

Lighting The Road To The Future


New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

Fabulous Motown Revue



Data Zone Page 4

October 20 - October 26, 2012 47th Year Volume 23 www.ladatanews.com

FREE COPY

Looking For News in New Orleans



Page 2



Newsmaker

Justice Served

Page 7

Data Zone

Hangin' in the Treme



Page 5

The Search for News in New Orleans

Citizens Respond to Local Daily Paper Printing Three Times a Week



Edvige Wilkerson



Charles Vaughn

By Edwin Buggage

New Orleans: A City of Traditions

New Orleans is a City of traditions and rituals, from red beans and rice on Monday, to the sounds of brass bands and secondlines, of gumbo, beignets and who dats. It is a City unlike any other marching to its own syncopated beat. The Crescent City has a pace of life that is rooted in many longstanding cultural practices. After Hurricane Katrina, as a City stood in its darkest days, some believed that it would never be the same. And sadly many of these predictions have come to fruition as a City is seeing a transformation that for some is a troubling trend.

A few weeks ago one of the city's great institutions, the Times-Picayune stopped publishing a daily

newspaper. This was part of a reorganization strategy by Advance Publications, a New York based media conglomerate that owns the Times Picayune. On October 1st of this year the paper ceased publishing a daily paper after 175 years; dealing the City yet another deadly blow in a long list of casualties after of Hurricane Katrina.

When Advance first made their announcement residents were in an uproar then to save the paper. An offer was made by New Orleans Saints and Hornets Owner Tom Benson to buy the paper and add to his growing media companies; as he is also the owner of local TV station WVUE-Fox 8. So as a City was on the brink of not having a daily newspaper, the Advocate of Baton Rouge came in and is now publishing a New Orleans Edition of its paper. But for New Orleans will this suffice. Is the Advocate entering this market akin

to how some locals perceive some of the new people and/or businesses as carpetbaggers coming in to a City marring and disregarding its history, habits and traditions for profit; and what will the impact be on the City?

The Generation Gap and the Digital Divide

While there have been changes in the new century on how people get information and with more people using computers and smartphones, there is still a digital divide that exists among those in underserved communities. And as these changes are taking place much thought is not taken in how do people who are not plugged in get their news, "A lot of older people do not know how to use computers and are afraid of technology and have no interest in learning how to use it," says Edvige Wilkerson, a retired librarian. "When the owners of the paper were making this

Cover Story, Continued on next page.

INSIDE DATA

Cover Story 2

Commentary. 6

Data Zone 4

State & Local News . . 7

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

Edwin Buggage

Editor

Calla Victoria

Executive Assistant

June Hazeur

Accounting

Contributors

Edwin Buggage

Terry Jones

Karen Carter Peterson

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.

decision I don't think they took into account that there were people, whether they are poor or older people." She continues by saying, "For a lot of people in this City not having the Times-Picayune as a daily part of life in New Orleans is like the loss of a relative. It is part of the conversation that starts the day for many New Orleanians. It is like a ritual in the City you read the paper with your coffee in the morning and some of the stories are conversation pieces but now it is gone."

There is a generational divide of how the young and old get news. Young people have come to rely more and more on digital sources to keep up with what's going on in the world, "I could say that I don't read the newspaper in print, I usually go online to different sources to find news, so the Times-Picayune not publishing everyday does not affect us as much," says Britt Martin, a fourth year Pharmacy Student at Xavier University.

The Search for Untold Stories, the Search for Credible News and Issue of Access

Anisha Williams is a New Orleans native and a TV News Producer that's worked in several markets including New Orleans. She says that the lack of a daily newspaper has the potential of leading to some stories being untold or not reaching a larger audience, "My career as a TV News Producer spans nearly 7 years, and from the prospective of a Broadcast Journalist, there is no way some of the "smaller" stories that speckled the pages of the Times Picayune will



Britt Martin

ever get the same sort of coverage, not to mention the more in-depth, multi-page pieces that have become award winning stories. I have no doubt, New Orleans news stations will boost efforts to cover local stories that provide more of a people/community element, but time will always and forever be a factor for broadcast mediums."

