

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

**Data**

**News Weekly**

"The People's Paper"

**Data Zone Page 6**



**Super Sunday Kids**

March 24 - March 30, 2012 46th Year Volume 43 [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com)

# Vote New Orleans

## The Race for the New Orleans City Council-at-Large Heats Up

Page 2



**Commentary**  
**Restoring Hope**

Page 8

**National News**  
**Obama Loves the Black Press**



Page 10



# The Race for the New Orleans City Council-at-Large Heats Up



Gary Landrieu



Stacy Head



Cynthia Willard Lewis



Austin Badon



Andrew Gressett

By Edwin Buggage

With the resignation of Arnie Fielkow from the New Orleans City Council it has opened up a vacancy in the council chambers where several candidates are vying to fill the seat. Data News Weekly spoke with five of the seven candidates that will be taking part in the primary election on Saturday, March 24th.

## Austin Badon

Presently, he is a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives District 100 that comprises parts of New Orleans East. Badon is running a campaign that has been primarily focused on issues of public safety. He feels that a multi-pronged approach is needed to deal with this issue and if enacted properly can have a positive impact on the quality of life of the City. "I am the only candidate in this race that has both a short and long-term approach to solving the crime problem especially violent crime in New Orleans," says Badon. Continuing to describe his plan he remarks, "I asked for the Louisiana National Guard to help patrol our streets and we have to use everything in our toolbox to fight crime."

In addition to better crime fighting measures Badon also places the onus responsibility on building better family units, "I feel the root of some of the problems with crime stem from things that happen in the home, I think we can use some of our

community colleges and technical colleges where parents can go to get assistance and get help with how to better raise children, I feel this is important because if we can come together as a community to build better families then the entire community benefits."

Badon feels the City is divided in the areas of race and class. This is something he opines, that is not a productive direction for the City moving forward, "In this City we can come together for the Saints and Mardi Gras, but outside of that we have a City of have and have nots, the middle-class is dwindling post- Katrina and this is not good for the City." He feels that the key to the City reaching its full potential is to diversify the economy and he feels he is the one who can help bring business into the City, "If I am elected I am going to be an ambassador for economic development, I will work hard to utilize our assets to attract business to grow our economy."

Cover Story,  
Continued on next page.

## INSIDE DATA

Cover Story . . . . .	2	Data Zone . . . . .	6
Newsmaker . . . . .	4	Commentary. . . . .	8
State & Local News . . .	5	National News . . . .	10

## DATA NEWS WEEKLY

P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347 | Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622  
editorial: datanewseditor@bellsouth.net | advertising: datanewsad@bellsouth.net

Terry B. Jones  
CEO/Publisher  
Glenn Jones  
VP Advertising  
& Marketing  
Cheryl Mainor  
Managing Editor  
Edwin Buggage  
Editor  
Lynesia Carson  
Executive Assistant  
June Hazeur  
Accounting

Contributors  
Edwin Buggage  
Kichea S. Burt  
George E. Curry  
Caryn Freeman  
Irving Johnson IIIw  
Terry Jones  
Marc H. Morial

Art Direction & Production  
MainorMedia.com  
Editorial Submissions  
datanewseditor@bellsouth.net  
Advertising Inquiries  
datanewsad@bellsouth.net

Please call 504-309-9913 for subscription information or to obtain a back issue of the paper ONLY.  
Dated material two weeks in advance. Not responsible for publishing or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.

Cover Story, Continued from previous page.

## Stacy Head

Stacy Head is a present member of the New Orleans City Council representing District B that borders several areas of uptown from Broadmoor to Central City. As one of the more diverse districts in the City Head says her record of success of bringing people from diverse backgrounds together for the common good is an asset she can bring to the fore of the City Council if elected. "In District B, I have built relationships with businesses both large and small, and various community groups and it is about all of us working together and we have a great record of success in our district that other parts of the City have not experienced and I would like to recreate what we have done citywide," says Head.

She feels that economic development and empowering people is the best way to bridge the class divide in the City, "One of the success stories in our City is Central City where we have seen increases in home ownership as well as commercial development, these are the kind of projects that must take place that will create an atmosphere where everyone feels they can be part of the renaissance that is taking place in New Orleans." In this campaign Head is standing on her record saying that she is an effective City council person and feels she is a good mix of political independence but willing to work with others to get things done that benefit the people of the City.

Head is running as a candidate who believes that good government and one that is efficient, "I believe good leadership is one that sets benchmarks for the administration, right now we feel things are going well with the present mayoral administration, we feel things are going well, but there are things we are still not satisfied with, but there is a better working relationship between the Mayor and the City Council." One of the other issues on her platform is of infrastructure development and transportation, "It is great that we are doing work with increasing streetcar lines because tourism is a big part of our economy, but we must also work on becoming more efficient in how we serve people who use public transportation who live in the City to make it more accessible to more people in the City."

## Cynthia Willard-Lewis

Cynthia Willard-Lewis is making her second run for the council-at-large seat and of the field of contenders she says she is the most qualified person to be given the public trust to hold this seat, "We are living in extreme times and it is important for our City to elect a capable, experienced, committed leader who is familiar with the issues, knowledgeable about the

process of legislating and respectful of one's colleagues and our wonderful citizens," says Lewis. During the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Cynthia Willard-Lewis was a member of the New Orleans City Council representing District E, that comprises the devastated New Orleans East and the Lower Ninth Ward, "During this time we worked to address issues of blight that inhibited investments; and during my time on the council I worked to get 27 of the 100 rebuilding projects that our present Mayor is working on funded."

