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New Orleans

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**News Weekly**

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**Data Zone Features Moments  
from Pres. Obama's Visit**

October 24 - November 6, 2009 44th Year Volume 12 [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com)

# History in the Making: President Obama Visits New Orleans



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# History in the Making: President Obama Visits New Orleans



**Edwin Buggage**  
Editor-in-Chief

President Barack Obama recently made his first visit to New Orleans since becoming president nine months ago. During his whirlwind, nearly four-hour trek through the Crescent City, he visited Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Charter School located in the ravaged Lower Ninth Ward talking with students, staff and administrators. The school's principal Dr. Doris Roche-Hicks said of his visit, "We were excited to be selected to be part of this historical moment; that President Obama came to our school." Continuing she said, "We had a productive conversation that assessed the needs of our community and our young people in the city as we rebuild."

Later in the day, President Obama held a town hall meeting at the University of New Orleans where he commended the city and its people in its efforts toward rebuilding.

"This city is an inspiration," said President Obama, adding that he also wanted to spend time with the men and women who continue to remind the rest of America what it means to persevere in the face of tragedy.

Photos by Edwin Buggage

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Please call (504) 284-3840 for subscription information. Dated material two weeks in advance.  
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President Obama also boldly claimed that healthcare reform would be passed by the end of this year. He went back to the days of his campaign harkening back to the message of change saying, "Change is hard, but big change is harder."

In the last election cycle, then candidate Obama spearheaded a movement that changed America and made history. Young people came out in droves supporting Barack Obama, which was key to his victory in November 2008.

President Obama also talked about the spirit of resilience of the people of the city and how they are the engines that jumpstart change, "The people of New Orleans are resilient, and the change where people started to rebuild their lives didn't start in D.C.-it started right here with people helping one and other," he said.

After his speech there was an open forum where people from the audience asked questions on a broad range of issues from education, domestic violence, healthcare reform, city rebuilding projects, social security and the environment. But the highlight of the town hall was when Tyren Scott, a 9-year-old from the tiny town of Paulina, La. asked President Obama- why people hate him? Obama reassured the youngster telling him and the audi-



During his 20 minute speech, President Obama said that the rebuilding of the Gulf Coast was a top priority of his administration. While acknowledging that it is an arduous task, he said, "We have a long way to go, but we are going to get there." Answering his critics he said, "I don't quit. We keep going until we get it done. Those who get in the way of progress, let me tell you something, I am just getting started." His words electrified the audience where the sounds of thunderous applause and chants of "yes, we can" filled the room.

In his speech, President Obama mentioned that \$1.5 billion in recovery and rebuilding assistance had been released to help with the building efforts along the Gulf Coast. He pledged his administration's lasting commitment, "We will not forget about New Orleans; we are going to keep on working," said President Obama. "Together, we will rebuild this region stronger than before.

President Obama used this opportunity to talk about healthcare reform and how it could impact New Orleans, saying he foresees the opening of a world class healthcare facility in New Orleans.



Echoing that sentiment, Obama said young people are essential to the rebuilding the city. "I commend the young people who are coming to New Orleans and meeting these challenges," he said.

ence, "Well, now, first of all, I did get elected president, so not everybody hates me, now," said Obama. "I got a whole lot of votes. I want to make sure everybody understands."

Acknowledging the anger of those who disagree with his policies, he told the forthgrader, "People, I think they're worried about their own lives. A lot of people are losing their jobs right now. A lot of people are losing their health care or they've lost their homes to foreclosure. And they're feeling frustrated," said President Obama. "And when you're president of the United States, you know, you've got to deal with all of that... And, you know, you get some of the credit when things go good; and when things are going tough, then you're going to get some of the blame and that's part of the job. But, you know, I'm a pretty tough guy," President Obama said.



# Civil Rights Organizations and Others Call for Investigation of Tangipahoa Judge

*Justice of the Peace Keith Bardwell Refused to Marry Interracial Couple*

**Shaniece B. Bickham**  
Managing Editor

Tangipahoa Parish Judge Keith Bardwell caused quite a stir last week when it was learned that he has his own self-imposed policy of refusing to marry interracial couples. According to Bardwell, who has served as a Justice of the Peace for the parish for over 30 years, he does not marry people

of different races out of concern for any children the couples might have.

Terence McKay, who is black, Beth Humphrey, who is white, found out about Bardwell's bias first-hand when he refused to marry them. Bardwell stated in the media that he recused himself, which all judges can legally do. Humphrey said that Bardwell



Tangipahoa Parish Judge Keith Bardwell. Photo Credit: CBS

conduct an immediate investigation into the civil rights violation by Justice Keith Bardwell's refusal to marry an interracial couple," said National Urban League President Marc Morial. "This is a huge step backward in social justice and must not be tolerated."

The National Urban League is not the only organization speaking out against Bardwell. The American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana has called for an investigation as well.

wouldn't even issue them a marriage license, however. Bardwell's refusal to perform McKay and Humphrey's ceremony sparked controversy and outrage not only in Hammond, La., but across the state and country.

McKay and Humphrey were married by another judge, but are now suing Bardwell.

"In light of the erroneous statement by the Louisiana Justice Keith Bardwell, who seems to be unaware of the U.S. Constitution, we are asking the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division to

tion of justice."

According to the NAACP, the US Supreme Court ended prohibition of marriage due to race in the case of *Loving vs. Virginia* in 1963. In its statement, the NAACP also pointed out that Justice Bardwell is in violation of Louisiana's Judicial Code of Conduct which states "A judge shall perform judicial duties without bias or prejudice."

"Mr. Bardwell needs to respect Ms. Humphrey's and Mr. McKay's humanity, apologize to them and the people of Louisiana," stated NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous. "The NAACP stands with our Tangipahoa Branch's call for Justice Bardwell to resign. Judge Bardwell is clearly in violation of our nation's laws and moral ethos," said Jealous.

