile boot-camp, complaining that he could not breathe after being roughed up by camp guards. The guards were later found not-guilty in his death;

- DeOnte Rawlings, 14, shot in the head last month by one of two off duty Washington, D.C. police officers who killed the youth after discovering him on a mini bike that was stolen from one of the officers’ homes. The officers claim DeOnte shot at them, but no gun was found at the scene;
- Genarlow Wilson, recently released by the Georgia Supreme Court after serving two years of a 10-year sentence in an Atlanta prison for having oral sex with another teenager.
- And Mychal Bell, the only member of the famous Jena Six of Jena, La., who remains

incarcerated after a school yard brawl connected to nooses that were hung in a so-called “White Tree.”

These are among the cases that have emerged as icons for injustice. But thousands more were represented by families, friends and supporters who came to one or both marches, some of whom carried quiet pain just beneath the surface. At Saturday’s protest, a 10-foot banner carried the names of more than 1,700 names of people killed by police in recent years.

The face of Linda Haney streaked with tears before answering a reporter’s question about what injustices she had experienced.

“My brother was legally lynched,” she said, poised but weeping quietly. Her brother, a 45-year-old Marine, drowned in six to 12 feet of water last year as



The Rev. Charles Steele, the Rev. Al Sharpton, Martin Luther King III and Tom Joyner lead protestors to march seven times around the U. S. Department of Justice.

Still, the blue-jean clad, dreadlocked and unemployed certified welder, carpenter and electrical engineer, says he will sit down with friends for Thanksgiving this week and try to find hope in just being thankful.

“I give thanks for my two kids,” he says of his 2-year-old daughter and his son who is almost 1. “I’m just glad to have my kids. It’ll get better,” he says.

Surrounded by an energetic crowd and live bands blaring lyrics against injustice, Dickerson was among hundreds of Black men, women and children – of all ages and walks of life – just looking for a way around the disparate statistics that daily plague Black life in America.

Department of Justice against hate crimes, Sharpton synopsisized the event:

“The Justice Department wouldn’t come to the people! We brought the people to the Justice Department!” he shouted as the crowd applauded and cheered wildly.

Among thousands of signs, banners and t-shirts, a huge red, black and green flag flapped in the chilling winds. It was inscribed with only one word – “Justice”.

Recent names of Black people that have come to symbolize injustice in America were shouted frequently during speeches and presentations at both events, which organizers called a continuum:

- Kyle Coppin, 18, an unarmed teen carrying a hairbrush who



Continued on next page.

Alzheimer's Disease



Larry Lucas
Data Columnist

Growing old gracefully is easier said than done – the mirror can betray the fact that we may feel 10 years younger on the inside. But with the laugh lines comes the wisdom and the ability to look back fondly on a life well-lived. We dream about our golden years as a time to be with our families and enjoy our favorite pastimes, like golfing or gardening. But for the more than 5 million

people living with Alzheimer's disease and their families, the reality is far different.

According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia among older people – and I believe it. Every day it seems I hear about another person who is experiencing the impact of Alzheimer's. It is a condition that gets worse over time, and it is fatal. Just last year my own mother-in-law died from the disease. Alzheimer's destroys brain cells, causing problems with memory, thinking and behavior severe enough to affect work, lifelong hobbies or social life, according to the Alzheimer's Association. To put it simply, Alzheimer's disease isn't about forgetting an acquaintance's name; it's forgetting your wife's name.

Alzheimer's disease is a particularly serious issue for the African American community. A recent article in the Houston Chronicle reports that Alzheimer's occurs among blacks at a much higher rate than among whites — from 14 percent to 100 percent higher. According to the Alzheimer's Association, some of the possible reasons are that African American's have higher rates of blood pressure

and diabetes, all risk factors for Alzheimer's.

It's important to recognize the difference between normal age-related memory changes and possible warning signs of Alzheimer's disease. Some symptoms to look for include memory loss, difficulty performing tasks, problems with language, problems with abstract thinking or loss of initiative, according to the Alzheimer's Association. If you think you or a loved one are experiencing symptoms of Alzheimer's related dementia, it's very important to seek medical advice. An early diagnosis is so important because it eliminates uncertainty and also gives you a better chance at benefiting from treatment. Diagnosing this disease can be difficult, but researchers at Stanford University have recently developed a single blood test that, according to preliminary studies, is able to identify patients with Alzheimer's disease and may even predict the likelihood of developing the diseases.

There is life after diagnosis, in the early stages. Plan now for the future; your family can honor your wishes when it becomes too difficult to live independently. To help maintain your or a loved one's independence, the Alzheimer's Association recommends you take certain steps, like get

help with daily tasks, use memory aids like labels and lists, stay active and take your medicines as prescribed.

