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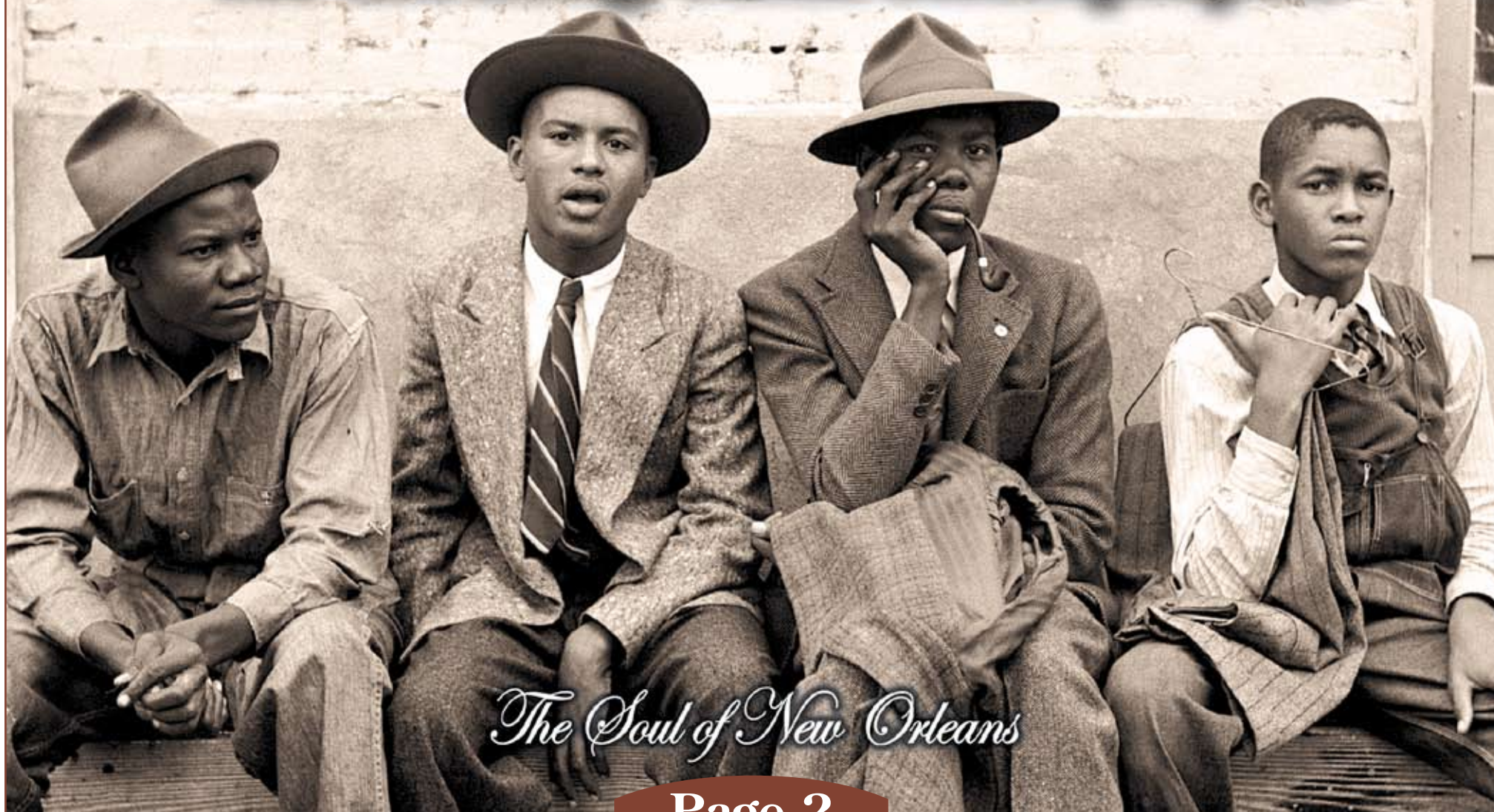
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# The Long Haul

for the Long-Term Unemployed



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# The Long Haul for the Long-Term Unemployed

## 99ers Face a Myriad of Challenges in Their Fight for Full-Time Employment



On the Cover: The unemployment benefits aid began in 1938. Lines of men inside a division office of the State Employment Service office waited to register for benefits. They received from six to fifteen dollars per week for up to sixteen weeks. Coincidental with the announcement that the federal unemployment census showed close to ten million persons out of work, twenty-two states begin paying unemployment compensation. Photo by Russell Lee, courtesy of the Library of Congress

By Tarice L.S. Gray

The beginning of the month may have felt like April Fool's Day to a significant segment of America's labor population. That's when reports started pouring in about the new jobless rate and rise in job creation. According to the Bureau of Labor, last month the unemployment rate dropped to 8.8% and the job market added 216,000 positions.

### But for who?

Many unemployed or underemployed people fall into a swelling pool of would-be workers called the 99ers. These are the jobless Americans who've exhausted their eligibility for not only the normal 26 weeks of unemployment benefits, but also for all of the emergency extensions of benefits for the unemployed – adding up to a total of 99 weeks, or nearly two years – Congress approved as the Great Recession deepened.