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference are among others who have taken a stand against Bardwell.

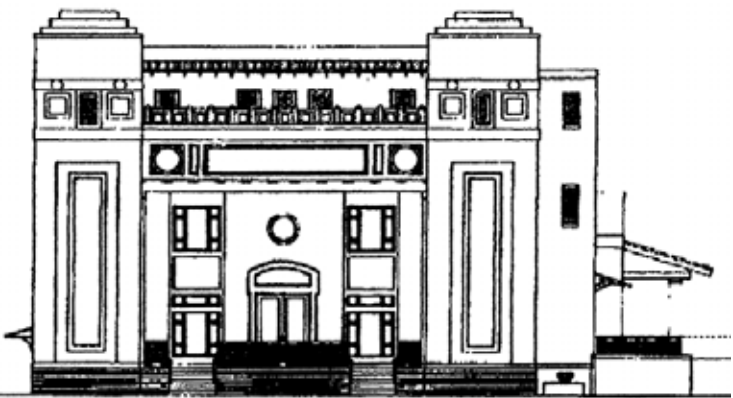
## Peacekeepers Dedicated to Taking Back the Streets

Every Saturday, a group of men, the Peacekeepers, dedicate their time to walking the streets of New Orleans in an effort to take a stand against violent crime. More information about the Peacekeepers is available at [www.crescentrizing.com](http://www.crescentrizing.com).



Photos courtesy of [www.crescentrizing.com](http://www.crescentrizing.com).

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## State of Louisiana Funds B.W. Cooper Redevelopment in New Orleans

Representatives from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Louisiana Recovery Authority, the Office of Community Development and the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency joined with state and local officials, and developers KBK Enterprises and B.W. Cooper Resident Management Corporation at the groundbreaking of a new mixed-income housing development at the former B.W. Cooper Public Housing project in New Orleans.

The groundbreaking kicked off Phase One of construction that will provide 410 rental units, a management office, business center, and child-care center at the 55-acre site in Central City. The site generally is bounded by Earhart Boulevard, South Claiborne Avenue, Martin Luther King Boulevard and South Dorgenois Street.

The last of the city's 'Big Four' housing projects to break ground

after its demolition in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the first phase of the B.W. Cooper Community represents a combined investment of more than \$118 million, of which \$40 million will be disaster recovery Community Development Block Grant funds.

The \$40 million in CDBG money - drawn from a pool of federal disaster recovery funds administered by the LRA/OCD - will be "piggybacked" onto approximately \$40 million in equity generated through the syndication of GO Zone Housing Tax Credits administered by the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency.

Paul Rainwater, LRA/OCD executive director said, "We lost more than 82,000 units, or 47 percent of the rental housing in the state, to hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In New Orleans alone, more than 44,000 rental units were damaged or destroyed. The redevelopment of the B.W. Cooper

Community will help restore critically needed rental stock to citizens who have been deprived of affordable housing as a result of the storms."

Darrell Williams, B.W. Cooper Resident Management Corporation executive director said, "This is a historical event. Quality housing is essential to a strong neighborhood. Through this redevelopment initiative and others like this, Central City is on track to flourish as a community once again."

Ohio-based developer KBI Enterprises and its development partner B.W. Cooper Resident Management Corporation - who were selected by HUD and the Housing Authority of New Orleans - indicate that when both phases of construction are completed, the \$225 million project will provide a total of 740 units of mixed-income housing, of which 660 units will be located on-site, with an additional 80 units located

in the adjacent neighborhood. The unit breakdown will be one-third public housing units, one-third Go Zone tax credit units and one-third market rate units.

The design of the B.W. Cooper Community will be based on the Louisiana Speaks pattern book, using a combination of traditional architectural styles for doubles and multiplex buildings. The community will reconnect residents to essential supportive services by restoring the historical street grid that was erased when the original housing project was built.

Phase One will include 410 units that are pre-wired for Internet access, cable television and standard telephone service; a 4,300 square-ft management building/club house with business center that will offer a copier, fax machine and at least 17 computers with internet access; a 5,500 square-foot maintenance facility; a 7,900 square-foot child care cen-

ter; and play areas designed for children of all ages.

Three of the other 'Big Four' housing projects already have broken ground: the former St. Bernard project, now called Columbia Parc at the Bayou District; the former C.J. Peete project, now called Harmony Oaks; and the former Lafitte project, now called Lafitte Community. Each of the three housing projects used \$27 million in CDBG Piggyback funding.

Through a competitive process, the state's Piggyback program, which pairs CDBG funds with GO Zone Tax Credits to create mixed-income and affordable housing developments, has made awards to a total of 57 projects in the areas of the state most impacted by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, amounting to more than \$580 million in CDBG gap financing.



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At AT&T, diversity and inclusion will always be top priorities.

That's why we're proud to support the Louisiana NAACP and its outstanding work advocating for equality.





# Temporary Library for New Orleans East Opens

The temporary facility set up in the parking lot of 5641 Read Blvd. in New Orleans East was filled with citizens and city officials ready to celebrate the grand opening of their temporary library on Oct. 13. Not your typical trailer, the New Orleans East Temporary Library is packed with books for all ages, movies, and magazines, as well as laptops and wifi internet access. Not only does the new facility provide a needed resource to the community, but it also celebrates the upcoming work on



the new, state-of-the-art, permanent library that will begin con-

struction in about 3 weeks.

This temporary library is one of six donated to The Gulf Coast Libraries Project. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation awarded a grant to LYRASIS to assist public libraries throughout Louisiana and Mississippi damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The

system wide effort has resulted in staff from many of the other libraries lending a helping hand to get the New Orleans East library up and running.

The library is open from 10am-7pm Monday and Wednesday, 10am-6pm Tuesday and Thursday, and 10am-5pm on Saturday.