Lewis is opposed to candidate Austin Badon's call for the Louisiana National Guard to help police the streets of New Orleans. "I oppose the National Guard patrolling our streets, they are not trained in community policing and this is not the answer," continuing she says, "What we need are better training for police and the community working with the Independent Police Monitor." As the daughter of an educator she feels the key to solving the crime problem is educational and expanded economic opportunities for young people, "One of the things that is important is to give our young people a better quality education that will give them the skills to get well-paying jobs where they would not look at crime as an alternative."

In a City where graft, and corruption are commonplace in government, Willard-Lewis says that some of the worst elements of the political culture has never been part of the reason she entered politics, "When other elected officials voted to raise their pay, I voted against it although it could have helped my family; I put the families of New Orleans first," says Lewis. During the post-Katrina era some in the City believe the City is fractured and the breach between those in government and those they serve, "If I am elected I feel we need to bring City Government back to the people and that there can be a civil dialog moving forward that all different interest can come together; and respect one and another even if we differ in opinion to work together to do what's best our City."

## Gary Landrieu

Gary Landrieu is a local business owner who is making his first run at elected office. He feels it is time for someone new to enter the process invoking progressive ideas, "Many of my opponents have served in public office or presently serving in the city council and nothing is changing; we are still the worst in many categories as far as crime and education; and it is because of the failings of past leadership that they haven't fully addressed the most pressing issues of our City and now it is time for a new type of

leadership," says Landrieu.

Landrieu vows if elected to not raise taxes on the citizens of New Orleans. Some of the positions he has taken is to get rid of the controversial police traffic cameras and to sell the New Orleans International Airport, "One of our major problems is that the City does not have a lot of operating capital and if we had the inflow of money from the sale of the airport we can put much needed resources into addressing and solving some of the problem of our City."

While race have been a hot button issue post-Katrina, Landrieu feels the racial animus in the City is magnified; and that the reality is that there are more commonalities than differences among the citizens of New Orleans. "I think there are elements on both sides of the race issue that won't let go of the past and embrace the future and I feel this is counterproductive to the City and our image." Landrieu believes that that growing the economy is an important component that would help solve many of the woes of the City and feels that a new type of leader is

needed, "We need leaders with a new bolder vision for the City and somebody who is going to get things done; and that casting a vote for Gary Landrieu would be a step in the right direction."

## Andrew Gressett

Andrew Gressett works in real estate and is making another run for elected office. In the past, he has run for constable, city council, state senate and twice for the office of assessor. He is the lone Republican in the race. Not only is his party affiliation the only thing he thinks that separates him from his opponents he says he is the only truly independent candidate in the race, "I am the only person who is completely independent; I am not beholden to any business interest or have any personal or group affiliation, so I am not in a position to be compromised," says Gressett, continuing he says, "My goal is to serve all the people of the City of New Orleans not just a select few."

Gressett feels the current amiable relationship between the current Mayor and

Cover Story, Continued on page 11

**HANO**  
*Housing Authority of New Orleans*

## HCVP IS MOVING!

The HCVP/Section 8 office at 3630 MacArthur Blvd. will **close permanently on March 30, 2012.**

Effective **April 2, 2012**, all program business will be performed at the HANO main office at **4100 Touro Street** (Senate St. entrance). For more information call (504) 708-2800.



4100 Touro St | www.HANO.org | (504) 670-3300



# NNPA's 2012 Newsmaker Award Recipients Call for More Involvement from the Black Community

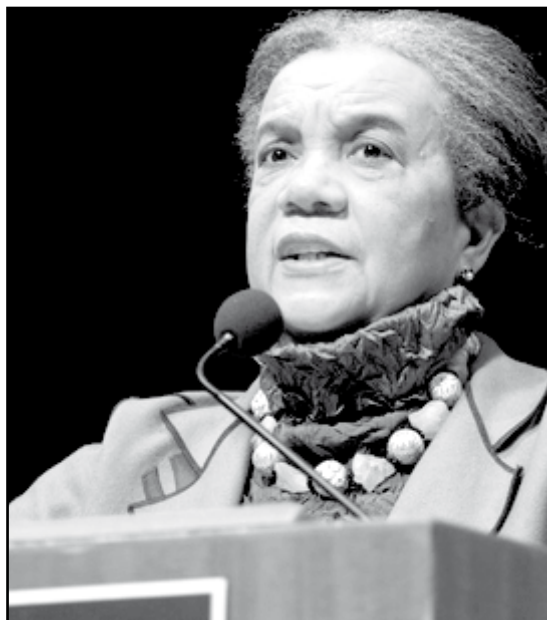
By Caryn Freeman  
Special to the NNPA

This year's Black Press Week held in Washington, DC culminated with the an award ceremony honoring Ben Jealous, President of the NAACP, who received an award for community service and Founder and President of the Children's Defense Fund, Marian Wright Edelman who received a lifetime achievement award for her leadership as the nation's biggest advocate for undeserved and underprivileged children.

Ben Jealous got his start in Journalism at the Jackson Advocate in Jackson, Mississippi. He is the youngest person to hold the position of President of the NAACP in the organizations nearly one-hundred year history. Jealous spoke to the crowd about the



Ben Jealous



Miriam Wright Edelman

franchise Black voters.

