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New Orleans

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Page 6

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New Orleans' Men Pass the Torch



The Soul of New Orleans

Page 2



**Drill Ban
Lifted**

Page 10

**Newsmaker
St. Mary's
to Reopen**



Page 4

Passing the Torch: Gentlemen’s Club Brotherhood Event



By Edwin Buggage
Photos by Harry Cass and
Edwin Buggage

Often times the images of young Black men are etched in people’s minds via the media as a problem of young men walking around with their pants sagging and lacking ambition. Also that there is a generation gap where the elders are not guiding the young; these as are many portrayals of Black men are inaccurate. Today more Black men are stepping up to the plate being mentors, and fathers who are positive, working, guiding and inspiring the next generation but this is a face not often seen in the media or popular culture. Recently, The Urban League of Greater New Orleans under the leadership of Nolan Rollins, Dr. Andre Perry, Associate Dean of the College of Education and Human Development and CEO of the Capital One-

Continued on next page.

INSIDE DATA	
Cover Story	2
Commentary.	8
Newsmaker	4
Letters to the Editor. .	8
State & Local News . .	5
Health News	9
Data Zone	6
National News	11

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University of New Orleans Charter School Network along with Wilbert "Chill" Wilson owner of Mr. Chill's First Class Cuts who is an Entrepreneur, published Author and Founder of "Walk A Mile For A Child" joined forces to put on an event called "The Gentleman's Club Brotherhood Event."

Nineteen young men from local area high schools gathered and were paired with professional men who taught them how to tie ties in addition to some receiving haircuts and other grooming tips. The young men also had one-on-one time with their mentors speaking with them about their career plans and aspirations. Many men from all walks of life served as mentors with one

teaching kids, instructing them on how to knot a tie even showing them what became coined as the Landrieu knot. Also in attendance to help was local style legend Freddy Perriott of Saks Fifth Avenue with tie tying tips for the young men on hand.

One of the event organizers Dr. Andre Perry has spent his adult life as an advocate for children. As one who has overcome adversity as a young person and becoming a success he believes it is the obligation of men of the community to stand up and be part of the solution to problems affecting the lives of young men. He feels if these things are not done that later in life they may become roadblocks for them being the fathers, husbands and leaders the

time out to talk to us and offer advice and guidance about our future," says Simon as he speaks confidently wearing his new tie. "Today these men reached out and let me know that I can be whatever I want to be and that the tie represents respectability, but whether I have it on or not it is important to still conduct myself in a respectful manner."

to a boxing match with the older men serving as trainers and motivators to the young, saying as Bundini Brown the famous corner man of the all-time great Muhammad Ali told him many times before he stepped into the ring, "Rumble Young Man Rumble." Using this example he continues saying, "Life is not easy and the difference between those who win



goal investing in the future; those in attendance included former City Council Member James Carter, N.O. Saints cornerback Jabari Greer who arrived with his one year old son in tow donning a tie and New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu were on hand to share and give back.

"The event is a rites of passage and we did it in a style, all New Orleans with food and music that reflects our culture" says Wilbert "Chill" Wilson, "I think in these times we need to go back to more formal ways, using ceremonies to teach our boys and showing them how men are to conduct themselves." On hand to share was Mayor Mitch Landrieu who was affable and accessible telling his story to the young men about his life and his own son Benjamin and tying a tie and it was a moment of bonding between them; he also participated in

community needs moving forward.

Perry says this event is an important step in helping young men recognizing that presenting themselves in a professional manner is more than simply a transformation of an outward appearance but change in a more holistic way. Perry believes today it is important for men to reach out and help build for the next generation. Saying that a more hands on approach is necessary "It takes a level of intimacy and trust between a man and young boy in tying a tie, it is something that connects them and I hope this is the beginning of something that can become a tradition in this, a city that already has so many wonderful traditions," says Perry.

Troy Simon was one of the young men in attendance. He said the time spent with the mentors was helpful, "I just appreciate these men taking



James Carter, is one who has been known as a child advocate, he is walking around inside of Chill's barbershop talking to young people giving them encouraging words and working with one youngster helping him tie his knot. "The ceremony is important, but more importantly this is about letting our young people know that they are somebody and that we are here to give them the tools of success," says Carter. He compares the struggle of young men

and lose in life is how they handle adversity, so today we are here to let them know they can turn to us in their times of need."