For more information on the New Orleans East Library and other Recovery Projects please go to [www.cityofno.com/recovery](http://www.cityofno.com/recovery).

## Operation Reach Spearheads Second Annual Youth Change Awards

New Orleans, LA - The Gulf South Youth Action Fund hosted the second annual Youth Change Awards Dinner honoring middle and high school students that are using their exemplary leadership skills to create change in the Greater New Orleans community on Saturday, Oct. 24.

The Gulf South Youth Action Fund (GYAF) was developed in 2007 by Operation REACH, Inc., in conjunction with the Greater New Orleans Foundation. It is a youth-led philanthropy initiative that engages young people as leaders and empowers them with the resources to make strategic investments in their peers and their communities. The GYAF Youth Advisory Board is comprised of middle and high school students, who review grant proposals and award grants to youth-serving/youth-led organizations engaged in the continuing GulfCoast recovery efforts and youth leadership development in the Greater New Orleans area. To date, the GYAF's Youth Advisory Board members have awarded over \$20,000 in financial support to area youth-led organizations, including Youth Rebuilding New Orleans, the Warren Easton Fundamental Senior High School's Interact Club and the Vietnamese American Young Leaders Association.

The Youth Change Campaign Awards Dinner featured the "Change Maker" Awards, honoring outstanding community members who have shown exemplary leadership in projects related to the recovery of this region. This year, youth activist and social-entrepreneur Tyler Hamblin joined in to bring inspiration to his peers and fellow philanthropists. Hamblin, a 16-year-old native of Michigan, is the founder of "The Point," a non-profit designed to promote youth involvement with local communities across the nation.



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS  
Office of Community Development (OCD)

### SUPERNOFA (Notice of Funding Availability) and REGISTRY OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS Through the CDBG and HOME Programs

The City of New Orleans, through the Office of Community Development (OCD), announces the availability of funds in 2010 to community based, not-for-profit, for-profit and faith-based organizations that implement programs and/or projects addressing housing and community development needs. Only organizations certified on the Office of Community Development's Registry of Community Organizations are eligible to receive funding under this SuperNOFA. **These funds are available for the Community Development Block Grant Program and the HOME Program.**

The purpose of the Registry is to ensure that applicants meet minimum eligibility requirements to receive federal and state grant funds through the Office of Community Development for Program Year 2010 (January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010). Certification on the Registry does not guarantee funding for Program Year 2010. Applicants certified for eligibility on the Registry must successfully complete the SuperNOFA process to receive funding.

Registry and NOFA applications for CDBG and HOME are available at [www.cityofno.com](http://www.cityofno.com) or at the Office of Community Development at 1340 Poydras Street, 10th Floor **beginning Monday, October 19, 2009**. Deadline to submit both Registry and NOFA applications is **Friday, November 20, 2009**.

**Completed Registry and NOFA applications are due by 3:00 p.m.**

For further information, please contact Jeanette Thomas at 504-658-4343 or Donna Pearson at 504-658-4347.

**C. Ray Nagin**  
Mayor

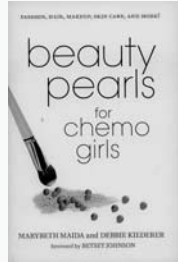
**Kenya Smith**  
Executive Assistant to the Mayor

**New Orleans**  
**DATA**  
**News Weekly**

# Two Books Address Dealing with Breast Cancer

**Beauty Pearls for Chemo Girls**  
by Marybeth Maida and Debbie Kiederer  
c.2009, Citadel Press  
\$14.95 / \$17.95 Canada  
270 pages, includes index

**Stand By Her**  
by John W. Anderson  
c.2009, Amacom  
\$18.95 / \$24.95 Canada  
256 pages, includes index



## Terri Schlichenmeyer Data News Weekly Contributor

You couldn't pretend any longer.

The lump was there, no doubt about it. You noticed during your once-a-month self-exam, but you brushed it off then, sure it was nothing. Three weeks later, scared witless, you wore a brave face to Mammography, and hoped.

Now – it happened so fast – you're trying to learn how to live life with cancer. To help you, and because October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, here are two books you need to keep around.

You already know there'll be days when you'll feel really crummy, and days when you'll feel so good that you almost forget you've got cancer. Take advantage of both kinds of days with

*"Beauty Pearls for Chemo Girls"* by Marybeth Maida and Debbie Kiederer (with foreword by Betsey Johnson).

"Cancer has an impact on more than our outer shell," the authors say. "It strikes at the heart of our being. Once healthy and strong, we're now sick and scared." But about twenty years ago, doctors realized that women with cancer responded better to treatment if they felt better about their appearance. With that in mind, this book gives you tips on looking your best, even when you feel your worst.

The first, most important looking-good advice: ask your local American Cancer Society about The Look Good Feel Better Foundation®. Second advice: buy a wig as soon as you know you'll need one.

In this book, you'll learn how to tie a classy turban (and how to

make one from an old T-shirt), how to protect your skin and deal with rashes, how to disguise lost eyelashes, what to do about weight gain (or loss), how to deal with sudden menopause, decreased libido, and more.

Written by women who've "been there", this book doesn't candy-coat anything, but it's not harsh. It also gives pros and cons for each idea, which makes for good balance.

So we've taken care of you. Now, how about taking care of the guy who cares for you by handing him *"Stand By Her"* by John W. Anderson.

Beneath that masculine exterior, beats the heart of a softie: when you say you've got breast cancer, he's as scared as you are. From diagnosis to that celebratory five-year anniversary, this book addresses everything a man needs to know about help-

ing the woman in his life beat this disease.

What I like about his book is, first, that it's an anomaly. You won't find many books for men on this subject. Secondly, it's not just about the nuts-and-bolts of chemotherapy and surgery (although they're in there) or how to physically care for a mastectomy patient or chemo recipient. This book includes some powerful pampering ideas that will help him help you.