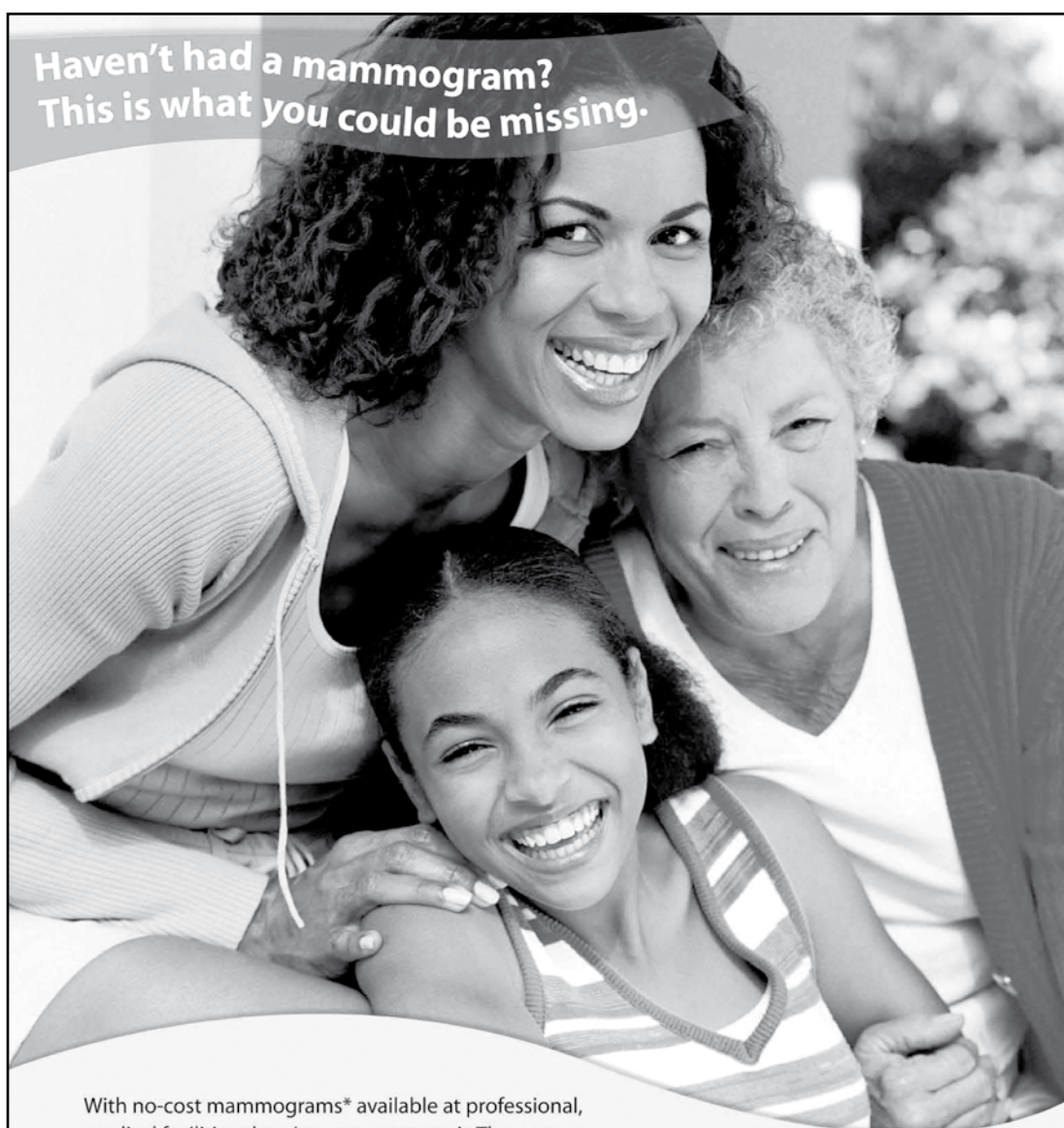
The evening's second award recipient, Marian Wright Edelman, Founder and President of the Children's Defense Fund harkened back to the premise of the Civil Rights Movement. A movement built around a generation of people who wanted their children to do better. A generation who always maintained that education was the ticket. Marian edified the shattering blow the cradle the prison pipeline has on the state of the Black child and the Black community. Edelman described it as one of the worst crisis in America. "The toxic cocktail of illiteracy is that eighty-percent of Black children cannot read or compute at grade level in 4th, 8th or 12th grade, that is if they have not already dropped out, codifies the whole point of slavery, to keep us illiterate. If you cannot read and compute in this global economy you are sentenced to social and economic death. After all of the effort we did to provide equal education," she continued, "we need to look at the young unemployment rate for Black young men under thirty; it is at nearly forty-percent with no hope, no jobs and poverty growing among our children, many of them never get onto the trajectory of success."

Illiteracy, poverty, and out of wedlock birth rates and incarceration rates have been the feeder systems into this prison pipeline for years. Edelman warned the crowd that if this continued and without their involvement the current system will take away the last fifty-year progress. "We have got to reweave the fabric of family and community," she explained. Edelman has started an organization of freedom schools designed to do what the Public School System has not done. Provide a real opportunity for Black kids living in impoverished underserved communities. She imparted to the crowd that they cannot wait for the Public School System to educate these children. "We need to have a community effort because we are going back. We know what to do to save children. It is movement time folks; we have got to step up."

Caryn Freeman is a Journalism Student at Howard University and the Editor-in-Chief of The Caxton Press. <http://www.thecaxtonpress.com>.

challenges of working through this recession but emphasized to publishers the need for them to fight as hard as ever. Noting that often the corollary of fighting for equal rights in America has taught the Black community that achieving whatever is fought for at the at moment can cause the community to lose everything they had at the same time. This year's election and the controversy over new voter restrictions laws being pushed at the state level took Jealous to Geneva, Switzerland for this years United Nations Delegation. More states have introduced more laws pushing people out of the ballot box than in any year in any century, over 5 million people.

Jealous told the United Nations Delegation in Geneva, Switzerland that, he was there now to, "ring a bell because we need you to come take a look at what's happening in the U.S. Sometimes the U.S. needs to have its ideals reflected back to itself and needs to have its realities reflected back to itself." The voters being targeted by these laws are disproportionately Black and the very students who chose the last President. In his words, the impact of the recent crackdown on voting rights is clear. Jealous explained to the crowd how voting rights laws of the twentieth-century have the same intent as these laws being introduced today and although politicians may not be as plain spoken as they once were, the bottom line is that the laws do now what they did then, disen-



With no-cost mammograms\* available at professional, medical facilities, there's no reason to wait. The sooner you have a mammogram, the greater your chances are of finding cancer in its early stages and making a full recovery. It's your life. Go live it.