One of the participants helping a young man tie his knot is a brother named Dwight Bell. All of twenty-seven he has seen his life make a complete 180. As Wilbert "Chill" Wilson introduced him to everyone at first he seemed a bit shy in telling his story, but soon he chimed in on his story of how he for a time lived

A New Look for an Age Old Tradition

By Erica Duroseau

St. Mary's prepares to reopen it's doors

If you're from New Orleans, or have lived in the area a while, then you know that Catholic schools are not only a prestigious fixture in the backbone of the community, but also a face of leadership in educational studies, sports and tradition. In fact, some of New Orleans' great leaders have emerged from the Catholic school system, and it's no wonder why the tradition is still strong today. For St. Mary's Academy, established in New Orleans in 1867, their proud history and rich tradition will soon be renewed, with the unveiling of the newly remodeled facility. What was once only a dream five years ago, has now been realized.

Originally opened on Chartres Street in New Orleans, St. Mary's Academy, first known as St. Mary's School, opened its doors in 1867, becoming the first Catholic secondary school for African American girls in the city. In June of 1878, Victoria Jourdan became St. Mary's first graduate. With a rigorous curriculum, focusing on academic excellence, the girls were taught English, algebra,

natural philosophy, higher mathematics, world history, chemistry, bookkeeping, and of course French. To help build social skills and talents outside of their basic education, the girls chose electives like music and painting, and tapestry making. The school was like none other. That is until Xavier Preparatory opened, another secondary school for African American girls. Over the years, enrollment decreased and the fear that St. Mary's could disappear became evident. That's when Mother Mary Elizabeth began to focus specifically on re-vamping in 1930 and keeping its customs alive. Three years later, the fruits of her labor were evident, as the academy ranked first in the state in graduation examinations. Enrollment steadily increased, various school programs and activities emerged, and St. Mary's once again thrived.

By 1947, St. Mary's was a member of SACS, Southern Association of Schools and Colleges, and enrollment was at an all time high, and it was time to move the educational institution out of the French Quarter and into a new facility. During the transition, classes were held at the old St. Louis Cathedral School on St. Ann, until



the new school and Motherhouse was built at the current location on Chef Menteur highway. The unique curriculum continued to grow and evolve, producing top scholars and more graduates each year. By the 2002, a new leadership was formed at St. Mary's when the first President, Sister Greta Jupiter was appointed. With a strong administrative team and excellent leadership, St. Mary's Academy was continuing the age old tradition of quality education among African American girls in New Orleans.

But their story was halted by Hurricane Katrina, a devastating natural disaster and a resounding similarity among schools in New Orleans, both public and private. The school facility was ravaged with 6 feet of water and sludge, leaving the grounds uninhabitable. Students were left with no school to return to after what was

named the single worst disaster in the history of the city. Like many other schools, their students were going to have to find another place to receive education, or simply stay where they had ended up, displaced and scattered throughout the United States in various cities and states. It seemed as if a tradition for African American girls in New Orleans was in danger of disappearing. But with the help of a familiar counterpart, Xavier Prep, students were able to return to class from January thru May of 2006 on the Campus of Xavier Preparatory High School in an alliance that was formed called MAX SCHOOL. Although students had a place to learn, the hope that the school on Chef Highway could be rebuilt was highly unlikely. Then a generous, and unexpected donation from the Archdiocese of New Orleans, afforded the school the opportunity to move its class-

es to a new location. The former St. James Major School in Gentilly would serve as new grounds for St. Mary's students.

But there's no place like home! Sticking to their school motto, "No Excellence Without Hard Work", St. Mary's Academy is now embarking on what can be considered another great milestone. With the new facility almost complete and ready for a grand re-opening, the buzz is phenomenal. Their new Band Director, Ray Johnson, can feel the excitement. "This is something we all have looked forward to for some time, and the students and faculty are very excited", says Johnson. Homecoming festivities and alumni celebrations are being planned and on November 13th and 14th, the past and the present will unite once again to celebrate the history of the academy. Under the direction of their Principal, Sister Jenny Jones, St. Mary's now has a co-ed curriculum for the primary school, girls and boys attend classes there, with the high school continuing its legacy as an all-girls private school. For more information on the rebuilding of St. Mary's Academy, or to learn more about this year's homecoming activities, you can log on to www.smaneworleans.com, or call (504)245-0200.