Interestingly enough, this book isn't just for husbands. Author John W. Anderson also includes information for brothers, fathers, and beloved uncles, too.

This October, do Breast Cancer Awareness Month right: learn BSE. Get a mammogram. Look for these books. And take good care of yourself.

Because if you find a lump, you can't pretend any longer.

## A Message from Richard's Disposal and Metro Disposal



Recently there has been much public discussion regarding the sanitation services provided to you by Richard's Disposal and Metro Disposal. So that you may be clear on what services you receive for the cost you pay, Richard's Disposal and Metro Disposal would like to provide you with pertinent information regarding their contracts with the City of New Orleans.



Waste Disposal Cost for the City of New Orleans – Average \$20.00 per month.  
Orleans Parish residents pay \$12.00 per month of that \$20.00.  
The City of New Orleans pays the remaining \$8.00.

### Residents fees cover:

- Garbage carts (supplied by the Contractor)
- Twice weekly garbage collection
- Bulky waste collection (furniture, etc.)
- White goods collection (refrigerator, stove, etc.)
- Christmas Tree Collection
- One Supervisor for every five trucks on the street
- Actual disposal of waste (transported to landfill)

### Key elements of Richard's/Metro's contract with the City.

**Contract costs fixed for the length of the 10 years contract and services can not be decreased.**

Protect your pocketbook from increases in sanitation costs and cuts in your service.



# PIPELINE TO THE PEOPLE

by Edwin Buggage  
Editor-in-Chief

President Barack Obama recently visited New Orleans for the first time since being elected to the nation's highest office. Data News Weekly asked a few New Orleanians to reflect on his visit.

## Rev. Tom Watson

Pastor of Watson Memorial Ministries

"I think along with the great historical moment, for the first time in our history we have an African-American U.S. President coming to an African-American city, which is a moment we can be proud of. His visit was a ray of hope given there is so much hopelessness in the city of New Orleans as it relates to the recovery that's not talked about on the national level. These were things that were happening before Hurricane Katrina--poor education, poverty and other social ills in our community. I think just the presence of our President coming to our city in and of itself beyond the symbolism gives the city hope that he is committed to rebuilding New Orleans. I think for those who said his visit was too short, I believe that it is more about the quality of his visit not the quantity. I think it made an impact that will be felt for some time."



## Anthony Patton

CEO of EBONETWORKS



"Yes, it is historically significant--President Obama coming to the city of New Orleans. But, I don't think the visit matched the moment. A visit from Barack Obama to New Orleans post-Katrina should have been in a facility that could have housed more people like the Louisiana Superdome. It should have been really more of a conversation that included all of New Orleans, not just a select few who received tickets. I believe more people should have been there to listen to his message. The second thing was his visit was extremely short. I understand he is a busy

President and pushing health care reform, but a big part of what he ran on was not being like the past administration and really spending time in New Orleans. I mean, New Orleans was a theme that came up regularly and to only spend a few hours here doesn't match the level of commitment that he promised. And finally, we are a very forgiving city, and many of us have given a lot to come back and try to rebuild. We just need to make sure that the promises he made will be kept and not repeat what happened with the past administration."

## Juan LaFonta

La. State Representative

President Obama's recent visit to New Orleans lets the people of our city know we are not forgotten; the visit will inspire them. Now, the entire Louisiana Congressional Delegation needs to act with one voice to promote urgency in the rebuilding effort. It matters what our President does in the future, and the rebuilding of New Orleans is an American problem and deserves the attention of this great President."



## Wilbert "Chill" Wilson

Owner of Mr. Chill's First Class Cuts



"Although I respect this moment in history, and it was wonderful for our city that the President came to New Orleans, I believe it helped to continue to show our city is in drastic need as we recover and rebuild. As the owner of a barbershop/small business, I felt during his visit, [Pres. Obama] did not talk about how small businesses are a very important part of the city's economic engine that factors into the rebuilding and remaking of the city. I think he should have seen more of the city and for that matter, the region to see the wreckage for himself. Sending his staffers is fine, but it does not have the same impact as it would if he would witness what is going on for himself to get a more complete view--not just a snapshot--of the resilient people

he mentioned in his speech. But I support and commend President Obama and what he means to the future of America and the world because his election symbolizes for us what we can be when we put our differences aside and do what is right to move our country into the 21st century. I feel Obama embodies that."



# Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Data's feature Shoot Ya Best Shot showcases candid photos from around town. To have your photos included in the Shoot Ya Best Shot special section, email them along with the photographer's name to [datanewsphotos@gmail.com](mailto:datanewsphotos@gmail.com). This issue's photos highlight attendees from the recent visit to New Orleans from President Barack Obama.



Data News Edwin Buggage and Louisiana State Representative Juan LaFonta.



Louisiana State Representative Cedric Richmond, Louisiana State Senator Ed Murray and Data News Weekly's Publisher Terry Jones.



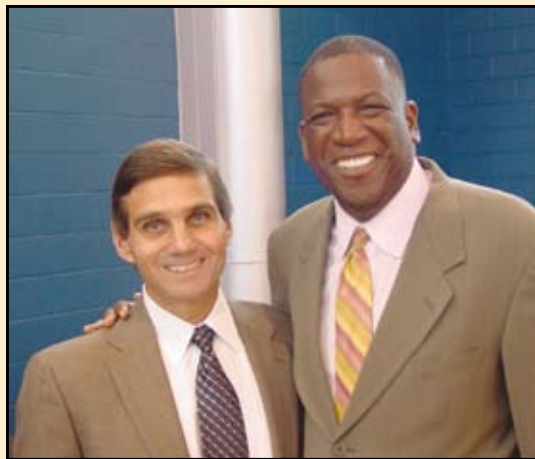
Louisiana State Representative Cedric Richmond, Jefferson Parish City Council member Byron Lee and Louisiana State Representative Girod Jackson.