More than six million of the nation's 14 million jobless have been out of

*Cover Story, Continued on next page.*

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Cover Story, Continued from previous page.

work longer than 26 weeks; and nearly two million of that group has unsuccessfully searched for work for at least a year. But, there are no definitive figures on how many have been jobless for two years or longer because since World War II ended the Great Depression that's always been a minuscule figure – until now.

But now, it includes jobless individuals like Kim Johnson, who ran out of her unemployment benefits a couple of months ago. A few years back, that would have sounded improbable to many people in Cleveland – because Johnson was one of the golden voices of the city's airwaves. For more than

two decades she was one of the premiere Radio Hosts on WZAK 93.1FM in Cleveland, which for a time, was the number one radio station in the city. In 2008, the great recession declared war on cities like Cleveland. Johnson became a casualty the following year.

"[My GM] called me to his office," she explained, "and he said, 'We're not going to re-new your contract.' And I said, 'What!' He said, nothing lasts forever, so I said thank you and I'll be fine. I didn't cuss and cry and break down and act foolish. I didn't do all of that. I just got my purse and walked out the door. I left everything I had accumulated, mementos, I just left everything,

I just left."

Johnson closed the door on her 24-year career and was fine for awhile. A rainy day fund she had accumulated has sustained her this far, and an investment she had made in a telecommunications company has long-term earnings potential, but virtually no short-term payoff. So, now, after nearly two years without full-time employment, her reserves are low and she gets by as a Substitute Teacher earning \$80 a day when called. That part-time work means that, despite her increasingly tough circumstances, she doesn't meet the federal government's definition of being unemployed.

"My salary was around \$120,000 a year," she says, referring to her radio days. "You go from making \$120,000 a year to nothing."

Dee Ann Donner is another of the 8.4 million Americans who wants a full-time job but have been forced to work limited hours. She recently exhausted her jobless benefits, too.

Donner worked for Ford Motor Company, where, she says, the recession in the auto industry started early. "I went to work for Ford Motor Company in 2001 after graduating [from college]. My second year there I was offered a [buyout] package and I didn't take it. It was my second year, and I'm like I'm not going to take it."

But, the Ford offer was a sign of things to come for Donner. After being laid off, she found work at General Electric in the Labor Relations Department, but it lasted just two years before being downsized again. She moved from Cleveland to Pensacola, Florida a few months ago hoping for a better job market and has taken part-time jobs in radio and a retail store trying to make ends meet. The 35-year-old says it's hard to find the motivation to look for a decent job but knows her situation needs to change. "It's disgusting, let me just say that – the [little] pay, how people treat you" She said bitterly. "Your peers come in and you're fitting them for a bra, you know what I mean? It's heart-wrenching. The only thing that's keeping me going is prayer."

Hopes and prayers seem to be fading among many of the long-term unemployed, however, according to a series of studies of those whom the current economic crisis has trapped in long-term joblessness by The John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers University. Their research found that as the crisis took hold, once jobless workers passed the six-month threshold of joblessness, their prospects for finding any work at all diminished sharply and, as their rejected applications for work piled up and their resources dwindled, their spirits and sense of being connected to the larger society.

One manifestation of that low psy-

chological state was both listlessness and sleeplessness. The study also determined that 88% of those unemployed long-term and looking for work, as of March 2010, are stressed because of their situation and 60% have experienced changed sleeping patterns or loss of sleep. Both Johnson and Donner admit they don't sleep like they used to because they don't know what tomorrow will bring. Adding to the shared burden is the fact that both women are African-American. That means they're more likely to be among the long-term unemployed and underemployed.

The National Employment Law Project, which advocates for the employment rights of lower-wage workers, is looking into this situation because the organization sees it as an unfortunate consequence. Judy Conti, NELP's Federal Advocacy Coordinator, explained that people who are unemployed for more than six months are disproportionately people of color and older workers. She said, "and when you start weeding out the people who are the long-term unemployed, you are disproportionately weeding out those two groups of workers and that could be considered disparate impact violation of the Civil Rights Laws."

Conti added, "you're not being weeded out because you are Black. For example, their not saying 'this person is Black oh I won't hire them' but they have a policy in place that weeds out more Black workers than White workers, for example, so it could have a disparate impact on that population." Conti revealed NELP is already probing whether some companies utilize the discriminatory practices some companies have against those long-term unemployed workers. But, for the present, little is being done to stop companies from keeping jobs out of the reach of the long-term unemployed.

A few are trying. On Capitol Hill hiring practices is not the focus, but in small circles 99ers are. Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA) is pushing a bill that would add 14 more weeks of unemployment benefits to the 99 week limit. Lee introduced the measure in February, but it's made little headway thus far.

In the meantime, Donner hopes the focus will return to persuading companies to reconsider hiring biases and somehow, 99ers will once again be considered labor assets. "We need a chance," she says. "We need an opportunity. A foot in the door is awesome, but a company that will mentor, and nurture you in a role, is like somewhere from heaven."

Tarice L.S. Gray is a Freelance Writer and blogger with GrayCurrent.com and appears as a special to the NNPA from thedefendersonline.com.

## LA Gains 8,200 Jobs Over 12 Months

### Labor Department Says Unemployment Rises

Louisiana had 8,200 more non-farm jobs last month than in March 2010. That's according to a report released Tuesday by the U.S. Labor Department.