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Hud Announces Additional Support To Help Louisiana Homeowners Struggling With Unemployment And Foreclosure

32 States and Puerto Rico Will Receive Funds Through HUD's Emergency Homeowners Loan Program

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Regional Administrator C. Donald Babers announced today this week it's Emergency Homeowners Loan Program (EHL), The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, signed into law by President Obama in July, authorizes HUD to administer a \$1 billion Emergency Homeowners Loan Program, to provide assistance – for up to 24 months – to homeowners who have experienced a substantial reduction in income due to involuntary unemployment, underemployment, or a medical condition and are at-risk of foreclosure. HUD will assist borrowers in 32 states and Puerto Rico not otherwise funded by Treasury's Hardest Hit Housing Fund program, based on the state's relative share of unemployed homeowners. It is HUD's intention for the program to begin taking applications from eligible homeowners by the end

of the year.

"The Emergency Homeowner Loan Program will provide limited and targeted assistance to help working families get back on their feet and keep their home while they look for work," said Mr. Babers. "In crafting this new loan program, HUD built on the lessons learned from Treasury's Hardest Hit initiative to design and implement a program to assist struggling unemployed homeowners avoid preventable foreclosures. Together these two initiatives represent a combined \$8.6 billion investment to help struggling borrowers and in doing so further contribute to the Obama Administration's efforts to stabilize housing markets and communities across the country."

Who Will Be Helped

The program will complement existing Administration efforts to assist struggling homeowners – including the Home Affordable Modification and Hardest Hit

Fund initiative administered by the U.S. Treasury Department. Under the EHL:

1)The borrower must be at least three months delinquent in their payments and have a reasonable likelihood of being able to resume repayment of their mortgage payments and related housing expenses within two years.

2)The property must be the principle residence of the borrower, and eligible borrowers may not own a second home.

3)The borrower must have suffered at least a 15 percent reduction in income and have been able to afford their mortgage payments prior to the event that triggered the loss income.

How They Will Be Helped

The HUD Emergency Homeowners Loan Program will offer a forgivable, deferred payment "bridge loan" (zero percent interest, non-recourse, subordinate loans) for up to \$50,000 to assist eligible borrowers with their mort-

gage arrearages and payments on their mortgage principal, interest, mortgage insurance premiums, taxes and hazard insurance for up to 24 months.

There will be a dual delivery approach for program administration. The first approach will delegate some of the program's administrative functions to a designated third party. The second approach will enable state housing finance agencies (HFAs) that operate substantially similar programs to engage in relief efforts on behalf of residents of their state:

o Delegated approach: HUD will delegate key program administration functions to NeighborWorks® America – an experienced and highly regarded national network of affiliated housing counseling agencies. Under the program, non-profit housing counselors who are part of the National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling Program ad-

ministered by NeighborWorks® America will coordinate intake counseling, document preparation and outreach functions. HUD will also use its delegation authority to contract with an experienced entity to provide loan servicing and fiscal control functions such as collecting payments from homeowners, distributing payments to servicers, and managing loan balances.

o Substantially similar state law approach: State HFAs that operate loan assistance programs that are determined by HUD to be substantially similar to the EHL will receive allocations to fund emergency loans for borrowers in their states as well as payments to cover the administrative costs of performing the intake and housing counseling and fiscal agent functions (described above) directly or indirectly through sub-contracts with third parties.

Fielkow Addresses Constituent Questions during live chat on Fielkow.net Virtual Town Hall Meetings

Councilmember Arnie Fielkow hosted his second virtual town hall meeting last week before the City Council meeting commenced. The live chat, which can be accessed on his personal website, www.fielkow.net, is another conduit by which he can reach out to constituents and answer their questions in real time.

