Holiday on the Boulevard

A Celebration of Community

The Soul of New Orleans

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Holiday on the Boulevard
A Celebration of Community
Ashé’ Cultural Center Hosts Holiday Festival

By Edwin Buggage

As we enter the season of giving, a time when people come together to celebrate family and community. In the City of New Orleans for over a decade Holiday on the Boulevard has become a symbol of hope and renaissance for Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard (formerly known as Dryades Street).

For the thirteenth consecutive year, music and merriment are the order of the day as Ashé Cultural Arts Center lights up the boulevard from Dec. 7-9 with musicians, actors, merchants, and the community, creating an astonishing holiday family festival and marketplace in Central City New Orleans. Located at 1712/24 Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard. The festival is free and open to the public bringing together a hefty mix of jazz, hip-hop, R&B, gospel, folk, and reggae, sprinkled with spoken word and incredible dancers.

The festival was conceived by Ashé’ Cultural Center’s Co-founder Carol Bebelle, talking about the event and its purpose, she says, “The end of the year is this wind-down and decompressing period for almost everyone; Holiday on the Boulevard is as much an opportunity for people to adjust their spiritual, social and family barometer, as it is an opportunity for artists and small cultural and creative businesses to benefit from the shopping frenzy of the end-of-the-year holidays.” Continuing she remarks on the center and the festival’s purpose, “Ashé’ Cultural Center and Holiday on the Boulevard is about getting together, slowing down the pace, enjoying good music and entertainment, good food and belonging are all part of the formula for helping people to see the possibility and positivity of a renaissance on Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard, old Dryades Street. These were the notions that led us to create Holiday on the Boulevard. These rea-

Cover Story, Continued
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Kuumba Institute, Green Char-

ents young people from Ashé's

day event, “The festival pres-

ime of the year . “Holiday on the

from around the City have come

Boulevard is something many

in traditions, and Holiday on the

Boulevard starts off with the An-

Kwanzaa demonstration where youngsters learn about the

principles of Kwanzaa, and are ex-

posed to associated terminology

and the proper way to light the

kinara. Dressed in African attire,

the kids become dancers, while

others take to the drums to play

rhythms taught by master drum-

mer Luther Gray of Bamboula

2000,” says Bebelle.

As always there will be an abun-

dance of talent during this three-

day event, “The festival pres-

ents young people from Ashe’s

Kuumba Institute, Green Char-

ter School’s Dancing Dolls, STV

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ready for a jam session with, Kidd

Jordan, Germaine Bazelle, Rev.

Lois Dejean, Kalamu ya Salaam,

Monica McIntyre, Morikeba

Kouyate and Carol Bebelle, who

all appear on the “Healing Force”

CD that was recorded live at Ashé

earlier this year.

Then on Sunday, The Golden

Voices Community Choir gets

things started with inspirational

songs, followed by John Mosley

& Friends, Gina Brown, Phat

Word, Lloyd Daly & Friends, Mi-

chaela Harrison, and the reggae

sounds of Zion Trinity. Headlining

the event, and also performing

Sunday, is Grammy-Award-win-

ning Jazz Trombonist Delfeayo

Marsalis with The Uptown Or-

chestra, bringing extraordinary,

acoustical jazz to the stage. Son of

legendary Ellis Marsalis, Jr. he is

also a bandleader, educator, com-

poser and producer, and is com-

mitted to the preservation of New

Orleans cultural traditions.”

Renaissance on the Boulevard

Oreatha Castle Haley Boulevard

is a street with a rich history notes

Bebelle, “The street was a key lo-

cation in the 1960s Civil Rights

Movement. The home of the his-

oric, Free Southern Theater, the

cultural arm of the movement,

was on Dryades Street as were

the first Black Public Library and

one of the first YMCA’s serving a

primarily African-American cus-

tomer base. The list is long of no-
	table activists, artists and person-

alities who hail from Central City.”