On a non-seasonally adjusted basis, there were 2,700 more non-farm jobs in Louisiana last month than in February 2011.

The Labor Department says the state's unemployment rate – on a seasonally adjusted basis – rose from 7.9 percent in February to 8.1 percent in March. In March 2010, the state jobless rate was 7.2 percent.

The number of those listed as unemployed rose by 3,700 last month, a potential sign that those who have been out of work for extended periods have resumed their job hunts.

1 in 8 Americans is struggling with hunger. Including people like your neighbor who lives two houses down, your day care provider, or the person who works on the road repair crew. Who's the 1 in 8 in your life that needs help? Go to [feedingamerica.org](http://feedingamerica.org) to see how your support can help those in need.

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# President Barack Obama Invites Supreme Knight F. Dekarlos Blackmon To The White House

*Knights of Peter Claver*

The President of the United States has invited the Honorable F. DeKarlos Blackmon, Obl.S.B., the Supreme Knight and Chief Executive Officer of the Knights of Peter Claver, to attend the Annual Easter Prayer Breakfast to be held at The White House on Tuesday morning, April 19, 2011. The occasion is a time of prayer, reflection, and celebration of Easter. After the breakfast, there will be a series of briefings for faith leaders on issues of concern to the religious community. The

President is expected to highlight the important role that Christian organizations play in serving our country.

Supreme Knight Blackmon, the youthful leader from Huntsville-Madison, Alabama considers it an enormous honor for the Knights of Peter Claver, an inherently Catholic Fraternal Organization. Blackmon says he "very much appreciates the invitation" as a leader of one of the major Catholic organizations in the country. He went on to say, "As believers and

followers of Christ, the Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary are charged with standing up for what is right and just." The youngest Supreme Knight in contemporary times, Blackmon was installed the leader of the century-old Catholic organization in August 2010. An ardent supporter of Catholic education with a background in pastoral ministry and business management, Blackmon is a lay Ecclesial Minister, serving Saint Joseph Church in Huntsville in the Roman Catholic Diocese of



F. Dekarlos Blackmon

Birmingham in Alabama.

The Knights of Peter Claver, Inc. is the nation's only African-American Catholic Fraternal Organization. The Order was founded on November 7, 1909 in Mobile, Alabama for men of color who were barred from other organizations in the Catholic Church. The organization's membership now comprises the Catholic Church at-large including clerics and prelates from around the world as well as women and youth. The Order

is named after St. Peter Claver, a Jesuit Priest from Spain who ministered to African slaves in Cartagena, Colombia during the 1600s. Peter Claver is said to have converted over 300,000 slaves to Catholicism. The Knights of Peter Claver is a faith based fraternal order with units in the United States and South America. The Knights of Peter Claver is based in New Orleans and is a member of the worldwide International Alliance of Catholic Knights.



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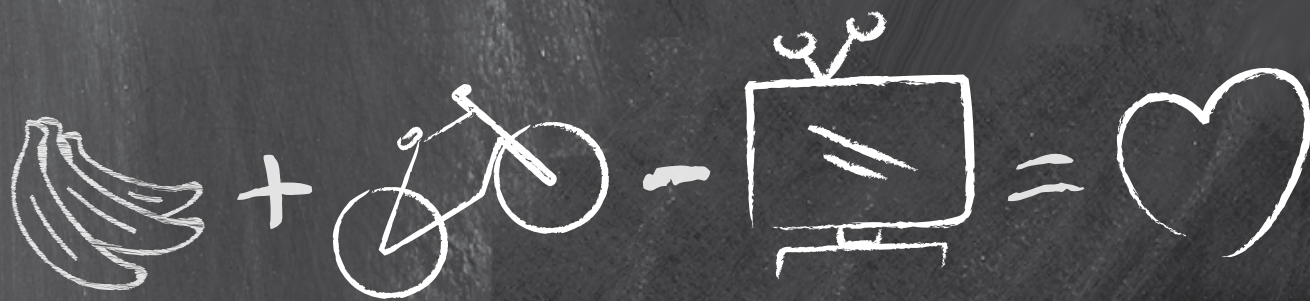
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# A LESSON FOR RAISING A HEALTHY CHILD