Data News Weekly Editor-In-Chief Edwin Buggage and Elder Brandon Boutin of Greater St. Stephen's Ministry.



Data News Weekly Terry Jones and Former CEO of New Orleans Urban League Edith Jones.



New Orleans District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro and Jefferson Parish City Councilmember Byron Lee.



# Kingsley House Gets Special Visits from Former Saints Star Michael Lewis and Radio Personality Juggie

On Wednesday, Oct. 7, former New Orleans Saints Pro Bowl Punt Return Specialist, Michael Lewis and Q93 FM radio personality, Juggie, "Stepped Up" for Louisiana's kids.

As part of Every Child Matters in Louisiana's 'Step Up for Kids Week,' Lewis and Juggie made guest appearances at Kingsley House to speak to Kingsley



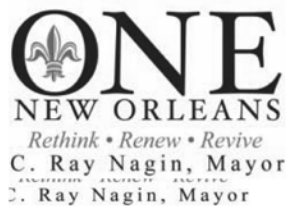
House Head Start students about the importance of education and healthcare.

In addition to the day's event, Kingsley House students also took part in a drawing campaign to president Obama to show why kids matter. Many of the drawings read, "Yes, I Matter, don't You?"

At the conclusion of the event,

students were able to obtain autograph signatures of Lewis and Juggie as well as pass football tosses with them.

The New Orleans Louisiana Saints, Joining Underprivileged Generations Growing In Education and Kingsley House were community partners for this event.



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Office of Community Development (OCD)

## Compliance with Executive Order 11988 Floodplain Management Public Notice Early Public Review

The City of New Orleans Office Community Development (OCD) proposes to secure HOME funds to assist in the construction of 25 single family dwellings located throughout the Gentilly area of Orleans Parish. The project is known as Gentilly Homeowner and the recipient is Renaissance Neighborhood Development Corporation. Upon completion this project will have for purchase 25 single-family homes for low to moderate income buyers. It has been determined that the majority of the Gentilly area is located in the 100 year floodplain. 17 of the 25 properties have been identified and are located within the 100 floodplain with eight (8) remaining properties to be identified. This notice is published to solicit public involvement in the decision making process for the City of New Orleans' compliance with the aforementioned executive order.

The locations of the 17 properties are:

3515 Touro Street  
2053 Pleasure Street  
2056 Pleasure Street  
2057 Pleasure Street  
2061 Pleasure Street  
2114 Pleasure Street  
2167 Pleasure Street  
4230 St. Anthony Avenue  
4321 St. Anthony Avenue

4402 St. Anthony Avenue  
4411 St. Anthony Avenue  
4702 St. Anthony Avenue  
4814 St. Anthony Avenue  
4725 St. Anthony Avenue  
4808 St. Anthony Avenue  
2120 Lombard Street  
2040 LaFreniere Street

A full description of the project is available for review in the Office of Community Development, 1340 Poydras Street, 10th Floor, New Orleans, La on weekdays, between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm.

**The deadline for comments is October 31, 2009 and should be forwarded to: The Office of Community Development, 1340 Poydras Street, 10th Floor, New Orleans, LA 70122, ATTN: Shirley Smith, Environmental Compliance Supervisor.**

C. Ray Nagin  
Mayor

Anthony Faciane,  
Deputy Director of Neighborhood Stabilization

## NORD 2009 Football Season Underway



NORD prides itself on the re-establishment and success of its Athletics Division Football program sponsored by NCAA Football, which allows New Orleans youth to participate in afterschool programs. The 2009 season kicked off in September with 24 participating



playgrounds, 100 teams and more than 2,500 individuals, an increase from 1,750 in 2008.

This past weekend, Easton Playground was the victor in a game against the Hammond Torres as a part of NORD's Inner League program at Harrell Playground. This is the first time that NORD has hosted a team from outside of New Orleans.

St. Roch, Lemann, Taylor, Stallings Gentilly and Milne Playgrounds also participated in games this month.



# Demetric M. Mercadel

## Living In the Spirit of Giving:

Edwin Buggage  
Editor-in-Chief



**Benjamin Bates**  
Data News Weekly Contributor

This month's Data News Weekly Trailblazer is Demetric M. Mercadel. She is a woman filled with the spirit of giving back. Mercadel dedicates her time to service; where family, community service and political activism are the cornerstones of her life. Her story has been truly a collection of diverse experiences that have not only contributed to her development, but enhanced the lives of hundreds of people she has touched along the way.

"I have a passion to inspire young people and enjoy guiding them to look at and pursue opportunities that they would not normally think about on a day to day basis," said Mercadel.

Mercadel is a proud New Orleanian and is also the proud mother of one son, Todd James. She was born and raised in the 7th Ward and has worked with numerous community organizations such as the Corpus Christi-Epiphany Catholic Church Parish Council. Her list of other civic activities includes serving as a coordinator of the development of the Corpus Christi-Epiphany Neighborhood Community Center in the 7th Ward; secretary on the board of directors of the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, Inc.; president of the development board of the Sisters of the Holy Family; treasurer of the American Association of Blacks in Energy Louisiana Chapter; and Parent of the Alumni Association of St. Augustine High School.

She is also accomplished in business working in regulatory affairs at Entergy New Orleans. Women of Color magazine honored Mercadel as a 2005 Women of Color Technology All Stars and Rising Stars. The awards ceremony was the highpoint of the National Women of Color Business and Technology Awards Conference in Atlanta, Ga., an event that celebrates the accomplishments of women of

color in business and technology.

Other accomplishments include being selected as the recipient of the 2004 Role Model Award from the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) for her contributions made to the New Orleans community; recipient of the National Junior Achievement Bronze Leadership Award for exemplary leadership and support of the group's education programs; and recipient of the Black Achiever in Business and Industry. Mercadel was also honored in 1994 by Dryades YMCA as a high achiever to serve as a role model for students with the intent to interact and provide career guidance and counseling to the youth of our community.