Thursday's town hall addressed the topic: 'NORD reform passed. Now what?' Councilman Fielkow answered questions about the make-up of the new Commission



New Orleans City Councilman Arnie Fielkow

and how the Commission will be seated. He also fielded questions about what can be done now to improve playground lighting and safety, among other topics.

The next town hall will take place in December and will focus on the 2011 budget, which must be passed on or before December 1st, 2010. Log onto www.fielkow.net for regular updates.

"Virtual town halls are a great integration of technology and government. While the live streaming of public meetings

on the public access TV station reaches those constituents that are unable to attend the meetings, the virtual town hall allows these individuals to engage and ask questions. This live chat is just the beginning of what I am sure will evolve into an even more robust and seamless integration of technology and City Council," said Council President Fielkow.

To learn about future town hall meetings, log onto www.Fielkow.net regularly.



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Shoot Ya Best Shot!

The Black Womens Roundtable Highlights

Photos by Vincent Sylvain

Earlier this week, the Black Women's Roundtable Tour highlights include: Saturday, Oct. 9th: Unity Health Walk to End Diabetes, at Dillard University, led by Kellie Williams who played "Laura Winslow" from the hit sitcom Family Matters and New Orleans native and internationally renowned Jazz Vocalist, Stephanie Jordan. Also, the BWR Healthy Wealthy Wise Mini-Expo, Health & Wellness Fair & Empowerment Workshops, was hosted at Dent Hall Gym at Dillard University, Special guests included: Clayola Brown, President, A. Philip Randolph Institute, Dominique Dawes, Olympic Gold Medalist & Co-Chair, President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition and Kellie Williams, actress.



Pictured left to right, Judy Reese Morse, Deputy Mayor & Chief of Staff, City of New Orleans, Melanie Campbell, President & CEO, NCBCP & National Convener, Black Women's Roundtable, Mayor Mitch Landrieu, City of New Orleans, Susan Taylor, Founder and CEO of National Cares Mentoring Movement



Margaret Montgomery



Members of the National Coalition for Black Civic Participation Black Women's Roundtable and AT&T Sponsors

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

The Black Womens Roundtable Highlights cont.



Olympic Gold Medalist Dominique Dawes and two young attendees



Melanie L. Campbell, President & CEO, NCBCP & National Convener, Black Women's Roundtable, Stephanie Jordan, Internationally renowned Jazz Vocalist, Coordinator, Black Women's Roundtable Walk & Mini-Health Fair, A.D. Barry, FM98.5, Kellie Williams who played "Laura Winslow" from the hit sitcom Family Matters, Gabrielle Deruise, Fitness Instructor, Fit Mama Boot Camp



Congressional Candidates Forum featuring (l to r) Congressman Joseph "Ahn" Cao(R), Anthony Marquize(l) and Cedric Richmond(D)

Mid-Term Elections More Important for African-Americans



John Lewis
U.S. Representative

The upcoming mid-term elections have been the focus of all of the political pundits. With control of the U.S. House of Repre-

sentatives in question, there is a rising concern that the lack of voter turnout among Democrats will undermine the new policies that have been instituted in the past couple of years and undo measures like "The Affordable Healthcare Act," "The Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act" and "The Credit Card Holders' Bill of Rights." All of which are reforms that protect working, middle-class Americans.

There is also a concern that the energy of the extreme right is unstoppable; That those who want to privatize Social Security, repeal the healthcare law, and continue tax breaks for the wealthiest 2% in this country have mobilized and are gearing up for a fight. However, what is even more disturbing is that a great number of African-Americans may fail to turn out and vote in

the November election.

I say disturbing because if anyone has a reason to get out and vote it is the African-American community. We do not have the luxury of being able to sit idly by and allow others to make decisions for us. We must realize that we have a stake in what happens with this election. We are affected the most by the policies that come out of Washington. Make no mistake and be very clear, there is an effort to reverse all of the progress that we have made during the Civil Rights Movement. There are some who want to eliminate certain provisions of the Civil Rights' and Voting Rights' Acts, and even repeal the 14th Amendment, gut the Fair Housing Act, and abolish the Department of Education. This, at a time when our children are dropping out of school at

a rate that is nearly reaching epidemic proportions; This is not acceptable.