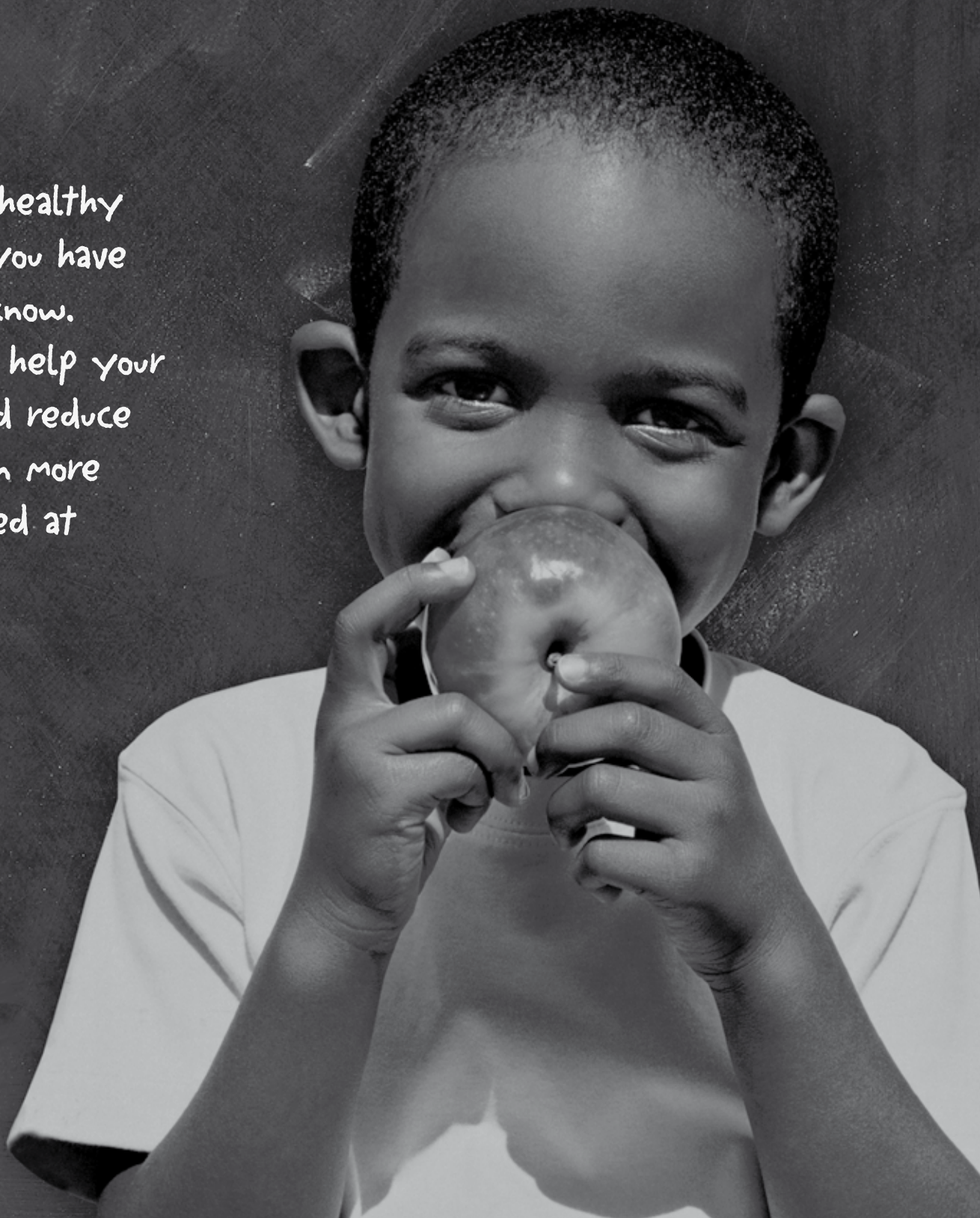


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# Shoot Ya Best Shot!

## Thanks Easter Bunny!

First Step in Education celebrated the season with an Easter Egg Hunt, Thursday April 14th, in Gentilly. The Easter Celebration was given by Mary Brown, Director of First Step in Education, and featured Dwayno the clown and an appearance by the Easter Bunny!





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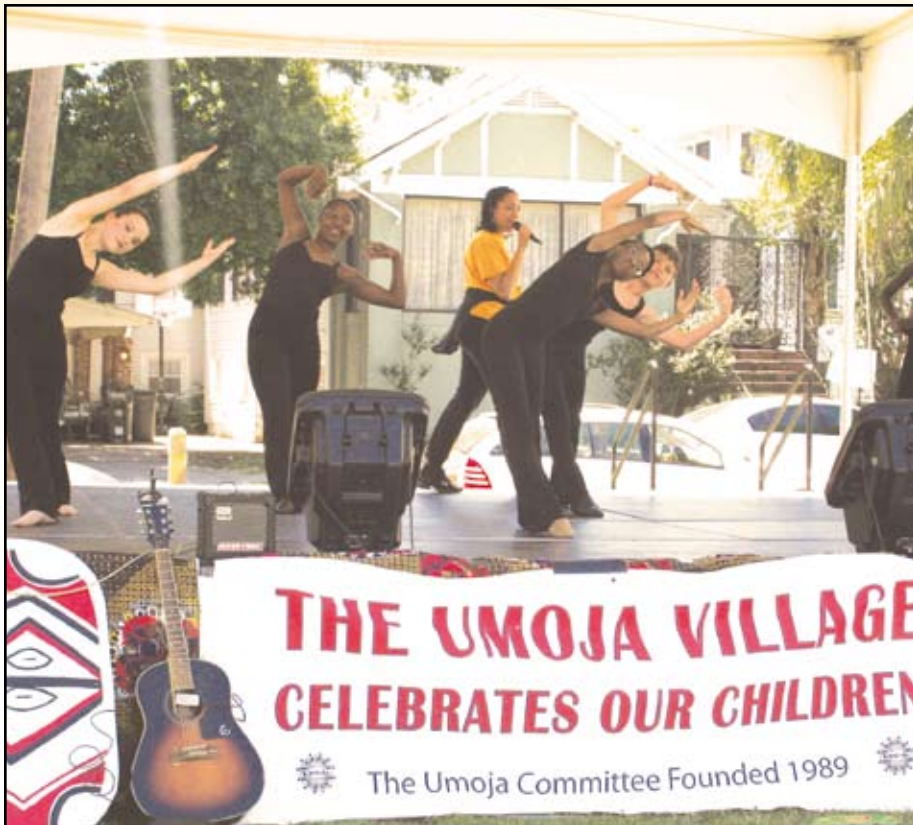
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# Shoot Ya Best Shot!