Continuing she says the web while it is good for its immediacy, in a City with many elderly persons and the working poor issues of access to online content is a problem. "Not only am I concerned with the stories that will be swept under the rug or completely ignored, but also the outrageous emphasis surrounding



Anisha Williams

pushing content online. Internet skills are quickly becoming second nature to youth, young adults and other working adults, but that can't be said for every-

one in the New Orleans community. Think about it, we all know people who have no sense of logging-on or navigating the internet whether because of lack of interest or inaccessibility. In my opinion, the latter is of more concern given the costs involved in obtaining internet service and scarcity of free-public internet options."

There are those who have forecast the end of print newspapers for a number of years. And while large newspapers are cutting staff there have been a growth in smaller publications. "I see that larger papers with their overhead have to make cuts to stay afloat in a changing business environment, but for us and while ad revenues are down for all media, we have an audience that is loyal to our brand," says Terry Jones, Publisher of Data News Weekly. "And moving forward I understand that it is not about one or the other, I feel that print and digital are necessary." "However", Jones continued, "since the Times Picayune is now publishing only three times a week; the community newspapers that have

Cover Story, Continued on page 6.



LE ROUX'S 1700 LOUISIANA AVE
504-897-5445

\$6 SOULFOOD LUNCH SPECIALS

LeRoux's Soul Food Restaurant

"Home of the \$6.00 Soul Food Lunch Special"

"For some of New Orleans Best Soul Food and Seafood dishes ... Dine In or Take Out"



Delicious Homemade Greens



Seafood Platters and other dishes

1700 Louisiana Ave, (1 block off St Charles Ave)

Open weekdays - Monday - Thursday 10 am 'til 3pm

Fridays - 10 am - 8:00 pm

Call 504-897-5445

wifi available

ON SALE NOW!



SESAME STREET LIVE
A VEE CORPORATION PRODUCTION



ELMO makes J MUSIC

OCTOBER 25-28

LAKEFRONT ARENA

Tickets: Lakefront Arena Box Office
ticketmaster • 800-745-3000 • Ticketmaster.com



Come and Play - Opens 1 Hour Before the Show!

FREE with Ticket!

Play zone

sesamestreetlive.com • Follow us on  and 

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Armstrong Family Services Presented... The Fabulous Motown Revue 2012

Photos by Terry Jones

The Motown Revue 2012 featured Mo' Feeling...Mo' Sound...Mo' Everything...The sounds of Motown included favorite hits by: The Four Tops, Martha Reeves, Natalie Cole, Aretha Franklin, Ray Charles, Mary Wilson, The Temptations, and many other Motown favorites. Motown favorites were to be performed by your favorite New Orleans artists Sharon Martin, Kid Merv, James Andrews, Judy Spellman, Gina Brown, BRW, Caesar Elloie, ELS, Nadja Cojoe, DJ Capt. Charles and more. The event was hosted by Radio Hosts: Lloyd Dennis and Gerod Stevens. It was held at LACE The Grand Ballroom on Thursday, October 4th. The events was attended by many supporters of this yearly fundraiser and Data News Weekly was there!!!