**Call 1-800-4-CANCER to schedule your mammogram today.**



# Fourth Round Of Investing In Innovation Grant Application And Selection Launched

*Sixteen charter schools meet i3 Effect Size criteria for 2013/14 school year application.*

The application for the Investing in Innovation (i3) 2013 School Opening Spring Round Awards launched today, signaling the start of the fourth selection process to be run in New Orleans. Sixteen New Orleans Charter Schools demonstrated significantly better results in math and/or reading than their traditional Louisiana Public School counterparts based on the most recent i3 Effect Size Assessment released in September 2011. For the 2013/14 school year, winners will be matched with persistently low-performing schools by the Recovery School District.

Eligibility to apply for the awards is determined by an assessment prepared by the Center for Research on Education Outcomes (CREDO). The assessment, which includes 2010-

11 test data, analyzes a charter school's ability to impact student learning over a three-year period by calculating its "effect size." New Schools for New Orleans (NSNO) and the RSD will use the i3 effect size scores, in conjunction with other stringent criteria, to grant i3 awards later this Spring. To date, awards have been granted to nine charter operators to turn around 10 academically unacceptable New Orleans Schools in the 2011 and 2012 school years. (See "The New Orleans i3 Project: 2012 Award Eligibility and Selection Criteria" for details.)

"By assessing how much students progress each year, we can better understand which charter schools, using a variety of models, are improving student learning significantly over time. With

this next selection process, we will identify an additional group of schools that are ready to expand and help to turn around the City's remaining academically unacceptable schools," said Neerav Kingsland, NSNO Chief Strategy Officer.

"The Recovery School District is very supportive of the Investing in Innovation Awards that are offered to our schools. It is an important component of our strategy to turn around low-performing schools in New Orleans. We appreciate this opportunity and look forward to continuing our

partnership with New Schools for New Orleans in this process," said RSD Superintendent Patrick Dobard.

The current i3 Effect Size eligibility criteria is based on the following:

Only charter school operators that achieve a statistically significant effect size of .1 or higher in reading or math (with neither being statistically significant and negative) are eligible to apply for an i3 award.

For Charter School Organizations operating more than one school, each of the following cri-

teria must be met:

Overall organization effect size must meet minimum criteria (math or reading effect size of 0.1 or higher, with neither being statistically significant or negative).

No school of the organization's portfolio may be statistically significant and negative.

At least 25% of the schools in the portfolio must have an overall effect size of 0.15 or higher.

The Investing in Innovation (i3) 2013 School Opening Spring Round application is available on the NSNO website

## ladatanews.com

## Norman Mayer Library In Gentilly Reopened



The City and State officials and FEMA on March 20th reopened the Norman Mayer Library located at 2908 Foy Street in Gentilly. The total cost of construction is \$5.7 million with funding coming from recovery dollars (Disaster Community Development Block Grant funds and FEMA funds), Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, and City bond

funds. The new library is one of four post-Katrina replacement libraries set to open across New Orleans in March and April. Last Friday, the City reopened Rosa Keller Library in Broadmoor. On Thursday, March 22nd Officials also reopened Robert Smith Library in Lakeview. New Orleans East Regional Library will open in mid-April.

You Can't Change Your Genes  
But You Can Change Your Outcome. If You Have Diabetes,  
Text **HEALTH** to **300400**\*



Louisiana



Crescent City  
Beacon Community



Beacon Community Program  
The Office of the Regional Coordinator for  
Health Information Technology



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK: **txt4healthnola** | FOLLOW US ON TWITTER: **txt4healthnola**

\*Signing up for txt4health is FREE but standard text messaging rates do apply. Please contact your mobile phone carrier for questions about text messaging rates. Txt4health is available for Greater New Orleans area residents.

For terms & conditions visit [www.txt4health.com](http://www.txt4health.com). Text 'STOP' to discontinue messages or 'HELP' to receive assistance.



# Shoot Ya Best Shot!

## Super Sunday Kids

*photos by Kichea S. Burt*



If you have photos of parties or events you would like to run in DATA, please send to [datanewsad@bellsouth.net](mailto:datanewsad@bellsouth.net) for inclusion.



# Newly eligible for Medicare?

Eddie Conrad,  
Peoples Health  
plan member

## When Can I Enroll?

If you're turning 65, you can sign up for a Peoples Health plan:

- as early as 3 months before the month of your birthday,
- the month of your birthday, or
- up to 3 months after the month of your birthday.

If you already have Medicare coverage, Medicare may make you wait until later in the year to change your plan. **But you may qualify for an exception** and be able to join Peoples Health now – for example, if you...

- have just moved into the area,
- are losing your coverage through your employer and you're eligible for Medicare,
- make less than \$1,361 per month, or
- have Medicaid too.

If you're new to Medicare you have a lot of options and probably a lot of questions. Is Medicare enough by itself? Do I need to buy a supplement? What about Part D drug coverage? Or a Medicare Advantage plan that combines benefits and Part D?

Make a phone call and find out why so many Louisiana residents get their Medicare benefits – including their prescription drug coverage – through a **\$0 plan premium Peoples Health plan**. Call Peoples Health today. There's no obligation.