After Hurricane Katrina, the

neighborhood is still a mix of sto-

ries of success and distress, but

Bebelle sees a community that’s

become an inspiration not only

for the City but the nation, “Cen-

tral City has become a prophetic

symbol for the nation. This is an

opportunity to work together on

re-crafting our community with

more resources than has usually

available to inner-city communi-

ties has created the possibility

that our progress in transforming

our community may be a model

to the country.” Continuing she

says, “Creating the renaissance

we see unfolding on the Boule-

dard is a good indicator that we

have been successful in revitaliz-

ing the Boulevard. Our remaining

challenge is to resist the path of

gentrification that usually follows.

Central City and the Boulevard

are aspiring to be an inclusive

community that is careful and in-

tentional about practicing equity,

reciprocity, consideration and

economic opportunity for every-

one.”

As she looks back at the work

the Ashe’ Cultural Arts Center

has done and continues to do she

beams with pride and is hope-

ful for the future of Ashe’ and

the Central City Neighborhood.

“Ashé Cultural Arts Center has

been on the Boulevard for 15

years. When we came the reality

we see today was hard to imagine

and laughable to those who dared

to dream such dreams for such

a community. Douglas Redd and

I were sure in that deep down to

wonder how it would happen here

and culture would be core to this

transformation. And so, we began

creating gatherings and events.

We created field trips and theater.

We added art exhibits and com-

munity celebrations. We showed

films and hosted dignitaries and

celebrities. And in time, the stigma

of the Boulevard as an unsafe

place began to change and others

began to join the churches, few

small businesses and Ashé and

Café Reconcile in holding the

ground and tilling the community

for change.”

She is optimistic about the

future of the festival and of the

Central City Community, “We con-

inue to work as an eager and

active partner with other Cen-

tral City and city-wide initiatives

and programs. We also continue

to be an ambassador for New

Orleans in national and interna-
tional circles where we continue
to translate our experiences as

New Orleans before, during

and after the disaster. We contin-

ue to dream dreams of Central

City and the Boulevard in the

future, the time that is not yet.

And, we see a wonderful com-
munity where everybody wants

to live, work, pray or play.”
Congressman Jefferson’s Final Appeal Supreme Court Rejects Hearing Challenge, Ruling Stands

Data Staff Report

On Monday of this week, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the appeal of former Louisiana Congressman William Jefferson, who had challenged his 2009 conviction on multiple charges of bribery and money laundering. This looks to be the last chance for the former congressman to appeal his conviction, receive a new trial and overturn his 13-year sentence, which he began serving in May at the minimum security Beaumont Federal Correctional Institution in Beaumont, TX. Jefferson as it stands now will not be eligible for release from prison until Aug. 30, 2023.

In March, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia, had upheld 10 of 11 guilty counts against the former Democratic lawmaker. Justice Elena Kagan was not a participant in the deliberations due to her role as Solicitor General during the Jefferson investigation and prosecution.

The Jefferson case was also marked by the FBI raid of his Capitol Hill office, the first time the Justice Department had ever raided a congressional office. That search was ultimately deemed unconstitutional by an appeals court, and the Supreme Court let that ruling stand.

A federal jury had found Jefferson guilty of soliciting bribes, money laundering and participation in a racketeering scheme. He was sentenced to 13 years in prison but remained free while pursuing an appeal.

Prosecutors accused him of soliciting millions of dollars in bribes from companies while using his office to broker ventures such as telecommunications transactions in Ghana and Nigeria, oil concessions in Equatorial Guinea, investments in a Nigerian sugar plant and satellite transmission contracts in Botswana, Equatorial Guinea and the Republic of Congo.