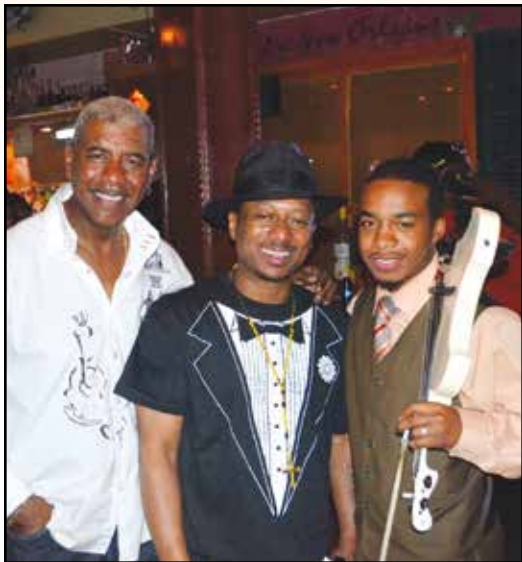
**Paid for
by
concerned
citizens**

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Jazzy Sunday at Spice

Photos by Terry Jones

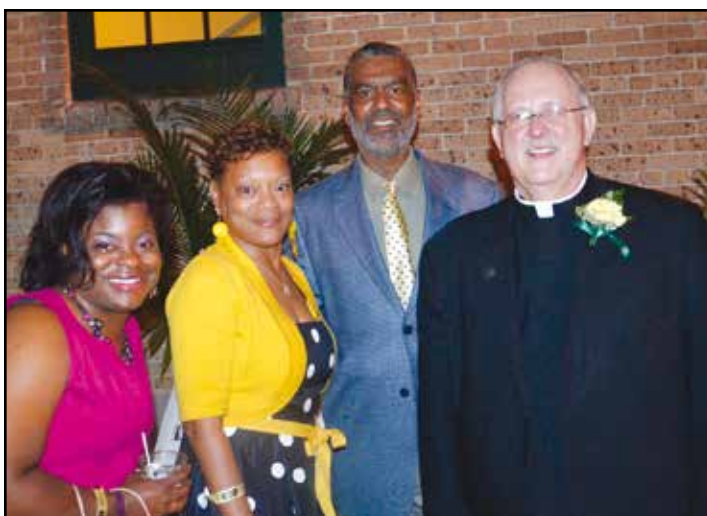
Spice held its first weekly Jazzy Sunday set featuring Michael Ward and his son Shaun, Kermit Ruffins and other local artist also took to the stage. It was an awesome set and Data was there!!!



Hangin' in the Treme

Photos by Terry Jones

It was all good times at the Annual St Peter Claver Jazz Extravaganza last week. This year's event was themed "Hanging in the Treme" and Data was there.



Louisiana Is The Canary In Mitt Romney's Medicaid Coal Mine



Karen Carter Peterson
Data News Contributor

of a much smaller Medicaid cut wreaking havoc across Louisiana now.

As a high poverty state, Louisiana has historically had one of the most favorable federal/state Medicaid funding ratios in the country. Until this year, the federal government paid about 70% of the \$7 Billion cost of Louisiana Medicaid.

That changed in July when Senator David Vitter sat on a critical conference committee and gave his consent to a cut \$650 million, combine that with our state match and it amounts to an 11% cut in the \$7.7 Billion or \$860 Million.

That 11% cut is forcing massive job losses and service cuts at LSU Hospitals, in state behavioral health hospitals, nursing home services, care for the disabled,

and hospice care. The cuts are forcing patients to travel long distances to get essential care like cancer treatment, separating families from mental health patients, and destabilizing the local economies where these job losses are occurring. These cuts are also destabilizing our medical schools for doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals.

All of this for an 11% cut. Romneycaid in Louisiana would mean another 30% cut from where we are now - with the cuts and the impacts that I just described.

Republicans like Governor Romney and our own Governor Jindal have an obsession with dollars but a blind spot for people. Medicaid is the health safety net in this country. With the severe restrictions we have on eligibility in Louisiana, it provides care for

only our most vulnerable seniors, mothers and children. With a dismantled public charity system, where will these individuals obtain medical treatment?

Cuts to LSU Hospitals and behavioral health services will not be contained to the public sector either. They will ripple throughout the private health care sector as well, as uninsured patients continue to seek treatment elsewhere.

Republicans talk about the numbers because those are sterile and emotionless. We Democrats will not let them forget that behind every penny of Medicaid funding provided is a Louisiana citizen who depends on a Louisiana health care provider to give them the essential care they need to stay alive.

Governor Romney and current

Republican leaders do not show any awareness of the dramatically harsh impact of their policies on the lives of those who need these services. Doing it "on your own," as Republicans often counsel, is not a realistic option, but rather a deadly alternative for our neediest.