Call toll-free  
24 hours a day, 7 days a week  
**1-800-243-4755**  
TTY users, please call 711

**PEOPLES HEALTH**

Your **Medicare Health Team**

[www.peopleshealth.com](http://www.peopleshealth.com)

The benefit information provided herein is a brief summary, not a comprehensive description of benefits. For more information, contact the plan. Individuals must have both Part A and Part B to enroll. You must continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium and live in the plan service area. Members may enroll in the plan only during specific times of the year. Contact Peoples Health for more information. Benefits, formulary, pharmacy network, premium and/or co-payments/co-insurance may change on January 1, 2013. Peoples Health is a Medicare Advantage organization with a Medicare contract. H1961\_12N2MPA\_CMSPApproved12182011



# Restoring Hope Get Out and Vote



Terry B. Jones  
Publisher

We are again on the eve of another election on both the local and national level. 2012 is a very important year with the Presidential Election that will be taking place in November. Four years ago we made history by electing Barack Obama to our nation's highest office. In these tough times we must

not lose sight of what is at stake in this election. One in which we can continue moving towards the message of hope and a new vision for America.

If we are to accomplish this we must begin to prepare now to organize and get our people out to the polls to vote. I ask if you are not registered then do so immediately so you can take part in exercising a right that so many fought and died to secure. And I ask those who are in conversations with your neighbors talk to them about the importance of voting and getting involved in civic activities. In this scenario we cannot wait until late summer during the party nominating conventions. We must organize and strategize now. The future of progressive politics and policies are at stake and if we want

to continue to move America in a direction that embraces all people, with a leader that is making a sincere effort to accomplish this, then let your collective voices be heard at the polls.

We are nearly four years into the election of Barack Obama, and while some have found reason after reason to criticize this president and his policies imagine what the world would be like if the election would have went the other way. The American auto industry would not have recovered production, we would more than likely be doubling down in Iraq and Osama Bin Laden would still be alive.

At Data News Weekly our goal for the past 45 years has been to keep the citizens of the City informed and aware of what is going on. And today we are giving

a clarion call to our community that we need all hands on deck. This is not the time to simply sit around and complain about the problems, but time to be proactive and be part of the solution. This is our time to show the world that we can organize and get things done. And that we can by our collective strength demonstrate what we are capable of when we work together.

I ask let us not only just get excited and vote around Presidential Elections, but even in our local elections we must become more vigilant about being part of the process because these elections have as much of an impact on us and our way of life as those on the national level. As a sidebar I must note that although our population numbers have lessened according to the 2010

census we are still the majority of this City and if we came out to the polls our impact will be felt.

So this is our time, let us show the world that we are a voice to be reckoned with and that we want our agenda to be a priority when someone is elected in our City, state and nation. We must now leverage what we have to affect the outcomes of every election moving from this day forward. But first we must do the ground work of getting all our people registered to vote. Then as a community develop networks of information, so our people are abreast of the issues, and are able to separate the wheat from the chaff. Finally, we must begin the mission and movement of restoring hope, and we can be part of that process by getting out and vote.

## "Race" and the GOP



Edwin Buggage  
Editor-in-Chief

As a self-avowed politico I have been glued to the television watching the not so spectacular GOP Primaries that will be making its way into our state on March 24th. I must honestly say that as I watch I am completely underwhelmed by the candidates. To think any of them would make a great president is laughable, this motley crew of candidates that the GOP offers up to the American public.

But what is not laughable is the tone of their rhetoric that has taken a nasty turn for the worse.

What these candidates have done is stoked the fire of the thorny issue of race as a wedge issue to get the base excited about getting out to the polls to defeat President Obama. And in that assuming that this issue framed in nuanced ways would help their party regains the White House. This is the route they've chosen, the political low road. I would argue that since this process began the GOP candidates have not in any convincing way posed a logical or credible argument that the country would be in better shape under any if they were elected president. I would go further to ask a question that many in this endless series of debates have not asked, would this country have been in better shape with their last nominee John McCain as President and Sarah Palin as Vice-President? After reading the book Game Change and recently seeing the movie on HBO I would think most Americans would agree we

made the right decision.

The right choice was made in 2008 where the people of America were inspired and voted for hope and change. And it was refreshing because the political discourse was dominated by a spirit of positivity and togetherness. Obama framed his message not in a blue vs. red America or White vs. Black or fueling the flames of ethnic paranoia and suspicion of immigrants. This is the unfortunate turn in the GOP Primaries and their message of dividing people with a message that tears Americans apart.

What is missing in this narrative is that when the election is over how does the nation heal the breach and bring people together, regular citizens as well as those in the executive and legislative branches of government and get things done to benefit the American people. How does one in the exercise of political discourse resolve things in a civil way to get this nation going in the right

direction again? This is what is missing in this election cycle.

Since President Obama took office the GOP has been in a tailspin trying to figure out what its identity and agenda will be moving forward. They are at a philosophical crossroads trying to figure in this election what will the face of their party look like to the American people when running against Barack Obama. Right now the GOP is struggling with what their message will be in November. In this election they are fighting for more than the presidency but the direction and fate of its future and brand identity. Will moderate Republicans be able to win in an environment where Tea Party activist are fighting to move the party even further to the right and is this good for the party?