## The UMOJA Village Celebrates Our Children

photos by Chris Mercadel



Data News Weekly

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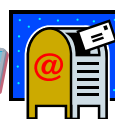
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# Donald Trump's Baseless Challenge to Obama's U.S. Citizenship



**George C. Curry**  
NNPA

Trump wrote, "There is a very large segment of our society who believe [sic] that Barack Obama, indeed, was not born in the United States."

For the record, Barack Hussein Obama was born at 7:24 p.m. on August 4, 1961 in Honolulu. His parents were Stanley Ann Dunham and Barack Hussein Obama, Sr.

What is the source of this information?

Obama's official birth certificate that was issued by Hawaii's Department of Health. The birth was registered August 8, 1961 and the "Certification of Live Birth" notes that Obama's mother was Caucasian and his father was African.

In addition to the official birth document, Obama's entrance into the world was recorded in both local newspapers, the August 13 Honolulu Advertiser and the August 14 Honolulu Star-Bulletin.

On MSNBC's Morning Joe, Trump said on April 7: "Well, guess what? His grandparents probably put in a thing because everybody wanted to become a United States Citizen, more so than today to be honest with you, because they were more proud in those days. But for purposes of hospitalization and welfare, you want to become an American citizen. So, the grandparents living in Honolulu, living in Hawaii, probably put it in. It's a very simple explanation."

It may be a simple explanation, but it is a wrong one.

The Honolulu Advertiser noted, "In No-

vember 2008, the Advertiser reported that the first mention of the future president appeared in a Sunday Advertiser birth announcement that ran on Aug. 13, 1961:

'Mr. and Mrs. Barack H. Obama, 6085 Kalaniana'ole Hwy., son, Aug. 4.'

"The identical announcement ran the following day in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin.

"Birthers wave off those birth announcements, saying that Obama family members 48 years ago could have phoned in false information to both newspapers.

"Such vital statistics, however, were not sent to the newspaper by the general public but by the Health Department, which received the information directly from hospitals, [Health Department spokeswoman Janice] Okubo said."

Trump was also wrong about relatives on the father's side.

He asserted in his letter to the New York Times, "His grandmother from Kenya stated on tape, that he was born in Kenya and she was there to watch the birth. His family is fighting over which hospital in Hawaii he was born in – they just don't know."

Not true, according to FactCheck.org, a project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania whose goal is to "reduce the level of deception and confusion in U.S. politics." It noted, "He [Trump] claims the President's grandmother says Obama was born in Kenya. In fact, the recording to which

he refers shows Sarah Obama repeatedly saying through a translator: 'He was born in America.'" The site further confirmed that the future president was born in Honolulu's Kapiolani Maternity & Gynecological Hospital.

In an April 7th interview on The Today Show, Trump charged, "He [Obama] doesn't have a birth certificate or he hasn't shown it. He has what's called a certificate of live birth. That's something easy to get...A certificate of live birth is not even signed by anybody. I saw his. I read it very carefully. It doesn't have a serial number, doesn't have a signature..."

Again, any apprentice should have known better.

FactCheck.org stated, "Had Trump looked at our 2008 article, he would see the signature stamp of Alvin Onaka, certifying the document is 'a true copy or abstract of the record on file,' issued to Obama June 7, 2007 as he was preparing to run for President. Furthermore, the serial number (actually a 'certificate' number) shows quite clearly in our photos. The number is 151 1961-010641, for whatever that's worth."

It added, "Trump is also mistaken about what legally qualifies as a 'birth certificate,' which actually a broad generic term with no specific legal meaning. The U.S. Department of State uses the term 'certified birth certificate' to refer to exactly what Obama produced, which Hawaii calls a 'Certifica-

*Trump, continued on page 11.*

## Revolving Prison Doors



**Judge Greg Mathis**  
NNPA Columnist

### Mathis' Mind

If you, like me, believe that prisons should be able to punish offenders while still preparing them for a productive, crime free life once they are released, then you must also believe that prisons are failing. And, they're not just failing: they are costing the larger society billions of dollars that could be put to much better use.

Annual prison spending has risen from \$10 billion to \$52 billion during the last 30 years. Recent data from the Pew Center on the States shows that the additional money is clearly not going to prisoner rehabilitation efforts. More than 40 percent of inmates eventually return to prison, most of them within three years. The recidivism rate hasn't changed much in a decade and is a strong sign that prisons aren't doing

the best job they can to prepare offenders for life outside of prison.

States around the country are grappling with fiscal uncertainty and are forced to cut programs that serve the poor and elderly in order to balance their budgets. These tactics, however, do not take into consideration the needs of the people, nor do they protect the long-term financial health of the state.