"I was truly honored to receive the award. To be acknowledged for the work I do as well as other women in the community," said Mercadel. "It was great to have friends and family there on what was an incredible occasion."

As the city recovers, Mercadel is on the frontlines of rebuilding the city. And as many citizens have, she is investing her time, energy and resources into improving on what the city was pre-Katrina.

"It means everything to me to help work to build this city better than it was before," she said. "Although what happened was tragic, I think it is a great time to improve the life, lifestyle and quality of life of the city. To tear down, build up and start anew," said Mercadel.

Demetric M. Mercadel is a woman of who has lived a blessed life and is blessing others with her continued service to the community. And because of her contribution, she is being honored as Data News Weekly's Trailblazer for the month of October.

**JMJ**  
Joseph M. Jones  
Continuing Education Fund



at&t



## Letter to the Editor: Postsecondary Education Review Commission



Curt Eysink  
Executive Director, Louisiana  
Workforce Commission

growth, not sheer number of openings.

In fact, this forecasted growth translates into just 740 jobs out of nearly 360,000 new jobs expected to be created over that period.

Far more meaningful to consider is the list of the top 25 demand jobs that pay at least \$30,000 a year. On this list, the number of openings for skilled labor predominates – there will be slightly more than twice as many of those jobs as there are jobs for Louisiana graduates with bachelor's or advanced degrees through 2016.

Louisiana has a shortage of about 4,000 workers a year for jobs that require career or technical education. At the same time, many of our university graduates are leaving Louisiana to find work. This tells me that our system of higher education is producing a workforce for jobs that do not exist in our economy while we have open jobs for skilled labor that we cannot fill.

Louisiana's mix of top demand occupations looks a lot like the mix in highly

competitive states such as Texas, Georgia and North Carolina. These are among the states that hire many of our four-year college graduates, and they're able to do it partly because they have done a better job over the years of supplying skilled labor for their businesses and industries.

Obviously we need more jobs for university graduates. One of the best ways to do that is to grow our community and technical college system to meet Louisiana's demand for skilled labor. That will yield more job-creation projects, each of which will generate new jobs for college graduates in many fields, including management, finance, accounting, marketing, human resources and engineering. Every new project helps to grow ancillary

professional services like accountants, business consultants, bankers, doctors, lawyers, etc. - all jobs that require four-year or advanced college degrees.

Roughly three-quarters of the enrollment in Louisiana's post-secondary educa-

tion system is in our universities, yet business and industry are demanding roughly twice as many workers with community and technical college credentials. This misalignment must be addressed for our state to compete in the long run against other states whose occupational mixes are

very similar to ours, but where the supply and demand are much better matched. Strengthening the community and technical college system, which has been part of workforce reform since 2008, is a critical component of the solution. Addressing this misalignment will contribute to addressing the unavoidable budget shortfall facing higher education, but also makes the pursuit of post-secondary education more affordable for students –

including those who choose to transfer later to a university to pursue bachelor's degrees.

Curt Eysink  
Executive Director  
Louisiana Workforce Commission



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS  
*Office of Community Development (OCD)*



### SuperNOFA/Registry of Non-Profit Organizations Continuum of Care Programs



The City of New Orleans, through the Office of Community Development (OCD), announces the availability of funds in 2010 to community based, not-for-profit organizations that implement programs and/or projects addressing continuum of care needs. Only organizations certified on the Office of Community Development's Registry of Non-Profit Organizations are eligible to receive funding under this SuperNOFA (Notice of Funding Availability). **These funds are available for the Emergency Shelter Grant Program, State Emergency Shelter Grant Program, and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA).**

The purpose of the Registry is to ensure that applicants meet minimum eligibility requirements to receive federal and state grant funds through the Office of Community Development for Program Year 2010 (January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010). Certification on the Registry does not guarantee funding for Program Year 2010. Applicants certified for eligibility on the Registry must successfully complete the SuperNOFA process to receive funding.

Registry and NOFA applications are available from the Office of Community Development at 1340 Poydras Street, 10th Floor **beginning Monday, October 5, 2009.** Deadline to submit both Registry and NOFA applications is **Friday, October 30, 2009.**

**Completed Registry and NOFA applications are due by 3:00 p.m.**

For further information, please contact Jeanette Thomas at 658-4343 or Donna Pearson at 658-4347.

C. Ray Nagin  
Mayor

Kenya Smith  
Executive Assistant to the Mayor

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# Eight Years of Big Lies on Afghanistan

**James Bovard**  
The Future of Freedom Foundation

It seems like only yesterday that President George W. Bush was bragging about having brought “freedom and democracy” to 25 million Afghans, a key theme in his second inaugural address.

For eight years, the American people have been fed one big lie after another regarding Afghanistan. Now, when the Pentagon is saber-rattling to vastly increase the number of U.S. troops sent there, a refresher course on the Biggest Lies is in order.

In his State of the Union address on January 29, 2002, Bush frightened Americans with a bogus nuclear threat: “Our discoveries in Afghanistan confirmed our worst fears.... We have found diagrams of American nuclear power plants and public water facilities” in caves used by al Qaeda.

Senior CIA and FBI officials followed up with “background” briefings to the media, revving up the threat that Afghan-based al Qaeda fighters were targeting U.S. nuclear power facilities. This made the terrorist threat far more ominous and spurred support for Bush’s preemptive war policy against Iraq.

Two years later, Bush administration officials admitted that the president’s statement was completely false and that no nuclear power plant diagrams had been discovered in Afghanistan. Nuclear Regu-

latory Commissioner Edward McGaffigan, who had testified in 2002 on this falsehood at closed hearings on Capitol Hill, commented that Bush was “poorly served by a speechwriter.” This was a farce — as if the deceit stemmed from some speechwriter’s poetic fancy, as opposed to the conniving of a phalanx of high-ranking officials.