Former Congressman William Jefferson
Dr. Eric Griggs “Doc Griggs” Hosts “2Xs Around The Dome” Fitness Fun Walk

Fitness Fun Walk encourages the community to “Get Checked, Get Fit, Get Moving”

Photos by Shawn Colin Photography

“Over 100 walkers, runners, locals, and tourists joined the 1st Annual Doc Griggs 2Xs Around the Dome Fitness Fun Walk in conjunction with the 2012 Bayou Classic on Saturday, November 24th at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome and Champions Square produced by Encore Events & We Make Moves. This event serves as the premier health and fitness initiative of the Bayou Classic educating the community on easy ways to stay fit and have fun. This walk incorporated a morning Zumba warm-up, hula hooping and second line stations followed by line dancing in Champions Square with Gina Brown to show how working out and getting fit can also be fun. After the walk and dancing, participants enjoyed healthy food & refreshments provided by our sponsors and chair massages performed by RMDs Aesthetics & Med Spa located in Mid City New Orleans. Dr. Eric Griggs (Doc Griggs) invited Dr. Corey Hebert (Doctor for the People) and Dr. Rani Whitfield (Hip Hop Doc, Baton Rouge) to join the celebration and encourage the community to “Get Checked, Get Fit, Get Moving.”

Over 100 Walkers joined the Doc Griggs Fitness Fun Walk

Dr. Griggs and Dancing Man 504 enjoying the day’s event.

Gina Brown, Doc Griggs, Lady D and the Line Dancers

Doc Griggs with Corey Hebert, M.D. & Rani Whitfield, M.D.
2012 Bayou Classic Highlights

Photos by Terry Jones and 2K Photo NOLA

Once again, the Bayou Classic rolled in, and New Orleans was on fire with food, fun, and football! The Bands were hot, the game was great, and the fans from both sides took full advantage of all New Orleans had to offer. We love the Bayou Classic as much as you do, and here are some memories of this year's event. See you next year!
Sherrif Marlin Gusman Hosts Thanksgiving Dinner

Photos by The Original Buttonman

New Orleans favorite songstress Irma Thomas preforms at the Marlin Gusman’s Thanksgiving Community Dinner

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Obama Stands by Susan Rice

All U.S. United Nations ambassadors sit in a perpetual hot seat. That comes with the assignment and to be periodically involved in public controversies is not out of the ordinary. Yet with the growing unprincipled and ultra-partisan attacks on the integrity, intelligence and competence of U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice, those who believe in freedom, justice, and equality cannot sit back and be silent in the face of these patrid political and undeserved personal attacks on the good character and reputation of Ambassador Rice.

Even though Rice has been one of the most effective and articulate U.S. ambassadors to the United Nations in recent memory, Republican Senators John McCain of Arizona and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina are leading the misguided campaign against Ambassador Rice in the wake of the controversies surrounding the attack on the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya on September 11, 2012. We all mourn the loss of U.S. Ambassador to Libya J. Christopher Stevens and the other three Americans killed in Benghazi. Those responsible for the killings should be brought to justice.

But instead of demanding that an emphasis be put on finding and apprehending those responsible for the violence, Republicans have a contrived fixation on besmirching the leadership and character of Ambassador Rice. The question is why? What are the Republicans really trying to achieve by continuing their political campaign to tarnish the good name of Ambassador Rice?

Both McCain and Graham have announced their opposition to the possibility of President Barack Obama nominating Rice to serve as the next U.S. Secretary of State. Graham stated, “I don’t trust her. I think she was a political choice, telling a political narrative, and either she didn’t know the truth about Benghazi—so she shouldn’t have been on TV—or she was spinning it……I don’t think that’s a good resume to be Secretary of State.”

McCain claimed, “My judgment at this time is that four Americans were killed, and the information that our U.N. ambassador conveyed was clearly false…… There was overwhelming evidence that it was completely false. And she should have known what the situation and circumstances were and not tell the world on all Sunday morning talk shows.”

The fact is, however, on those Sunday morning talk shows after the tragedy in Benghazi, Ambassador Rice reported exactly and accurately the information that she had been given by U.S. intelligence officials at the early stages of the investigative analysis.

This information was well known by McCain and Graham, yet they have persisted in attempting to undermine both President Obama and Ambassador Rice.

It is as if that McCain, Graham, Romney and many other Republicans are still sore losers because of the outcome of the 2012 national elections. President Obama stated, “But when they go after the U.N. ambassador, apparently because they think she’s an easy target, then they’ve got a problem with me….. If Senator McCain and Senator Graham and others want to go after somebody, they should go after me – and I’m happy to have that discussion with them.”