Any discussion of health care that focuses solely on cost misses the point. This is not just about dollars and cents; it's literally about life and death. It's not about left and right; it's about moral rights and wrongs.

Romneycaid spells disaster for health care, and the proof is unfolding before our eyes right here in Louisiana.

(Karen Carter Peterson is a Louisiana State Senator from New Orleans and Chairwoman of the Louisiana Democratic Party.)



PLAZA MEDICAL CENTER LTD.

HEADACHES, NECK
PAIN, PINCHED
NERVES, BACK PAIN,
NUMBNESS, WHIP-
LASH, LOW BACK
PAIN SORE JOINTS,
MUSCLE SPASMS
WEAKNESS, HIP
PAIN and LEG PAIN

Don't Let Your Health Get Worst

It's Safe To Find Out!
FEEL BETTER - GET RELIEF
FREE CONSULTATION

Dr. Fritz G. Fidele, PC

4301 Elysian Fields Ave. STE. 103

New Orleans, LA 70122

Website: www.plazamc.com Email: info@plazamc.com

CALL NOW (504) 324-6416 Most insurance accepted!

Congratulations Data on your 46th Anniversary

Cover Story/ Continued from page 3.

always been a staple in their respective communities, now more than ever we will serve a greater importance as a source of information for our citizens."

The Search for News and the New... New Orleans

During the time of the announcement of the Times-Picayune going down to three days of publishing in print many were worried about how what would happen to a City without a daily newspaper, but the Baton Rouge based Advocate have come in and is now trying to fill the void. Charles Vaughn is a Visual Artist and Event Emcee who served as one of the hosts on one of the Essence Fest Superlounge stages in 2012. He returned to New Orleans after living in Atlanta for 5 years and since leaving and his subsequent return many of his views of his native City have changed, "I looked at the Advocate and don't know whether I will be reading it or not, but I think what is the bigger thing for me is that when I came back I realized that the City would not be the same City I left in 2005 and that change would be

inevitable. Whether it is the Times-Picayune not printing a paper every day, restaurants closing, neighborhoods changing or the educational system, and right now I can't say whether it is for better or worse, only time will tell."

It's been only a few weeks since the T-P is publishing only three days a week and while citizens of the City are still getting use to a new paper in town, the world of information and how people get it is rapidly changing. In the future starting the day getting up in the morning to pick up the paper and get your morning coffee may be a distant memory. We are already seeing glimpses of this new reality among our young, who looks at their phone or computer as their gateway to information. And as we move into this new frontier, we must ask ourselves because of this convenience are we becoming a more informed and enlightened society? Are greater windows of understanding emerging and we are closer to solving the problems that plague our City and the family of humanity?

And as the world is chang-

ing we must ask ourselves how important are traditions, institutions and cultural practices? So as a City mourns the loss of the Times-Picayune conversely, as I write this the City is celebrating the 200th Anniversary of Treme' and the contribution this neighborhood not only has made to the City but the world. Shining a star on what it is that makes this City such a special place and an enviable cultural jewel that continues to shine despite its challenges. It is in these times as a City comes out of the ashes of devastation as it rebuilds itself, that it is time to work harder to keep its traditions and institutions alive; and as it builds anew that foundation of what makes the City special is not forgotten. And realize that it is important for a City to retain its identity and culture, and to preserve its history. It is necessary to have a place where these stories can be told and published, so it is essential that New Orleans have a continuation of local media chronicling its stories for future generations.

Louisiana Supreme Court Decision Affirms the Rightful Status of Justice Bernette Johnson



Now that the state Supreme Court has affirmed Justice Bernette Johnson's right to take her place as Chief Justice, the court can move forward in a spirit of cooperation and unity, National Urban League President and CEO Marc Morial said today.

"I'm relieved that the matter has finally been resolved in accordance with federal law," Morial said. "I have always maintained that Justice Johnson's status has never been in question, and that any attempt to deny her was an ill-advised attempt to undermine both the consent decree which created her seat and the Voting Rights Act. The Supreme Court's ruling can now usher in a bright new chapter in the history of Louisiana."

