

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

**Data**

**News Weekly**

"The People's Paper"



**Autocrat Club  
Circle of Friends**

**Data Zone  
Page 6**

**FREE  
COPY**

May 11 - May 17, 2013 48th Year Volume 2 [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com)

**Behind  
Every  
Great  
Man is  
a Greater  
Mother**



**Page 2**



**State & Local  
Lemonade Day  
Success!**

**Page 5**

**Pipeline  
to the  
People**



**Page 9**



# Behind Every Great Man is a Greater Mother



Pictured above and on the cover are mothers honored by the men in this story. They are (from left to right) Dorothy Vaughn, Caroline Bean-Ward, April Schenck and Flozell Scott.

## By Edwin Buggage

Throughout our history they have been the backbone of our community. They are the ones that nurture our young and are the first teachers planting the seeds of greatness in many of us. When we look at our athletes upon winning the big game the first thing they do is thank their mother's. This theme has also been visited in popular music as many songs have been written honoring mothers; one that comes to my mind is the great Philly Soul Classic by the Intruders, I'll Always Love My Mama. In harmony they sing, "I'll always love my mama she's my favorite girl." Every time I hear this song I think

of so many of the women who shaped me and so many of the men of this City, the nation and the world. So as we celebrate Mother's Day, we at Data News Weekly spoke to a few men from around the city and asked them to talk about the importance of mother's and Mother's Day.

Many people know Anthony Bean as an award winning playwright, actor, director and mentor of many young people and the founder of the Anthony Bean Community Theater (ABCT). On this day as we speak he reflects on his late mother Caroline Bean-Ward, who passed away in 2010. Talking about the importance of his mother the usual resonance in his voice is absent, replaced with a tone showing a man who

truly misses the woman that gave him the will to dream and aspire to greatness, "Ma was the first woman I learn to trust. She believed in me from the start. Not only was the belief there but also the monies. She helped financed my first theater, The Ethiopian Theater in New Orleans. Mama, up until the year she passed has never missed a performance I gave. She would always be on the front row cheering me on. To this day when I look out into the audience I can still feel her presence, my mother still cheering me on."

Continuing speaking of his mother he says, "Caroline Ward was an incredibly kind-hearted, loving, and devoted mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She enjoyed cooking and

Cover Story, Continued on next page.

## INSIDE DATA

Cover Story . . . . .	2	Commentary. . . . .	8
State & Local News . . .	4	Health. . . . .	9
Data Zone . . . . .	6	Home Style. . . . .	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

Edwin Buggage

Editor

Calla Victoria

Executive Assistant

June Hazeur

Accounting

Contributors

Corey Anderson

Edwin Buggage

Kichea S. Burt

Jineea Butler

Eric Griggs, M.D.

Marc Morial

Glenn Summers

J.R. Thomason

MG Calla Victoria

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.



Award Winning Actor and Theatre owner Anthony Bean and mother Caroline Bean-Ward.



Dorothy Vaughn, mother of New Orleans based visual artist Charles Vaughn.



New Orleans Educator Derek Bardell says his mother Anna Bardell continues to be an important part of his life.

her family favorite was her peach cobbler. She also owned restaurants such as the "Crocodile Restaurant and Bar" and "Carrie's Place". It was at her restaurant where Ethiopian Theater was formed and organized. About 20 youth met daily to rehearse productions and Ms. Ward would host the children by making sure the kids had transportation back and forth and that they were well fed. She would share her personal stories to the youth that helped in creating moments and believability. She was very outspoken and insightful and she also had a vivid imagination. She encouraged creativity in her home and was a wonderful mother raising her children to be expressive."

In our community mothers are not simply those that are biological, it can be many of the women that help raise us. It can be the grandmother, who we may call big momma, madea, aunts, cousins, your friend's mothers and many others planting the seeds of the young and watering them with love and encouragement. I recall my own childhood and many of the women in my neighborhood that looked out for us. And as I today see the wreckage that still exists in my Broadmoor neighborhood, I think back of all the good times I had growing up and all the life lessons I learned from the village of elders who helped shape who I've become.