Pat Tillman was a star defensive back for the Arizona Cardinals who, in the wake of 9/11, turned down a multimillion-dollar contract extension to enlist as an Army Ranger. He was the highest-profile military recruit of the Bush era.

Tillman was killed in Afghanistan on April 22, 2004. Within minutes of his demise, it was clear he had been slain by fellow soldiers. The Pentagon responded with an information lockdown — cutting off all communication to the military base where Tillman had been stationed.

A week after Tillman’s death, Maj. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, then a top commander in Afghanistan, notified the White House that Tillman had been killed by U.S. troops: “I felt that it was essential that you received this information as soon as we detected it to preclude any unknowing statements by our country’s leaders that might cause public embarrassment if the circumstances of CPL Tillman’s death become public.” The same day McChrystal sent his memo, the Pentagon announced that Tillman had received a posthumous Silver Star and was

killed while leading an attack on al Qaeda forces. Pentagon emails referred to the “Silver Star Game Plan” (to distract attention from the “friendly fire” killing).

On May 1, 2004, Bush exploited Tillman’s death for the finale of his speech at the White House Correspondents’ Dinner. The Pentagon and White House delayed admitting that Tillman had been killed by Americans until after a high-profile memorial service rallied public support for the war and Bush’s policies.

The Bush administration perennially claimed that the U.S. invasion in 2001 resulted in “freedom” for Afghan women. But women in many parts of Afghanistan continue to be oppressed. For example, Afghan President Hamid Karzai approved a new law in August that entitles a husband to starve his wife if she refuses his sexual demands. Both Bush and Obama touted the U.S. occupation of Afghanistan as promoting democracy. But the election in August showed Afghan democracy as an onion-layer of frauds. A top UN official in Afghanistan estimated that a third of Karzai’s votes were bogus. (He was fired after he refused to muzzle himself.)

Some Obama administration officials probably cringed at the scale of Karzai’s conniving. But it is only a question of time until we are again told about our duty to defend democracy in Kabul. The elections did not fool the Afghan people — they know

Karzai is an American puppet. But the election may help the U.S. government convince slow-witted Americans into believing the war has a redeeming purpose.

There are other perennial four-star howlers — the claims that the United States is speedily building up the Afghan army, that the United States is making sure Afghan opium no longer floods the world, and that U.S. experts are assuring that the Afghan government is non-corrupt.

There is no reason to expect the U.S. government to ever become trustworthy on Afghanistan. At best, Washington will rotate its lies, the same way it rotates the National Guard units sent to the Afghan badlands. Americans need to recognize that once their government commences warring, truth will be target number one.

James Bovard is the author of *Attention Deficit Democracy* [2006] as well as *The Bush Betrayal* [2004], *Lost Rights* [1994] and *Terrorism and Tyranny: Trampling Freedom, Justice and Peace to Rid the World of Evil* (Palgrave-Macmillan, September 2003) and serves as a policy advisor for The Future of Freedom Foundation ([www.fff.org](http://www.fff.org)).

## National News

### NAACP Investigates Cracker Barrel’s Role in Hate-Crime Beating

The Georgia NAACP State Conference has launched an investigation into Cracker Barrel to gain a better understanding of the conditions that allowed an African American woman to be severely beaten inside a restaurant, while her assailant shouted racial slurs.

“Cracker Barrel has a proven history of racial intolerance, and this recent incident might very well be an outgrowth of that corporate culture,” said Georgia NAACP President Edward

DuBose. “Cracker Barrel has pledged in the past to take steps toward improving its diversity and racial tolerance, but I am unconvinced that the company has maintained that pledge in good faith.”

A 2004 consent order required Cracker Barrel corporate leadership to hire an outside auditor to oversee the implementation of non-discrimination policies, procedures and training programs. The order also required severe

discipline for Cracker Barrel employees found to have discriminated against any patron.

Troy Dale West Jr. was indicted last month on charges related to beating Tasha Hill inside a Morrow, Ga., Cracker Barrel restaurant. Police reports say West was shouting racial slurs at Tasha Hill until she fell unconscious, as her 7-year-old daughter watched on.

“What disturbs me most is that Cracker Barrel has refused to simply reach out to Ms. Hill in a

basic gesture of condolence,” DuBose said. “How can they ignore this act of brutal racial violence inside their building and pretend to have improved their culture of equality?”

The Georgia NAACP is considering a national boycott of Cracker Barrel, while lobbying state lawmakers for new hate-crime legislation.

Founded in 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is

the nation’s oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its half-million adult and youth members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities and monitor equal opportunity in the public and private sectors

# National 30-year Fixed Mortgage Rate Falls Below Five Percent

*Half of Borrowers Request Refinance Loans*

The weekly average rate borrowers were quoted on Zillow Mortgage Marketplace for 30-year fixed mortgages decreased last week to 4.96 percent, down from 5.02 percent the week prior, according to the Zillow Mortgage Rate Monitor, compiled by leading real estate Web site Zillow.com®. Rates for 15-year fixed mortgages fell to 4.39 percent from 4.42 percent, and 5-1 adjustable rate mortgages fell to 3.85 percent, down from 3.94 the week prior.

The volume of mortgage requests increased significantly last week from 10,963 to 13,081. Of this week's requests, 50.2 percent were for refinance loans, 47.7 percent were for purchase loans and 2.1 percent were for home equity loans. Last week, 43.7 percent of requests were for refinance loans, 54.1 percent were for purchase loans and 2.2 percent were for

Mortgage Type	Average Rate Week ending 10/4/09	Average Rate Week ending 9/27/09	% Change
30-year fixed	4.96%	5.02%	-1.2%
15-year fixed	4.39%	4.42%	-0.7%
5-1 ARM	3.85%	3.94%	-2.3%

home equity loans.