Therefore, we must make a decision, who do we want to be as a people or a nation? Do we want to go back or do we want to move forward? Do we want to erase the steps that we struggled to take in the 60s? We have suffered too long and struggled too hard to turn back now. Too many people were beaten and jailed too many lives have been lost.

As one who almost died on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama for the right to vote, I urge you not to be silent, but to stand up, rise-up, and exercise your right to vote. It is not only your right but your duty to those who sacrificed so much to afford you this precious, almost sacred right.

Letter to the Editor

I am Antoine GHOST Mitchell, a visual and spoken word artist from Baton Rouge, La. I am also a proud Fine Arts Alumni of Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge. I presently have an exhibition running at the Scotlandville Branch Library in Baton Rouge and will have a reception on October 31st called "Wake-Up Art."

Wake-Up Art commemorates the 1972 Smith-Brown incident that happened on Southern University's campus. The reception will also pay homage to many progressive movements of yesterday and today where the People united against oppression and injustice.

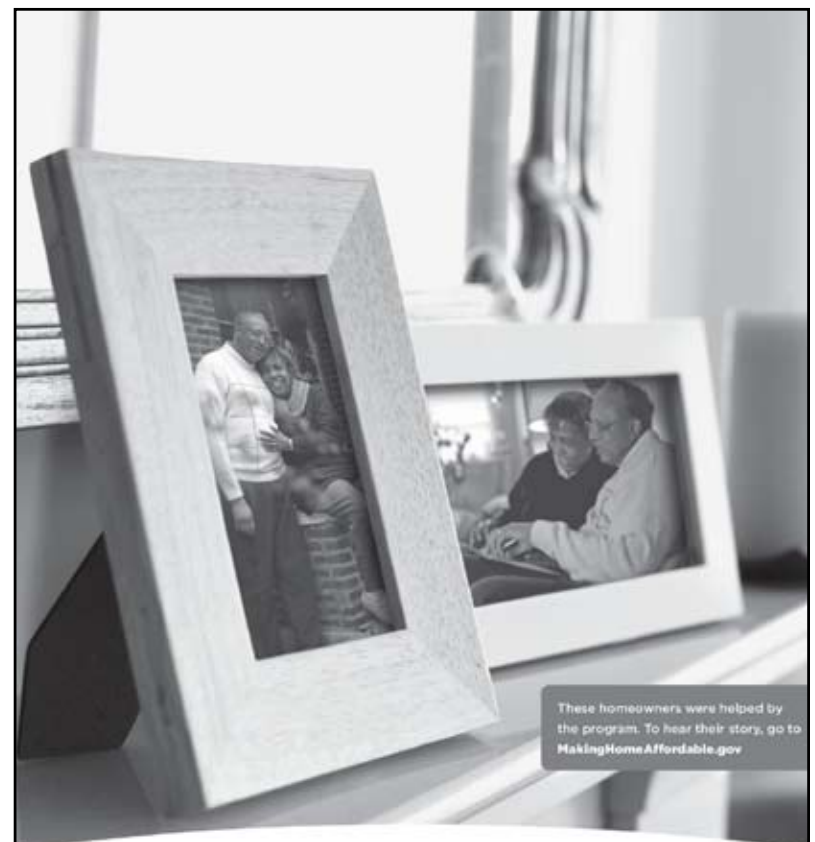
This is a special request to those who went to Southern or was around Southern University during the student protests of 1972. I am looking for anyone that is willing to either participate in this reception by telling your story, or simply meeting with me privately to share your memories. I know that these could be very trying memories to reach back to, and most would probably feel hurt or some sense of fear in remembering those turbulent times. I assure you, however, that I will have the greatest respect in your memories if you choose to speak openly; and I will have the greatest respect in your privacy if you want to remain anonymous.

Remembering the Smith-Brown incident of 1972 is something that can and will connect the elder Civil Rights generation of yesterday to the current progressive youths of today. I just simply want to artistically build a bridge.

If you are interested in participating in the reception, please contact me at (225) 933-7090 or email me at asheghost@hotmail.com.