What does? Investing in education. Many, if not the majority, of prison inmates did not graduate high school. By catching students before they fall through the cracks and reducing the number of dropouts will, over time, reduce the prison population and save the states money. Sending low-level drug offenders to rehab instead of prison will also help. It's less expensive to rehabili-

tate an addict than it is to incarcerate them. Going this route allows states to help those who need it and reduce their prison costs at the same time.

Critics would say that this approach is soft on crime. No one is saying that criminals should not be punished. It's just more beneficial to everyone involved, if we punish them smartly.

To be fair, this strategy is not going to save money overnight. The goal is to create a plan that is sustainable, one that will bring huge returns over the long term. Reducing prison costs by reducing incarceration rates saves money so governments don't have to cut services like Medicaid and Medicare that the most vulnerable in our communities rely upon.



# PGA Tour Rookie Joseph Bramlett Headlines Youth Golf Clinic At Zurich Classic

*First African-American in 25 Years To Graduate PGA National Qualifying School Is One of Two African-Americans on the PGA Tour*

Monday clinic is free with refreshments, first 300 children receive event hats & t-shirts

On Monday, April 25, The First Tee of Greater New Orleans in partnership with the Fore! Kids Foundation will produce a golf clinic for youth at the 2011 Zurich Classic of New Orleans at TPC Louisiana. The annual "Monday Clinic" hosts hundreds of area young people interested in learning technique from professional golfers. This year, the PGA's newest star Joseph Bramlett will be featured in a golf exhibition.

"When I was a little kid, I'd spend the day from sun-up to sun-down on the golf course. I felt at home," said Joseph Bramlett. "I want to impart that feeling to the kids at the Monday Clinic," he said. "I'm looking forward to being in New Orleans for the Zurich Classic."

At 14, Joseph Bramlett was the youngest golfer ever to qualify for the U.S. Amateur. That same year, he represented the United States in the 2002 World Golf Cup. Bramlett earned all-American honors at Stanford University and helped his team to win an NCAA Championship. Graduating a semester early, Bramlett turned pro in the fall of 2010, earning his PGA card the following December.

"Joseph Bramlett is a hard-working and talented young golfer who is an inspiration to all of our young people," said Dwayne Cormier, Executive Director of The First Tee of Greater New Orleans. "He is often quoted as saying, 'If I can do it, so can you.' I hope our young participants take

that lesson to heart."

TFTGNO's Monday Clinic will also feature PGA Tour Professional Kelly Gibson as Master of Ceremonies, and Golf Pro Dennis Walters, who is noted for his trick shots. The First Tee of Greater New Orleans teaches young people life lessons through the game of golf, and offers spring and summer golf programming at area schools and golf courses.

Thanks to the generosity of the Fore! Kids Foundation, The First Tee of Greater New Orleans (TFTGNO) has one thousand day passes to the Zurich Classic. "This gives us an opportunity to raise \$25,000 with 100% of the proceeds benefitting TFTGNO," Cormier said. "Please help us to take full advantage of this great opportunity!"

Day pass vouchers can be purchased at following locations:

The First Tee of Greater New Orleans office 1050 South Jefferson Davis Parkway, Suite 237, New Orleans, LA 70125

City Park North Course: during business hours

Bayou Barriere Golf Club: during business hours

TPC Louisiana during Saturday Life Skill Programming 9am - 3pm

www.thefirstteenola.org a \$3 surcharge and shipping fee will be added for your convenience

The Zurich Classic of New Orleans has been played annually since 1958 and generates more than \$30 million annually for the local economy. The Fore! Kids Foundation, the host organization of the Zurich Classic, has raised

more than \$6.5 million in the last five years to help local children in need.

For more information on TFT-

GNO programming, please contact Executive Director Dwayne Ray Cormier at 975-5578, or email dcormier@thefirstteenola.org.

Please direct all media inquiries to Maria Mercedes Tio at 236-3806, or email mmtio@hotmail.com.

## Stop The 'Birther' Rhetoric!

**The US Constitution does not require a candidate for the President of the United States to be born on American soil.**

### Qualifications for the Office of President

#### **Age and Citizenship requirements - US Constitution, Article II, Section 1**

No person except a natural born citizen, or a citizen of the United States, at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the office of President; neither shall any person be eligible to that office who shall not have attained to the age of thirty-five years, and been fourteen years a resident within the United States.

#### **Amendment XXII, Section 1**

**Ratified February 27, 1951**

#### **Natural Born Citizen Defined**

**Title 8 of the U.S. Code Section 1401**

#### **In the case of the Current US President, Barack Obama:**

Any one born outside the United States, if one parent is an alien and as long as the other parent is a citizen of the U.S. who lived in the U.S. for at least five years (with military and diplomatic service included in this time)

Courtesy of the Northeast Publishers Association (NEPA)

#### **NORD Foundation Seeking Chief Development Officer**

The New Orleans Recreation Development Foundation is a non-profit organization that financially supports the budget of the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission, which aims to provide access to quality recreational opportunities for all citizens of New Orleans, regardless of age. To do this, we're building a staff of passionate and creative people to join our mission.