On Oct. 5, rates for 30-year fixed purchase mortgages decreased further, with the average rate on Zillow Mortgage Marketplace at 4.94 percent. For current, up-to-the-minute rates, visit [www.zillow.com/Mortgage\\_Rates/](http://www.zillow.com/Mortgage_Rates/).

Thirty-year fixed mortgage rates varied by state. Oregon mortgage rates and Ohio mortgage rates decreased the most, from 5.10 percent to 4.97 percent in Oregon and from 5.13 percent

to 5.03 percent in Ohio. Illinois mortgage rates (5.16%), Maryland mortgage rates (5.10%) and New York mortgage rates (5.10%) were the highest in the country, while Texas mortgage rates (4.88%) and California mortgage rates (4.89%) were the lowest.

The Zillow Mortgage Rate Monitor is compiled each week using thousands of mortgage rates for conforming loans quoted on Zillow Mortgage Marketplace

State	Average 30-yr. Fixed Rate Week ending 10/4/09	Average 30-yr. Fixed Rate Week ending 9/27/09	% Change
Arizona	5.04%	5.07%	-0.6%
California	4.89%	4.97%	-1.6%
Colorado	4.93%	4.98%	-1.0%
Connecticut	4.98%	5.04%	-1.2%
Florida	4.96%	5.01%	-1.0%
Georgia	4.90%	4.96%	-1.2%
Illinois	5.16%	5.20%	-0.8%
Maryland	5.10%	5.06%	0.8%
Massachusetts	5.02%	5.10%	-1.6%
Michigan	5.02%	5.07%	-1.0%
Minnesota	5.08%	5.12%	-0.8%
New Jersey	4.97%	5.06%	-1.8%
New York	5.10%	5.11%	-0.2%
North Carolina	4.99%	5.04%	-1.0%
Ohio	5.03%	5.13%	-1.9%
Oregon	4.97%	5.10%	-2.5%
Pennsylvania	5.02%	5.04%	-0.4%
Texas	4.88%	4.95%	-1.4%
Virginia	4.92%	4.98%	-1.2%
Washington	4.93%	4.99%	-1.2%

by mortgage lenders to borrowers who have submitted loan requests. State-level data is gathered for the top 20 states with the highest quote volume on Zillow.

## Idaho Gets Four Times More Stimulus Money in Contracts Than Louisiana

Aaron Glantz  
Idaho has received nearly four times as much money in federal stimulus contracts than hurricane-ravaged Louisiana. And Louisiana has three times as many residents.

According to data released last week on the government-run website Recovery.gov, sparsely populated Idaho has received \$478 million in federal stimulus contracts resulting from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Federal recovery contracts there have gone to build a new water treatment facility in the city of Lava Hot Springs and to lay down a fresh layer of asphalt on remote roads in Clearwater National Forest.

Louisiana, by contrast, has received just \$116 million in federal stimulus contracts. And most of the biggest contracts have gone to companies headquartered outside the state, including a \$29 million contract to repair dikes along the Mississippi River in Plaquemines Parish (which went to a Texas company), and a \$14 million plan to repair and rebuild a new airstrip at the Joint Reserve Base Naval Air Station in New

Orleans (which went to a South Carolina firm).

According to Recovery.gov, only four of the 30,383 jobs created by stimulus contracts nationwide have gone to residents of New Orleans. Louisiana has benefited from a total of 563 jobs.

This information was released the same day President Obama paid his first visit to New Orleans as chief executive, telling participants at a town hall meeting, "We will not forget about New Orleans" and "(we will) not forget about the Gulf Coast."

He touted "good progress" in rebuilding the Big Easy, and told the crowd "over the last nine months, we have sent more Cabinet members to this region than almost anywhere in the country – not just to make appearances, but to listen, and to learn, and help you move forward."

But, the dollar figures released by Obama's recovery task force raise serious questions about whether a real financial commitment has followed those visits.

They appear to indicate that while the Gulf Coast has received billions of federal dollars for hurricane relief and reconstruction

since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck four years ago, the region is being left behind when it comes to funds from the stimulus package.

"I don't see enough of that (investment) going on in New Orleans at all," said Vaughn Fauria, who heads up NewCorp, Inc., a community lender that helps small businesses obtain government contracts. "Our businesses are not getting very big contracts, and when they do it's because they've partnered with another company from out of town."

Fauria said she wasn't sure why New Orleans was receiving such a small share of stimulus contracts, but speculated that it might partially be due to the actions – or lack thereof – of her state's Republican Governor Bobby Jindal, who opposed the stimulus package and publicly refused to take some of the funds, which were to be used to prop up social programs.

### PUBLIC NOTICE NEW ORLEANS CITY COUNCIL EXTENSION OF TIME TO SUBMIT RESPONSES TO REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS REGULATORY SERVICES

In an effort to secure additional competitive responses to its Request for Qualifications for Professional Electric and Natural Gas Regulatory Consultants Firms, the New Orleans City Council has reopened its solicitation for an additional two week period, requesting Statements of Qualifications. For Professional Electric and Natural Gas Regulatory Consultants Firms to provide consulting services and advice to the City Council and its Utility Committee regarding matters associated with Entergy New Orleans, Inc. (ENO) and Entergy Louisiana, LLC (ELL) in the provision of electric and natural gas services in Orleans Parish and to address a broad range of utility issues as they arise. Both ENO and ELL are wholly owned subsidiaries of Entergy Corporation (Entergy), a Multistate Holding Company. A complete copy of the Request for Qualifications is available at the City Council's website at [www.neworleanscitycouncil.com](http://www.neworleanscitycouncil.com). Complete Statements of Qualifications must be received no later than 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 5, 2009. Consultants who submitted proposals for the October 1, 2009 deadline do not need to re-submit unless they wish to supplement their earlier responses.

**For further information and the request for qualifications packet please contact:**

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