Antoine GHOST Mitchell

Baton Rouge



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Health Reform: From Capitol Hill to Your Medicine Cabinet



Larry Lucas
NNPA Columnist

From last summer's town hall meetings to this fall's mid-term election ads, no doubt you've heard a lot about health care reform. But what does it mean for you? It's time to

stop the rhetoric and get the facts. Thanks to new provisions and discount programs introduced in the landmark legislation, more Americans than ever before will have access to improved health care, including their prescriptions.

Today's tough economy has forced many to make difficult decisions about their health, like choosing to go without needed medicines so they can pay for food. This is a choice no one should have to make, and both lawmakers and those in the health care industry recognize that. The new coverage gap discount program in the Medicare prescription drug benefit will help prevent seniors from ever having to make that choice. The coverage gap, or "donut hole," occurs when patients' prescription costs reach a limit under their coverage plans, forcing them to pay for the remaining costs of their medicines up to a certain point.

To help reduce the out-of-pocket costs facing Medicare beneficiaries within the coverage gap, beginning in 2011, America's biopharmaceutical research companies will provide a 50 percent discount on brand-name medicines to eligible beneficiaries. When combined with government contributions, the coverage gap will be effectively closed during the next 10 years.

But, the Medicare coverage gap discount program is only part of the larger health reform overhaul. Another important issue is working to bridge the huge disparity between those who have access to health care and those who do not – a particularly profound problem in our community where patients without insurance may rely on emergency rooms or free clinics for care. Critically, the new health reform law expands the health workforce and increases funding for community health centers to

provide care for everyone – no matter how much they are able to pay.

Access to quality medicines takes more than just dollars and cents; it takes an enormous investment in the research and development of new and better treatments – to the tune of 10-15 years and more than \$1 billion for a single medicine.

Long before health care reform was a reality, patients could turn to the Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA) for help. Today, this nationwide effort sponsored by America's biopharmaceutical research companies is still providing access to patient assistance programs that provide free or nearly free medicines to patients in need. For more information, call 1-888-4PPA-NOW or visit www.pparx.org.

Larry Lucas is a retired Vice President for the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA).

Cease Public Defender Fees



Judge Greg Mathis

Even if you've never encountered the criminal justice system, you're probably familiar with the phrase "You have the right to speak to an attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney, one will be appointed to you." What you may not know is that, in many states, defendants are being charged for that court appointed attorney. This increasing trend is leading many poor defendants to waive their legal right to representation and, instead, represent themselves.

A report released by the New York University School of Law's Brennan Center for Justice found that 13 of the 15 states with the largest prison populations charged some sort of fee to defendants in need of a lawyer. These charges include application fees and can add up to more than \$1000. The study found that in Michigan, many

individuals facing misdemeanor charges decided 95 percent of the time to waive their right to an attorney because they couldn't afford the fees.

It's no surprise that this is common practice in states with large prison populations. With defendants representing themselves and going up against trained prosecutors, the chances of a conviction are much higher. This could lead to unlawful convictions and overcrowded prison populations.

In an ideal world, anyone accused of a crime would have the means to pay for an attorney. Unfortunately, most of those arrested come from poor communities and don't have the money – even \$1000 – to pay for legal counsel. Charging for that service, in effect, denies them a basic right to representation.

Most of us believe that, on many levels, the criminal justice system is unfairly stacked against poor individuals. This trend of charging defendants for legal services does nothing to challenge those beliefs. States must discontinue this practice and find another way to generate revenue. By charging for public defenders, the system is building yet another pipeline that directs individuals toward prison.



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*Eligibility criteria may apply.

Senator Landrieu and Local Businesses Support Ending Drill Ban

United States Senator Mary L. Landrieu, D-La., responded this week to the announcement by U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar that the Obama Administration is lifting the moratorium on deepwater drilling.

Sen. Landrieu said:

"I applaud the administration for taking a step in the right direction by lifting the deepwater drilling moratorium. Today's decision is a good start, but it must be accompanied by an action plan to get the entire industry in the Gulf of Mexico back to work. This means that the administration must continue to accelerate the granting of permits in shallow and deep water, and provide greater certainty about the rules and regulations industry must meet. I strongly believe that we can do this safely and swiftly.