Charles Vaughn is a Visual Artist and someone who remembers these days as he and his wife are bringing up two young daughters in the Broadmoor area after returning from five years of living in an Atlanta suburb following Hurricane Katrina. "Neighborhoods are not like when we were young, a lot of people are not connected to their neighbors the same way,

I noticed that even more so when I lived in Atlanta, but while things have changed in the City, I still feel that we have some of that old spirit of connectedness still in us as a more community oriented people, so I feel good being back and trying to raise my daughter here."

Talking about the women who shaped and is reshaping his life he says, "My mother Dorothy Vaughn and grandmother Flozell Scott were very important in my life, they always believed in me and gave me a great example to follow as far as being a parent. It is from their life's lessons that I look to now that I am a parent, and I am fortunate to have a wife Kyril that is a great example for my daughters Amara and Liana."

"Mother's Day is a time for reflection and cherishing the moments one has had with their mother or mother-like figure. One should think of the words of wisdom imparted, good deeds shown and times past," says Derek Bardell, a local Educator. He is someone who sees a lot of strong women in his work inside the school as a teacher, administrator and professor. He notes while our community has had many problems over the past decades with the dissolution of family; African-American women continue to go above and beyond the call of duty raising our young and setting a solid foundation for our young people.

Bardell, whose mother Anna Bardell continues to be an important part of his life, and he feels fortunate that she has lived to see all her hard work and sacrifices paid off as her son is making a difference in other people's lives and being an asset in his community. "I personally see Mother's Day as an opportunity to reconnect and build a stronger, better, more

cohesive relationship because I am blessed to still have a living mother. For those with mothers that have passed on, this is a time to highlight memories of the matriarch, evaluate the legacy left behind and to examine your own life and answer the question would your mother or mother like figure

be proud? Conversely, for living mothers with living children, this is also a time to commit to being a better mother, spending more time, sharing ideas and interacting more. In essence, Mother's Day should be a day of joy, happiness and connectedness."

This year is a special year for

me as well, as this will be the first Mother's Day without my "Granny" Geraldine Lamar. She was a woman who embodied strength and gave so much of herself and invested a lot of time, energy and

Cover Story, Continued  
on page 11

## Daughters of Charity Health Centers

# Eye Care

Eye health is essential to your child's overall health and wellness. Optometry services are now available at our Carrollton Health Center. Services offered include:

### Primary Eye Care

Includes comprehensive vision and eye health exams

### Pediatric Eye Care

### Discounted Eyeglasses Available for the Entire Family

In-house optical lab for faster service

### Contact Lenses

### Screening for Vision Problems

Includes far-sightedness, near-sightedness, and eye diseases that may cause vision loss or blindness

Medicaid and Commercial Insurance Accepted  
Discounts are available based on income and eligibility.



Call (504) 212-9533  
for an  
Appointment Today!

3201 S. Carrollton Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118 | (504) 212-9533

# Local Non-profits Invited to Apply for \$100,000 Humana Communities Benefit–New Orleans Grant

## Grant applications for this year's charitable giving program being accepted through July 30

For the seventh consecutive year, a deserving non-profit organization in the Greater New Orleans area will have an opportunity to positively impact the health and well-being of the community, as Humana (NYSE: HUM) will open the call for entries starting April 29 for the \$100,000 Humana Communities Benefit-New Orleans 2013 grant.

Humana is inviting all non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations based in Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St.

Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa and Washington parishes to apply for the one-time, \$100,000 Humana Communities Benefit charitable grant in New Orleans.

Humana Communities Benefit is a charitable giving program, sponsored by the Humana Foundation. The program awards a one-time, \$100,000 signature grant to a Greater New Orleans non-profit organization, focused on improving the health and well-being of the community in the areas of childhood health, intergenerational health and active lifestyles.