Ambassador Rice also made it clear, “When discussing the attack against our facilities in Benghazi, I relied solely and squarely on the information provided to me by the intelligence community….. I made clear that the information was preliminary, and that our investigations would give us the definitive answers.”

President Obama should continue to stand up for Ambassador Rice with strong fervor and renewed determination not to be sidetracked from pushing his national and international agenda forward. As the president contemplates his new cabinet, certainly Ambassador Rice should be considered for further duty.

In fact, the recent controversies have only resulted in making Ambassador Rice as stronger diplomat and public servant loyal and committed to the president’s leadership and direction. During the next four years, it is obvious that the forces of backwardness and regression will have to be challenged vigorously.

We support President Barack Obama and we stand with Ambassador Rice today and into the future. Now is the time for strong leadership domestically and internationally. American politics needs more balance from the opposition party, but it clear that the Republicans have yet to repent.

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is president of the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network and Education Online Services Corporation and can be reached at drbenjamin.chavis@gmail.com

Lincoln, the Movie: What’s Missing?

Carter G. Woodson was right when he essentially said that Black history is the missing pages of world history. Never was such so true than in the movie, “Lincoln.” While I, as a “weekend historian,” was impressed by Daniel Day Lewis’ portrayal of the 16th president of the United States, my knowledge of history begged questions: Why were Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Tubman not portrayed or mentioned? Why was the ancient Egyptian mathematical formula attributed to the Greek mathematician, Euclid?

The movie, Lincoln, is politically presidential, yet porous on people who influenced the end of the American Civil War. The holes in the Steven Spielberg’s epic film are rooted in Hollywood’s tendency to omit key historical personalities and events from biopics. History reminds us that Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, and Sojourner Truth all played significant roles in the American Civil War, and thus in the decisions of President Lincoln.

For example, in the summer of 1863, Frederick Douglass was invited to the White House and introduced to President Lincoln by Secretary of State William Henry Seward and Senator Samuel Pomeroy (Kan.). According to David Blight’s Race and Reunion: Civil War in America Memory, Douglass, said, “I told him I was assisting to raise Colored troops to enlist in the Union Army but was troubled that the United States government would not treat them fairly in three ways. First, Colored troops ought to receive the same wages as those paid to White soldiers. Second, Colored soldiers ought to receive the same protection when taken prisoner. Third, when Colored soldiers perform great and uncommon service on the battlefield they should be rewarded by distinction and promotion as White soldiers are rewarded.

Moreover, Douglass relieved public pressure on President Lincoln regarding the Civil War in his speech in Philadelphia three weeks after the president dedicated the federal cemetery at Gettysburg, Pa. Douglass did so by saying, “We are not to be saved by the captain, but by the crew. We are not to be saved by Abraham Lincoln but by the power of the throne, greater than the throne itself, the supreme testing of ‘government of the people,’ of which the President spoke at Gettysburg. The ‘Abolition War’ and ensuing peace will never be completed until the Black men of the South and the Black men of the North shall have been admitted, fully and completely into the body

“Negro History is the missing segment of world history”
—Carter G. Woodson
City Announces Opening Of The New Orleans MLB Urban Youth Academy At The New Wesley Barrow Stadium

City of New Orleans local elected officials, and FEMA were joined by representatives from Major League Baseball to celebrate the opening of the New Orleans MLB Urban Youth Academy at the newly reconstructed, $8.5 million Wesley Barrow Stadium located at 6403 Press Drive in Pontchartrain Park. The new stadium complex replaces a 55 year old stadium that was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Funding for this project came from City bond and FEMA recovery dollars.

“The best tool in improving our economy and reducing crime is by investing in meaningful activities for our youth,” Mayor Mitch Landrieu said. “There is no better partner than Major League Baseball to bring meaningful activities for our youth,” Mayor Mitch Landrieu said.