"I am not going to release my hold on Jack Lew. Instead, I will take this time to look closely at



Senator Mary Landrieu supports of the Obama Administration to lift the ban on deepwater drilling

how BOEM is handling the issuing of permits and whether or not drilling activity in both shallow and deep water is resuming. When Congress reconvenes for the lame duck session next month, I will have had several weeks to evaluate if today's lifting

of the moratorium is actually putting people back to work."

The Business Council of Greater New Orleans and the River Region, and GNO, Inc., two leading organizations of Move Forward Now, issued the following statement:

"The lifting of the Deep Water Moratorium, while a step in the right direction, only represents real progress if it actually leads to the issuance of new permits. Unfortunately, as we have seen in shallow water – where only twelve permits have been issued since June 8 – bureaucratic delay can be just as devastating to an industry as a moratorium. This is of grave concern to us: that the experience with deep water permits will be the same as in shallow water. Moratorium notwithstanding, if permits are not issued for both deep and shallow water exploration, over 30,000 jobs in Louisiana will be at risk.

"The oil and gas industry has taken unprecedented steps to ensure compliance and safety going forward, and is ready to get back to work. The Gulf Coast, where tens of thousands of jobs hang in the balance, is ready to get back to work. And the nation, which depends upon gulf exploration for

critical revenue and national security, needs the gulf to get back to work. The urgency of this situation is not lessened because the moratorium has been lifted – it will be relieved only when permits are issued in a timely manner for both shallow- and deep-water exploration, and the Gulf Coast is allowed to go back to work.

"With this in mind, going forward we will be tracking and reporting on shallow- and deep-water permit issuance. Bi-weekly, we will issue a report that will compare the number of permits issued, versus historical rates. If there are delays, we will investigate and report those findings, as well."

Michael Hecht, President and CEO of GNO, Inc., said, "Although some contend that 'the process is coming to its natural end,' we will not rest until regulatory certainty and expedience prevails, and the economy of our region is preserved."

Cover Story, Continued from page 3.

the life on the wrong side of the tracks, and that his experience of coming into the barbershop and being around positive Black men helped him turn his life around. He spoke of the event as the beginning of a movement and said that the key to being a success is to never stop learning. Today he is preparing for graduation from Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) as his inspirational story is one of strength, survival and rebirth.

As Perry mentioned earlier in the evening Wilson later echoed the same sentiments saying the barbershop is significant in the Black community and how it is the most appropriate venue for such an event, "The barbershop is the one place where people from all walks of life come together and I was glad we had this opportunity to do something positive and hopefully continue to build lasting partnerships like this to make a larger impact in our community and let people know that we are doing positive things."

On this day there were men united in a cause, preparing young men for the future that lie ahead. Herbert Perryman, one of the students participating sporting his tie said, "Today we learned that in life we have choices, and we can make good or bad ones, but it's never too late to turn your life around."

As the event neared a close Wilson, led the singing of Happy Birthday to Dr. Perry who turned 40, as all the men joined in singing along in the spirit of unity and brotherhood; then a raffle took place with one young man getting a gift bag from Saks and the grand prize given was a ride home in style. Two young men would receive a limousine ride home. The Gentlemen's Club Brotherhood Event was an evening of food, fun and camaraderie. Hopefully, it will serve as a template for things to come in presenting a new more accurate face of Black men inspiring others to be better and show the best of what Black men have to offer the world.



Data News Weekly Publisher Terry Jones and Wilbert "Chill" Wilson

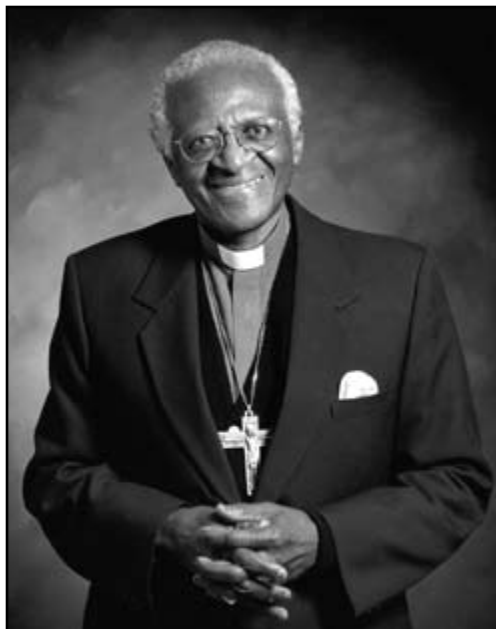
Bishop Desmond Tutu Steps Away From Center Stage