All of the candidates running for the nomination of the GOP continue to use vitriolic rhetoric saying this race is about the soul of America. Or positing positions

about America becoming a socialist country or declining democracy, it is in these misguided statements and analysis that this fear mongering attempts to divide a country that four years ago was celebrating a great triumph and where hope and faith conquered fear and division. Let's hope as we near Election Day in November citizens are energized again in the same spirit of positivity. And although the nation continues to face challenges we must create a space of dialog that we can come up with positive solutions. Where it is not a zero sum game of winners and losers, for in America this country was built on anybody regardless of where they come from can be a winner and obtain the American Dream. In our great history we are a country that has amended ourselves to become a more perfect union. Today we are



# Justice Demanded in the Death of Trayvon Martin



**Marc Morial**  
President and CEO  
National Urban League

## To Be Equal

"Everybody is outraged. There is no justice in this." Tracy Martin, the father of Trayvon Martin

MARCH 20, 2012 - Being a young Black man has been called the hardest job in America. Young Black men are much more likely than White men to be jobless, in jail and labeled "suspicious," sometimes with deadly consequences. Such was the case on

February 26th, when 17-year-old high school student, Trayvon Martin, was shot and killed by a White neighborhood-watch vigilante in Sanford, Florida. The shooter, George Zimmerman, a 28-year-old White-Hispanic, noticed Trayvon walking through his gated community and called 911 to report a suspicious person. Instead of following the dispatcher's instructions and ending his involvement there, Zimmerman continued following Trayvon. An altercation ensued and Trayvon was shot. Zimmerman claimed self-defense and has not been charged with a crime. Trayvon's parents are both heartbroken and outraged. As Benjamin Crump, the family's lawyer put it, "If Trayvon would have been the triggerman, and it's nothing Trayvon Martin could have said to keep police from arresting him Day 1, Hour 1."



Trayvon Martin

Of the many unanswered questions in this case, two stand out. First, Trayvon Martin, who had just stopped off at a convenience store, was armed only with a bag of Skittles and a can of ice tea. George Zimmerman, who weighed over 100 pounds more than the victim, was armed with a 9 millimeter handgun. Even if there was a physical altercation between the two, why was such

deadly force necessary?

Second, one of the reasons the police gave for not immediately arresting Zimmerman was that he had a "squeaky clean" record. A few days later it was discovered that Zimmerman had been arrested in 2005 for resisting arrest with battery on a police officer. Trayvon Martin, on the other hand, had no criminal record.

These and other troubling facts have led the Central Florida Urban League and others, to call on the State's Attorney's Office and the Department of Justice to conduct an independent investigation. Central Florida Urban League President and CEO, Allie Braswell said, "A private citizen taking law enforcement into his own hands cannot be condoned. If it is found that a crime has been committed, the shooter must be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law." This case is now generat-

ing national attention and we will be following it closely.

We do not know for sure why George Zimmerman killed Trayvon Martin. But we do know, according to a 2011 College Board Report, that 45 percent of African-American high school graduates between the ages of 15 and 24 will end up "unemployed, incarcerated or dead." We also know that the murder of innocent Black men in the American South is nothing new. Fifty-seven years ago, the White murderers of 14-year old Emmitt Till in the Mississippi Delta were acquitted of the crime in a clear case of racial injustice.

As the father of a 10-year old African-American son, I join all African-American parents and Americans of conscience everywhere in calling for an end to the war against young Black men and a thorough investigation of the death of Trayvon Martin.

## Health Care Organization's Inaugural Gala Honors Supporters Of Healthy Communities



Left to right: Edgar Chase III, Sr. Bonnie Hoffman and Dr. Robert Post.



Left to right: Joan Rhodes, Stephanie Rhodes-Navarre and Crystal Smith.

Event proceeds will assist Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans in continuing to provide high quality, compassionate care to those in need Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans (DCSNO) hosted its Inaugural Gala Saturday, March 10, 2012 at First NBC Bank, 210 Baronne Street. This exciting event, aptly called

"Keeping Our Promises," began with a Patron Party from 6 to 7 p.m.; the Gala and silent auction immediately followed until 10 p.m. No Gimmicks featuring Pearlly Tyler and Jerry Christopher provided entertainment for the Patron Party. Phillip Manuel and special guest Leah Chase headlined the Gala.

During this inaugural event,

DCSNO presented M. Cleland Powell III, an Executive Vice-President at IBERIA Bank, Gordon R. Wadge, President and CEO of Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans, First NBC Bank and the Louisiana Public Health Institute with the Inspired Cross Award.

This year's honorees, comprised of a mix of individuals

and organizations, were the first ever to receive the Inspired Cross Award. This prestigious award will be presented annually to individuals and organizations who have worked with DCSNO to "keep its promises" to provide health care for those in need, and to transform health care through innovation and courage.

The Gala also served as a fundraiser to support DCSNO's mission to improve the health status of the community and provide high quality, compassionate care for all—the insured, under-insured and uninsured.

Dave McNamara of FOX 8 was the Master of Ceremonies. Patricia Denechaud and Charles Rice Jr. served as Co-Chairs.



# President Obama Expresses 'Love' for Black Press

by George E. Curry  
NNPA Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — President Barack Obama expressed admiration for the balanced picture African-American newspapers present of the Black community each week, saying such portrayal not only helps Blacks but Americans of all races and ethnicities.

"One of the things that I always love about African-American publications is that it's not just gloom and doom," the President told members of National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) last Thursday at a private gathering at the White House. "Part of what you guys do is you lift up that kid whose overcome barriers and is now succeeding, or that family that has pulled together and helped to strengthen a community, or that church that is the bedrock of a neighborhood."

"Those stories of success and hope, that's what sustains us, that's what has driven us, that's what has given people a sense that no matter how tough things get sometimes, there's always a better day ahead. And you're part of telling that story. So I very much appreciate you."

President Obama spoke to publishers who were in the nation's capital to celebrate NNPA's Annual Black Press Week. In a 10-minute speech, the President gave the publishers a preview of the case he will be making to voters as part of his campaign to get re-elected.

"Now we've obviously gone through three challenging years but, whereas we were losing about 800,000 jobs per month, the month that I took office, we've now seen job growth over 23 consecutive months, almost 4 million jobs created, jobs in the manufacturing sector for the first time since the 1990s."

"We have seen consecutive quarter after quarter after quarter of economic growth and so we're starting to turn the corner and make progress. But all of you know that too many people, where folks are still struggling that were struggling before this recession and they're struggling now even more. Folks who can't find a job, if they have a job, they're underemployed or not making a living wage."