Just over 10 years ago, there were no treatments for Alzheimer's disease. Today, however, because of advances in pharmaceutical research, there are medicines available to treat this cruel disease and help slow its symptoms. These medicines have improved the quality of life for many patients and the loved ones who care for them. And new medicines are being studied that offer the hope that one day Alzheimer's disease will be a treatable or preventable condition not to be feared as it is now. In fact, a new survey by the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) revealed 27 new medicines in development for Alzheimer's disease.

If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's, you may find your dreams for retirement taking a different path. But know that it is possible to live with Alzheimer's in the early stages if you make simple adjustments, take your medicines as prescribed, follow safety precautions and have the support of others.

Larry Lucas is a vice president for Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA).

NORA

New Orleans Redevelopment Authority

PUBLIC FORUM NOTICE

The public is invited to attend an open forum on Wednesday, November 28, 2007 at 6:30 PM with the Board of Directors of the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (NORA) and the Office of Recovery Management (ORM) at the New Orleans City Council Chambers, 1300 Perdido Street to gain information and give input about the Orleans Parish Redevelopment and Disposition Plan for Louisiana Land Trust properties. Following this forum, this plan will be submitted to the Mayor and the New Orleans City Council before it is forwarded to the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA).

Beginning next spring and continuing over the next 12-18 months, as many as seven thousand (7,000) properties will be transferred from the Louisiana Land Trust (LLT) to NORA. These properties comprise those sold back to the state as part of the Louisiana Road Home program. As the exclusive recipient and administrator of these properties, NORA will seek input on the principles for transfer and management of these properties in a manner consistent with the long-term goals and objectives of the (Plan adopted by the City Council) and the Unified New Orleans Plan (UNOP), which concentrates redevelopment around 17 designated areas.

The open forum on November 28th is part of NORA's broader process for public participation. NORA plans to schedule a series of public meetings as information on specific parcels and sale closings become available.

The strategies for redevelopment are being managed through collaboration among the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority, the Office of Recovery Management, the Mayor's Office and the Louisiana Office of Community Development. This group has worked in consultation with the Louisiana Recovery Authority and the Louisiana Land Trust.

**Copies of the draft of NORA's application to the LRA are available at:
The New Orleans Public Library, and on-line at www.cityofno.com and at
www.noraworks.org.**

March Continued from page 13.

he was pursued by the Montgomery County, Md. Police.

"He was a fugitive," she said, "I don't think Montgomery County did all they could to save him."

On the police tape, she said all that was heard was, "There he is! There he is over there!" The next thing we knew, he was dead...They wouldn't give us any information."

Haney said she will give thanks for her relationship with and guidance of her brother's children. "We have become very involved in their lives," Haney said of his 20 and 12-year-old sons and 11-year-old daughter. "We still have each other."

Still others hold fast to children of loved-ones who have died amidst thousands of homicides over the past decades.

Girleen Sutton of Atlanta said she has vowed to care for "all the new lives that have come in and all the new children in the family and to keep them informed of their heritage."

She said she has come to realize the value of family even greater since the deaths of three nephews – Tim Sutton, 18; Jamille Sutton, 17; and Harold Sutton, 32; all of whom died by gun fire.

Whether the deaths and injustices are due to social ills in the streets, unequal justice in the courtrooms, disparate health care in hospitals, or economic inequalities and race discrimination in the working world, a new level of activism sweeping America indicates that African-Americans will not be undermined, says the Rev. Lennox Yearwood, chief executive of the Hip-Hop

Caucus that sponsored the hip-hop protest and concert.

"The idea is that in their minds, we don't count. But, we know we count. And we have to organize and mobilize and some of this might seem a little bit peculiar, but if we were to start marching that way," he pointed in the direction of the White House, "You would see how much power we have."

Despite rising reports of hate crimes, police brutality and other racial incidents, for many, a time-out for giving thanks this week means sharing with family, loved ones, friends, family or with caring strangers at a shelter.

For some die-hard activists, even those moments will be cause for reflection on injustice.

"When I sit down, I'll be standing up for the Native Americans," says Obi Egbuna, program coordinator for the Pan-African Liberation Organization. Recalling that the first Thanksgiving took place in 1621 during the slaughter of Native-Americans and the enslavement of Blacks during the 16th through 19th centuries, Egbuna reminds, "We're endorsing slavery and colonialism if we don't focus on the suffering."

Rather than focusing on the suffering, Joseph Gantt, 64, an ex-convict surrounded by youth that he brought to the hip-hop rally, says he will work on obliterating it. A mentor to 21-year-old Dickerson, who is looking for a job, Gantt, on parole for life, says, "I will thank God for not letting me die in prison and for allowing me to turn my life around. My goal is to mentor young men off the streets and off the corners and get them into the streets protesting."

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