Special to the NNPA from the AFRO-American Newspaper (DC)

South African freedom fighter and Nobel Peace Prize winner, former Archbishop Desmond Tutu, announced his retirement from public life during the first week of October.

"The Arch," as he is known in his country, made good on a pledge he issued in July in a televised interview with the Reuters News Service that he would retire to spend more time with his family when he turned 79 on Oct. 7.

"The time has now come to slow down, to sip Rooibos tea with my beloved wife in the afternoons, to watch cricket, to travel to visit my children and grandchildren, rather than to conferences



Bishop Desmond Tutu

and conventions and university campuses," Tutu said at the time.

"Thank you to my colleagues, past and present, for doing all the work and allowing me to take the credit," he said.

As an Anglican cleric, Tutu used his bully pulpit to condemn the then-de jure system of apartheid in his country, angering the White minority government which arrested and briefly jailed him once after a protest and revoked his passport twice, actions that were reversed, however, after international outcries.

For his advocacy,

Tutu was awarded the 1984 Nobel Peace prize for his "role as a unifying leader figure in the campaign to resolve the problem of apartheid in South Africa," according to the press release announcing his nomination. Two years later he became the first Black archbishop of Cape Town.

That unifying role was again acknowledged in 1994 when newly elected President Nelson Mandela appointed Tutu to head the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the body charged with scrutinizing human rights abuses that occurred during the apartheid years.

Said fellow Peace Prize winner, President Barack Obama about Tutu's retirement: "For decades he has been a moral titan, a voice

of principle, an unrelenting champion of justice, and a dedicated peacemaker."

"We will miss his insight and his activism, but will continue to learn from his example. We wish the archbishop and his family happiness in the years ahead," Obama said in a statement.

In his retirement, Tutu said he will eschew media interviews, and will step down from a university post in South Africa and his work with a U.N. commission on preventing genocide. He will continue his work with his peace foundation and with The Elders, a council of global statesmen.

Echoing the words of Nelson Mandela, Tutu said Oct. 7: "As Madela said on his retirement: Don't call me; I'll call you."

Albertina Walker, Legendary Gospel Singer Dies at 81

The AFRO-American Newspaper

NNPA - Often dubbed the "Queen of Gospel," vocalist Albertina Walker spent six decades inspiring future gospel artists and inspiring legions of fans with songs like "Please Be Patient with Me," "Lord Keep Me Day By Day" and "Walk Around Heaven."

Fellow gospel artist Yolanda Adams announced on her radio show that Walker, the former lead singer of The Caravans, died Oct. 8 after a lengthy hospitalization for emphysema-related complications. She was admitted to the hospital Aug. 29, her birthday.

Walker was born in Chicago and began singing at the West Point Baptist Church. Throughout her teen years she performed with various groups and was influenced by celebrated gospel artist Mahalia Jackson, with whom she later toured.

In 1951 Walker formed The Caravans, which included singers Ora Lee Hopkins, Nellie Grace Daniels, and Elyse Yancey. Over the years, The Caravans went on to include notable performers such as Shirley Caesar, Inez Andrews, and Dorothy Norwood. In the late '60s, Walker launched a career as a solo artist and released her first project, Put a Little Love In Your Heart, in 1975.



Albertina Walker

The popular singer went on to record more than 50 albums and performed for former U.S. presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton and former South African President Nelson Mandela.

Walker's musical footprint was seen throughout the gospel industry, and she was awarded a Grammy in 1995 for Best Traditional Gospel Album, three Stellar Awards, and three Dove Awards for her contributions.



Tyler, age 16.
Needs help with math.
Needs help with science.

Needs help with Jordan, age 2.

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