A recent report by the Department of Labor titled, "The African-American Labor Force in the Recovery," noted: "Aggregate numbers show that the African-American community as a whole has exhibited poorer labor market outcomes than other races even prior to the recession and during the recovery, demonstrating that they often face different and greater challenges."

Overall unemployment stood at 8.3 percent in February. For Whites, it was 7.3 percent, compared to 10.7 percent for Latinos. Black unemployment under

Obama peaked at 14.9 percent in June 2009, at the end of the recession, before settling at 15.8 percent last December. It dipped to 13.6 percent in January before rising to 14.1 percent in February.

White unemployment, which has been half the rate of Blacks for the past 40 years, peaked at 8.7 percent in June 2009. It fell to 7.4 percent in January and to 7.3 in February.

In his speech, President Obama tried to show that he is aware of the sharp racial disparities.

"African-American communities and Latino communities

were disproportionately affected by subprime lending, so a lot of people have lost their homes," he said. "And so everything that we've been doing over the last three years is designed to grow the economy overall, put more people back to work across the board. But also to figure out how we create those foundation stones for helping people get into the middle-class and stay in the middle-class. What's required to create the sense of security and possibility and opportunity that a lot of people have felt slipping away for decades now. And in some ways, some of the trend lines that have happened across the country happened in the African-American community first."

To help lower the unemployment rate, Obama said he has directed federal departments and agencies to streamline systems in place to match the unemployed with jobs. He said he has asked them to place particular emphasis on the long-term unemployed.

Black youth unemployment is extremely high.

"In many of the communities that all of you represent, we've got youth unemployment at 50, 60 percent, so one of the things that we've discussed is that we've urged, as a part of my jobs plan that Congress pass a robust summer jobs program so they can put young people to work but we're not waiting for Congress," President Obama stated. "What we've decided to do is we're just going to go ahead and pull together employers and not-for-profits and colleges, universities, any institutions that are out there all across the country and get pledges and commitments and organize ourselves a summer jobs initiative. Our goal is to get to 250,000 young people that are going to have opportunities, internships, apprenticeships, you name it. And I think we're already at 180,000 so we're making progress."

He said he realizes publishers are small business owners and as such need more support from the federal government.

"All of you are news people, and that's the reason we brought you here [to the White House] but you're also business people and entrepreneurs, and that's always been the history of African-American publishing," President

Obama said. Publishers laughed when he said, "You don't start off with a big bank roll, most of you, right?"

When the laughter subsided, he continued, "You don't have a trust fund that helps you set up that newspaper. You guys are out there hustling, scrapping, and so our initiative on the small business side, is to provide tax breaks and tax cuts to the small businesses to help them grow, to make sure that the SBA is responsive; to make sure that the federal government in terms of its procurement policies, and that includes notices and things like that, that is reaching out extensively to make sure that everybody has opportunities to go after that business. Financing, technical assistance, you name it."

President Obama spoke to Black publishers the day before the 185th Anniversary of the founding of Freedom's Journal, the nation's first Black newspaper established by John B. Russwurm and Samuel Cornish.

The NNPA has its roots in a 1941 meeting of major Black newspapers organized by John Sengstacke of the Chicago Defender. Representatives from 22 newspapers attended that organizing meeting. The organization was initially known as the National Negro Publishers Association. It was renamed the National Newspaper Publishers Association in 1956.

"Over the years you've gone from 22 African-American publications to more than 200 newspapers across the country and in so many cities and towns you've got readers that depend on you to report on some of the stories that never get told by anybody else," President Obama said.

"But also to be able to give people a sense of how the stories that everybody reports on impacts the African-American community in particular. And that obviously is a critical role. And that's not just important to the African-American community, that's important to the American community because it's my belief that when everybody's engaged, when everybody's involved, they're going to make better decisions and ultimately we end up having better governance."



# XU Alum, Presidential Appointee To Speak At Awards Banquet

Xavier University of Louisiana will honor its student-athletes next month at its Annual Awards Banquet. XU Alum and Presidential Appointee Youshea Berry will be the Guest Speaker.

The banquet will start at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 20th in the University Center Ballroom (third floor). Driving directions to the University Center can be found online by using 4915 Drexel Drive and the 70125 zip code as the destination.

A limited number of tickets are available to fans and parents for \$25 each. Call (504) 520-7329 by Monday (March 26) to reserve tickets.



Youshea Berry

Berry was a Women's Cross Country Runner and a Women's Basketball Manager/Trainer for Xavier before graduating in 1998. She was appointed in 2011 by President Obama to the Bureau of Legislative and Public Affairs at the U.S. Agency for International Development. A graduate of Emory University School of Law, she started her own law firm in Washington, D.C., and has served as Legislative Counsel for Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-LA. In 2008 she received the American Bar Association's National Outstanding Young Lawyer Award, and she completed her first marathon in 2009.

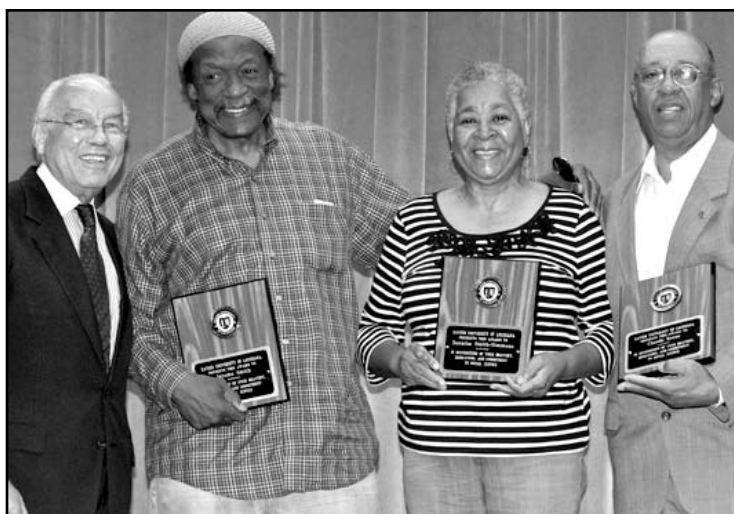
## Cover Story/ Continued from page 3.