“there is no better partner than Major League Baseball to bring

High quality programming to the kids of New Orleans. The New Orleans MLB Urban Youth Academy will operate in partnership with the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission on a youth program that will provide free, year-round baseball and softball instruction as well as educational and baseball vocation programming for young people from underserved and urban communities throughout southern Louisiana.

Attendees to the New Orleans MLB Urban Youth Academy will be given the opportunity to participate in free seminars on umpiring, athletic field management, scouting and player development, sports and broadcast journalism, public relations and statistics, as well as athletic sports training. The Academy’s goal is to graduate 100 percent of the youth it serves.

District D Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, “The Urban Youth Academy, the first of its kind in a city without a major league baseball team, offers our children professional level instruction in the sport. This is a win-win for everyone! New Orleans, we have a Major League Baseball facility and this is something to celebrate. We reached for the sky and captured the stars!”

Flowers/Continued from page 9.

Flowers/Continued from page 9.

Hunger Awareness Award Meal Honors Individuals and Community Groups

Individuals and organizations that have made a significant difference in ending hunger and poverty in the metro New Orleans area will be honored at the Annual New Orleans Bread for the World Hunger Awareness Award Meal on Sunday, December 9, 6:00 p.m. at the Danna Center of Loyola University.

The Lindy Boggs Hunger Awareness Award will be presented to Eden Gorney for her service to the needy on the North Shore. The Special Recognition Award will be presented to Luke’s House for its service to the needy of New Orleans. St. Peter Claver Parish Religious Education Youth will receive the Dedicated Service Award in recognition of their community services.

The New Orleans Artists Against Hunger & Homelessness will award grants to 13 outstanding organizations that provide food and shelter in the greater New Orleans area. Recipients are: By-Water Project, Food for Families/Food for Seniors, Hope House, Just the Right Attitude, Lantern Light, Luke’s House, NO/AIDS Taskforce Food for Friends, Project Lazarus, Ozanam Inn, Raintree Children & Family Services, Samaritan Center, Southeast Legal Services and St. Jude Community Center.

Tickets are $15. For more information or to RSVP, contact New Orleans Bread for the Word, 504.458.3029.
Liberty Bank Celebrates the Holidays and its 40th Anniversary with The Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra

Irvin Mayfield, Kermit Ruffins, Leah Chase, and Stephanie Jordan share stage with LPO

Liberty Bank and Trust will celebrate the holiday season and their 40th Anniversary with a special holiday musical extravaganza featuring the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra and some very special guests. “A Liberty Bank Christmas” with the LPO will take place on Saturday, December 8, 2012, 8 p.m. at Xavier University’s Convocation Center, their new 4,000 seat arena, located at One Drexel Drive. Guest artists include Grammy award winner, Irvin Mayfield, the ever popular Kermit Ruffins and song stylists Stephanie Jordan and Leah Chase. They will join the LPO to perform their favorite Christmas song, and they will lead the audience in a sing along finale at the end of the evening. Dillard University’s Choir, under the direction of Dr. Carver Davenport, and Xavier University’s Black Chorale, directed by Dr. John E. Ware, will also perform.

“We are extremely excited about this event,” said Liberty Bank’s Board Chair, Dr. Norman Francis. “Forty years ago, we had a dream to do something special in New Orleans. We started a community bank with a focus on an under-served population. Today, we serve thousands of customers in six states” said Dr. Francis. Liberty Bank and Trust was founded in 1972. Founding members include Dr. Francis, President of Xavier University, who has served as the Bank Board’s Chair since its inception and Alden J. McDonald, Jr., the Bank’s President for four decades.

McDonald says that this year’s concert is the first in what we hope will be an annual event. “This holiday treat is yet another way we can provide an added service to our customers” said McDonald. This year, in celebration of the 40 years of Liberty Bank, tickets for the special Christmas Program are free. You can reserve your free tickets at www.LibertyBankChristmas.eventbrite.com. For information on “A Liberty Bank Christmas” with the LPO call (504) 240 - 5100. Don’t miss out on this great event for the whole family. Come celebrate 40 years with the Liberty Bank family at Xavier.