The New Orleans Recreation Development Foundation seeks a seasoned development professional to be the strategic leader, visionary, and key architect to drive all fundraising efforts, including major individual, corporate, and foundation support. Working closely with the Foundation members, Commission, and CEO, you will pursue and cultivate high-potential major gifts. Minimum 5 years fundraising leadership experience. For more information and full job description visit <http://www.nola.gov/Job-Opportunities>. Please submit applications by May 31, 2011.



# Are You Ready for Some Football?

## 2011 Saints Schedule Announced

The New Orleans Saints announced their 2011 Season schedule this week. It will be a battle of Super Bowl champs for the NFL season opener this fall as the Saints take on the last season's Super Bowl Champion Green Bay Packers.

The New Orleans Saints will face the Green Bay Packers at Lambeau Field to kick off the NFL season and will be featured in prime time four different nights in the regular season.

The opening game pits the last two Super Bowl Champions against each other on Thursday, Sept. 8th. That game will air locally on WDSU.

Three other prime time contests will be broadcast on WDSU:

- a home game Oct. 23 against the Indianapolis Colts
- a home game Nov. 28 against the New York Giants
- a home game Dec. 26 against the Atlanta Falcons

### The complete schedule for 2011 follows:

Thursday, Sept. 8 | 7:30 p.m. | vs. Packers, @ Green Bay, on NBC

Sunday, Sept. 18 | 12 p.m. | vs. Bears in Superdome, on Fox

Sunday, Sept. 25 | 12 p.m. | vs. Texans in Superdome, on CBS

Sunday, Oct. 2 | 12 p.m. | vs. Jaguars, @ Jacksonville, on Fox

Sunday, Oct. 9 | 12 p.m. | vs. Panthers, @ Charlotte, on Fox

Sunday, Oct. 16 | 3:15 p.m. | vs. Buccaneers, @ Tampa, on Fox

Sunday, Oct. 23 | 7:20 p.m. | vs. Colts in Superdome, on NBC

Sunday, Oct. 30 | 12 p.m. | vs. Rams, @ St. Louis, on Fox

Sunday, Nov. 6 | 12 p.m. | vs. Buccaneers in Superdome, on Fox

Sunday, Nov. 13 | 12 p.m. | vs. Falcons, @ Atlanta, on Fox

Monday, Nov. 28 | 7:30 p.m. | vs. Giants in Superdome, on ESPN/WDSU-TV

Sunday, Dec. 4 | 12 p.m. | vs. Lions in Superdome, on Fox

Sunday, Dec. 11 | 12 p.m. | vs. Titans, @ Nashville, on Fox

Sunday, Dec. 18 | 12 p.m. | vs. Vikings, @ Minneapolis, on Fox

Sunday, Dec. 26 | 7:30 p.m. | vs. Falcons in Superdome, on ESPN/WDSU-TV

Sunday, Jan. 01 | 12 p.m. | vs. Panthers in Superdome, on Fox

## Zulu Announces its Anniversary 5K Run/Walk

*The Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club will hold a press conference on May 3rd to announce its Anniversary 5K Run/Walk.*

Zulu is joined this year by the Bayou Boogaloo Festival in sponsoring the event to be held on Saturday May 21, 2011. The 5 K Run/Walk will encompass the Mid City area of Orleans Avenue, Moss Street, Esplanade Avenue and Parkview Place. This year the race will not only include adult runners, but children runners are invited to register for a 1/2 mile run/walk. Each adult runner of the Male and Female categories has the opportunity to win "a Free Ride in the Zulu Parade!"

Information on how to participate in the event will be announced at the press conference.

## NOW HIRING SALES SUPPORT ADMINISTRATOR

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper", is seeking an energetic professional who can juggle many tasks. Could this be you? Are you an experienced administrative assistant seeking a position with great people? If so, this could be the right opportunity for you! This position will assist the Publisher, Sales, and Customer Service departments.

We are looking for an experienced administrative assistant who has the ability to handle multiple tasks in a small team environment. Some other duties will include proofing, editing and issuing weekly sales reports; performing general clerical duties (i.e. phone coverage, mail, fax, letter, etc.); maintaining social network sites; implementing activities associated with in-house meetings; and maintaining inventory of office supplies for multiple departments.

If interested in this position, do not delay as interviews are in progress! Email your resume to **datanewsad@bellsouth.net** with the words "Sales Support Administrator" in the subject line. We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you!

### Job Experience:

- Candidates MUST have at least 2 years of Administrative experience
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint and social media sites
- Experience supporting a sales team and executives





## Gov. Jindal Says He'll Sign La. 'Birther' Bill

*Proposal Would Require Citizenship Proof From Obama*

If it reaches his desk, Gov. Bobby Jindal says he'll sign a proposal to require President Barack Obama and other presidential candidates to prove their U.S. Citizenship before their names can be included on a state ballot.

Arizona's Governor vetoed a similar measure this week.

Louisiana's so-called "birther" proposal is sponsored by these Republicans Rep. Alan Seabaugh, of Shreveport, and Sen. A.G. Crowe, of Slidell. The measure would require an original or certi-

fied copy of a birth certificate and additional proof of citizenship for anyone running in Louisiana for president, vice president or Congress.

It will be considered in the legislative session beginning Monday.

Hawaii officials have certified Obama was born in that state, but some Obama critics have demanded additional proof.