the City Council is not good for the political process where voices of dissent can be a good thing, "I am running to make a difference, and I am not happy with the fact that the city council has become a rubber stamp for anything the mayor presents to them and no one is standing up for the citizens," says Gressett." He is also a proponent of lower taxes and hope that his election can be the beginning of a political discourse that welcomes differing opinions and these are voices in his view which has been muted in the council chambers, "We need to make government more accessible and begin a new dialog where we can disagree in a respectful manner and more voices are heard and be part of the dialog as we rebuild the City."

Crime is a top priority for Gressett, who is a vocal critic of present police chief Ronal Serpas. "It

has been mishap after mishap and scandals, he came in and to the rank and file if you lie you die, then when there was the traffic camera scandal he said he didn't know, I don't believe any reasonable person would believe that and he has not even accountable to his own standard, I feel there must be some major changes with the NOPD." Going further he says he is in favor of a federal takeover of public safety of the city, "I think the police department should have a federal takeover to make it more efficient, and this is not a swipe at the good officers that serve every day, but I believe an overhaul would be a good thing just like we did with the state taking over schools or the restructuring of public housing if we did the same thing with the police department I believe our quality of life would improve."

## Freedom Rings



XU President Norman Francis congratulates three members of the storied "Freedom Riders" – (L-R) Jerome Smith, Doratha Smith-Simmons, and Claude Reese – who were honored at a special Xavier event for their "bravery, dedication and commitment to social justice in testing the application of the Supreme Court decision banning discrimination in interstate rail and bus travel in 1961. Photo by Irving Johnson III

## Buggage/ Continued from page 8.

at a crossroads where a nation must decide whether to continue to move itself forward or sink deep into a pit of negativity and division.

And yes while these are scary times with people out of work and the American Dream slipping away for many Americans. This is not the time to divide America; it is time to work on our greatest strengths. This means working together to come up with creative and new ways to make this great nation even greater, four years ago we as a nation moved in that direction so today let's not let the clock turn backwards. Let's not because of a weak field of candidates in the GOP stay away from the polls assuming an easy victory for Obama; today it is time for people to begin to organize and make sure even more people get out to the polls. Today say no to the GOP and its attempt to play to the worst in us and separating America when today more than ever we should be working together to solve America's problems.

## DATA CLASSIFIED

Call 504-821-7421 to place your classified ad.

### Mailboxes by Mark



You pay for the bricks or maybe you have bricks already. You provide the mailbox.

I will provide the cement, wood, mortar, nails etc. You choose or create the design. Prices vary according to the design.

Contact: Mark (504) 723-7318

## AVON

The company for women

\$\$\$ \$\$\$ \$\$\$  
Do you need money?

Can you use some extra

cash? Try Avon!!! Avon is easy to sell, no experience necessary. It cost only \$10.00 to start. You can become your own boss or just earn extra money. Whether you are interested in purchasing Avon products or becoming an Avon Representative yourself, I can assist you.

Call June - 504-606-1362

I will explain everything and help you to get started.

## PROMPT PROFESSIONAL TAX SERVICE

4639 Magazine Street

(located inside Ace Cash Express)

Ask for LISA

CALL - 504-298-6407

Referral Fees and Register to win up to \$20,000.00 in cash.

Mention you saw the ad in

DATA NEWS WEEKLY

To receive a \$25.00 discount on your Tax Preparation.

## Red Hot Deals!

Data News Weekly special offer for Non-Profits and Small Businesses

Call Now!

(504) 821-7421

ladatanews.com





VISIT YOUR LOCAL CHEVY DEALER TODAY DURING TRUCK MONTH

### 2012 SILVERADO TEXAS EDITION

**0%** FOR **72** MONTHS  
APR Financing for Qualified Buyers<sup>1</sup>  
PLUS **\$2,000** TRADE-IN ALLOWANCE<sup>2</sup>  
WHEN YOU TRADE IN AN ELIGIBLE VEHICLE  
PLUS **\$2,000** TEXAS EDITION DISCOUNT



20-INCH  
CHROME-CLAD  
ALUMINUM  
WHEELS



TRAILERING  
PACKAGE

### 2012 TRAVERSE LTZ

**0%** FOR **60** MONTHS  
APR Financing for Qualified Buyers<sup>1</sup>  
OR  
**\$2,000** CUSTOMER CASH<sup>3</sup>



24 MPG HWY<sup>4</sup>



116.4 CUBIC FEET  
OF CARGO SPACE<sup>5</sup>



FIND A CHEVY DEALER

TO GUARANTEE OUR QUALITY, WE BACK IT  
**100,000-MILE/5-YEAR**  
POWERTRAIN WARRANTY

Whichever comes first. See dealer for limited warranty details.



CHEVYDEALER.COM

<sup>1</sup> Monthly payment is \$13.89 for every \$1,000 financed. Example down payment: 8.5%. Some customers will not qualify. <sup>2</sup> Must show proof of current ownership of a 1999 or newer vehicle. Must trade in vehicle. Not available with some other offers. See dealer for details. Take delivery by 4/30/12. <sup>3</sup> Not available with some other offers. Excludes leases. See dealer for details. Take delivery by 4/30/12. <sup>4</sup> EPA estimated FWD. <sup>5</sup> Cargo and load capacity limited by weight and distribution. ©2012 General Motors.