Morial was chair of the plaintiffs committee in *Chisholm v. Edwards*, which was settled in 1992 with the creation of a Supreme Court district to allow a fair opportunity for African American representation. The Justice Department of then-President George H.W. Bush signed off on the arrangement which gave that seat the full rights of a Supreme Court Judgeship.

Morial also was a member of the State Senate team that negotiated the settlement with then-Attorney General Richard Ieyoub and members of the Supreme Court. Additionally, Morial co-sponsored the legislation that effectuated the terms of the settlement.

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?

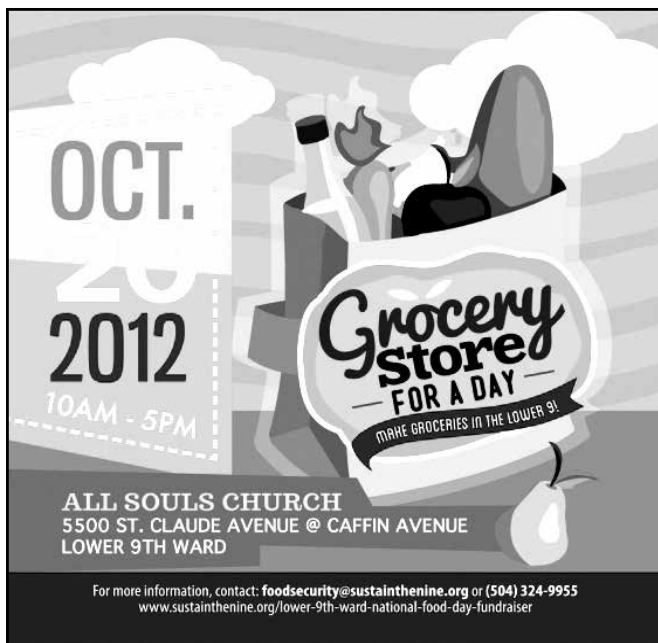
Can you use some extra

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.

More Food! Less Miles! Saturday October 20th



The Lower Ninth Ward Food Access Coalition Presents A Grocery Store For-A-Day

In association with National Food Day, the Lower Ninth Ward Food Access Coalition is hosting a Grocery Store For-A-Day event in the Lower 9th Ward. The Grocery Store For-A-Day will provide a unique opportunity for people to "make groceries" in the Lower 9th Ward, which currently has no grocery store and is considered a "food desert." The event expects to draw 500 people from all over the city of New Orleans to support the Coalition's efforts to get better food access in the neighborhood. The all-day event will also include a kids' breakfast (starting at 8am), educational workshops, food vendors, health screenings/information, and entertainment. Harvey Reed of the LA Association of Cooperatives and Lori Burge of NOLA Food Coop will co-present a workshop on "What's A Food Coop?" Grow Dat Youth Farm teens will give cooking demonstrations and the New Orleans Public Library will set up a "children's

corner" with books and fun activities. Other contributors include Second Harvest, New Orleans Food and Farm Network, Tulane Prevention Research Center, A Community Voice, Tulane Medical Center, American Cancer Society, and more.

With this event, the Coalition aims to draw attention to the Lower 9th Ward's "food desert" status and the Coalition's community efforts, while encouraging more people in the community to join, and to raise funds for the Coalition's first project. By bringing people together for the grocery store experience, food, fun and dialogue, we will be able to spotlight the need in this segment of New Orleans - a city known as a food capital in this country, yet many residents do not have access to fresh, affordable food.

What is National Food Day?

National Food Day (foodday.org) is a national grassroots mobilization aimed at promoting healthy, sustainable, affordable and just food systems in America.

This space
can be yours
for only \$80

Call Now!

504-821-7421

More Food! Less Miles!
Saturday, October 20, 2012
10am-5pm
All Souls Church parking lot
5500 St. Claude Avenue @ Caffin



There isn't an app for this.

Live, learn, and work
with a community overseas.
Be a Volunteer.

peacecorps.gov