Early Voting Begins Nov. 24th, Runs Through Dec. 1st

All Louisianians eligible to vote in the Saturday, Dec. 8th election can still vote early. Early voting began Saturday, Nov. 24th and continues through Saturday, December 1st from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, excluding Sunday, November 25th.

Citizens who want to vote early may do so in person at their parish Registrar of Voters’ Office or at other designated locations. For a complete listing of early voting locations, visit http://www.sos.la.gov/Home/Elections/EarlyVotingInPerson/EarlyVotingLocations/tabid/984/Default.aspx. Voters can also utilize our smartphone application, GeauxVote Mobile, to find out where to vote, what’s on their ballot and their voting districts.

For more information about the Secretary of State’s Elections Division, visit www.GeauxVote.com or call (225)922-0900.
New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation’s Popular Contest For Middle And High School Brass Bands Returns

The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation’s popular contest for middle and high school brass bands returns for a second edition. The competition finals will be on March 24, 2013. The first place prize is $10,000. Has your class got brass?

Class Got Brass, the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation’s new program to support music education in the schools - while promoting the brass band tradition - is ready for an encore. It’s a contest for Louisiana middle and high schools to create traditional New Orleans-style brass bands (as opposed to marching bands). At stake is more than $20,000 worth of instruments for the winning schools’ music programs.

The first place prize is a gift certificate worth $10,000 in instruments, instrument repair and other supplies for the winning school’s band programs - and an invitation to perform at the 2013 Jazz & Heritage Gala. Second place is $6,000; third place is $4,000.

Are you ready to rumble? Then polish your horns, shine your shoes and straighten your caps, because Class Got Brass is back. Class Got Brass is open to all middle schools and high schools in Louisiana. Schools may enter a New Orleans-style brass band of up to 12 members. They must follow guidelines designed to emphasize the historic, world-famous brass band tradition.

Applications are now available to enter Class Got Brass’ 2013. The deadline to apply is February 22. See www.ClassGotBrass.com for complete details and the online entry form.

OperaCreole - Christmas New Orleans Style at St. Louis Cathedral

“An Creole Christmas”

OperaCreole will present a program of Creole history, and sacred music in French, Creole, Latin, Italian, and English on Tuesday, December 4, 2012 at St. Louis Cathedral, Jackson Square from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public.

OperaCreole will be honoring Creole sacred traditions and will introduce a new hymn written for Venerable Henriette Deille, foundress of Sisters of The Holy Family. It was written by Dr. Marcus St. Julien. The event is sponsored by the French Quarter Festival, Inc.

For more information, visit www.operacreole.com

The Cultural Season has Begun for the New Orleans Black Chorale

The New Orleans Black Chorale’s 2012-13 Season is underway. The community group recently joined Opera Creole in their performance of composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor’s works and scenes from Scott Joplin’s Treemonisha.

Upcoming performances for The New Orleans Black Chorale include the annual Christmas Concert on Saturday December 15, 2012 at Trinity Episcopal Church.

The Christmas concert is free and open to the public.

Andrew H. Wilson Charter School to Hold High School Fair on December 4th

The Andrew H. Wilson Charter School will hold its 3rd Annual High School Fair for 7th and 8th Grade students. All middle school students and parents in Orleans Parish are invited to attend and learn more about prospective high schools. Representatives from several Orleans Parish High Schools will be on hand to answer questions about their school and the public is invited to attend to learn more about the many educational high school options in New Orleans.

The High School Fair will take place on Tuesday, December 4, 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Andrew H. Wilson Charter School, 3617 General Pershing Street, in the school’s Dining Hall.

For more information please contact Deborah Krentel, School Counselor, Wilson Charter (504) 373-6274 x 303
Introducing the all-new 2013 Chevrolet Malibu. With the available Chevrolet MyLink® infotainment system and a 259-horsepower turbocharged engine. It’s here, the greatest Malibu ever.