—  
House Bill 561 can be found at [www.legis.state.la.us](http://www.legis.state.la.us)

## St. Augustine High School Announces The Return Of The Famous Good Friday Fish Fry

By popular demand, St. Augustine's famous Good Friday Fish Fry will take place on April 22, 2011 at the school's 7th Ward campus located at 2600 A. P. Tureaud Avenue.

The St. Augustine PTSA (Parent-Teacher-Student Association), is organizing the event with assistance from a host of devoted parents, students, alumni, and friends.

The St. Augustine Administration is also lending its full support. Fr. John Raphael S.S.J., St. Augustine President, said:

"The Good Friday Fish Fry is back! We hope to have old friends and new come out to further the mission of St. Augustine by supporting the fish fry. In these difficult times, we appreciate the sacrifices made by families who choose a St. Augustine education. Your assistance will help make that burden a little lighter!"

May God continue to bless us with his mercy as we seek to do His will!

The Good Friday Fish Fry is a fundraiser for the school, and takes place in the cafeteria. Plates include fried catfish, macaroni and cheese, potato salad, peas, bread, and dessert for only \$8.00! Proceeds from the event will help defray tuition increases. Tickets are available at the St. Augustine Finance Office or in the cafeteria on Good Friday.

## Mayor Landrieu Moves Forward On Lafitte Greenway

*Latest Developments Coincide With Annual Friends of Lafitte Corridor Hike*



Mayor Landrieu

This week, Mayor Mitch Landrieu announced that the City of New Orleans has issued an official notice to proceed to Design Workshop, the vendor who was awarded a contract last week to develop a master plan for the development of the Lafitte Greenway, Greenway Park, and the Lafitte Corridor. The Corridor is a 3.1-mile open space pathway that will extend from Armstrong Park near the French Quarter to Canal Boulevard near City Park and connect nine historic districts and neighborhoods from Tremé to Lakeview.

"This is a huge step toward the realization of creating a recreational green space that the entire community can enjoy," said Mayor

Mitch Landrieu. "This project will improve the quality of life for our citizens and has the potential to move the City to becoming more environmentally sustainable."

Since taking office, the Landrieu Administration has made substantial progress on this project. Last year, the City acquired a 16.5 acre parcel along the Lafitte Corridor in Mid-City, formerly the site of the Louisiana Institute of Film Technology (LIFT) Studio. The LIFT property is the largest contiguous piece of property which will allow for active recreational facilities. The \$3.8 million purchase of the property was funded from a Community Development Block Grant.

Design Workshop will be re-

sponsible for the plan, design and construction management for the Lafitte Greenway, develop a master plan for the Greenway Park, and develop a revitalization plan for the Lafitte Corridor. In addition, Design Workshop will develop a schedule for community outreach workshops in order to gain citizen input. Those workshops are anticipated to begin this summer.

These latest developments coincide with the Seventh Annual "Hike the Lafitte Corridor" event that was held by the Friends of the Lafitte Corridor which takes place at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 16 at Armstrong Park located on Orleans Avenue.

"We are pleased that the Lafitte Corridor Greenway project is moving along. We appreciate the due diligence that Mayor Landrieu's Administration has exercised to ensure that this project is on a firm footing and we look forward to engaging with the community to move the project forward to completion," said Bart Everson, President of the Friends of Lafitte Corridor.

The Lafitte Greenway will offer a continuous public open space for non-motorized transportation and recreation, joining together key segments of the City's emerging pedestrian and bikeway network. The Greenway will also serve as a link between new and existing parks, playgrounds, recreational facilities and community centers, encouraging active living and promoting public health. Anticipated completion for Lafitte Greenway is expected during spring 2014.

*Trump, continued from page 8.*

tion of Live Birth.' The State Department accepts a state-certified photocopy of a hospital-generated document, as was commonly used in the past. But Hawaii, like many states, now uses computer-printed documents instead, and Hawaii's form also meets State Department standards for establishing citizenship."

Ironically, when pressed for a copy of his birth certificate,

Trump also produced a "Certificate of Birth." It shows that Donald John Trump was born at 10:54 a.m. on June 14, 1947 at Jamaica Hospital in Queens, N.Y.

In an interview on Good Morning America, Trump claimed, "... He [Obama] grew up and nobody knew him... Nobody ever comes forward. Nobody knows who he is until later in life. It's very strange. The whole thing is very

strange."

What is strange is that Trump never saw the many television programs and newspaper articles about Obama's early years in Hawaii.

For example, the Maui News published a story January 21, 2009 in which it quoted Aimee Yatsushiro, who was a student teacher in Obama's kindergarten class. She remembered 5-year-old

Obama as a "cute, likable, heavy build child." Katherine Nakamoto, who retired as a Teacher at Noelani Elementary School, said, "We called him Barack... He was very well-mannered, respectful, confident and independent."

Trump struck out at every turn.

FactCheck.org stated, "If Donald worked for us, we'd have to say: 'Donald, you're fired - for in-

competence.'"

George E. Curry, former Editor-in-Chief of Emerge Magazine and the NNPA News Service, is a Keynote Speaker, Moderator, and Media Coach. He can be reached through his website, [www.georgecurry.com](http://www.georgecurry.com) You can also follow him at [www.twitter.com/currygeorge](http://www.twitter.com/currygeorge).





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