The grant application deadline for this year's program is July 30. Following a selection

process by a panel of local judges, the 2013 grant winner will be announced at an awards gala in New Orleans this November.

"Humana is proud to continue the tradition and provide non-profit organizations in the New Orleans area with an opportunity to receive this transformational funding," said Rhonda Bagby, Humana Louisiana Commercial Market President.

"We've seen so many organizations benefit from this grant over the years and we're thrilled to have a strong and enduring impact on another deserving non-profit in our community," Bagby added. "We encourage all eligible non-profits in Greater New Orleans to apply for their chance to receive this year's

\$100,000 grant."

The Humana Communities Benefit program in New Orleans has been awarding one-time \$100,000 signature grants to New Orleans-area non-profits focused on improving the health and well-being of local communities since 2007.

Last fall, Boys Town Louisiana was awarded the \$100,000 grant by the Humana Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Humana Inc. With its Humana Communities Benefit grant, Boys Town Louisiana is launching this summer a new educational program for about 60 area youngsters that will include social skills, fitness and nutritional courses at its Gretna residential facility.

"The Humana Communities Benefit grant has infused a new level of energy and enthusiasm into our organization," said Boys Town Louisiana Executive Director Dennis Dillon. "This grant has allowed Boys Town Louisiana to venture into a whole new area in caring for youth that includes preventive services, such as good health and nutrition training."

Humana is one of Louisiana's leading health benefits companies with more than 200,000 Medicare, commercial and individual health plan members statewide.

More information on the application and the 2013 grant are available at [www.Humana.com/HCB](http://www.Humana.com/HCB). Questions can also be directed to Humana by e-mail to [louisianabenefits@humana.com](mailto:louisianabenefits@humana.com).

## Join Us For Our Grand Opening

at

4329 Veterans Blvd, Metairie, LA

(across from Clearview Mall)



You give. You shop.  
We put people to work  
in your community.  
**That's Goodwill.**

*Our Business is Changing Lives*

## Store Opens

Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 9 am

**FROECLUSRE  
MAEKS  
EEVRYHTIGN  
COFNUISNG.**

GET CLEAR ON FORECLOSURE OPTIONS.  
**CALL 1-888-995-HOPE.**  
No one is good at going through foreclosure. Thankfully, there's a way for you to get free, trusted advice. Call the Hope Hotline today and speak to a HUD approved counseling agency.



## The New Orleans Council on Aging to Host Senior Fest 2013

**The New Orleans Council on Aging will host Senior Fest 2013 at the University of New Orleans Lakefront Arena on May 10, 2013.**

The event will take place from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Major sponsors include +JenCare, Peoples Health, Entergy New Orleans, and Abide Health Care Services, Inc.

The year's Older Americans Month theme—Unleash the Power of Age!—emphasizes the important role of older adults. This May, communities across the nation will recognize older Americans as productive, active, and influential members of society.

Lifetime Achievement Awards will be presented to Ms. Leah Chase and Ms. Wanda Rouzan for the value they continue to bring to our New Orleans community. The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes individuals sixty (60)

years or older who have contributed significantly to the older adult population, or the larger New Orleans community in any service capacity.

Silver Fox Awards will be presented to Mr. Bobby Pierce and Ms. Toddy Wobbema, publisher of the Senior Resource Directory. The Silver Fox award is given to a professional affiliate of the aging network who has made significant contributions through community outreach, proven leadership, and advocacy for older adults.

Ms. Emelina Edwards, the Peoples Health Champion 2012 and fitness lifestyle coach, will discuss her new book, *Forever Fit and Fabulous: A Guide to Health and Vigor—Even at 70 and Beyond*.

To find out how you can support Older Americans Month 2013 or to participate in the festivities, contact the New Orleans Council on Aging at 504.821.4121, or send an e-mail to [administration@noco.org](mailto:administration@noco.org)



# Lemonade Day 2013 Highlights

Photos by J.R. Thomason

Across New Orleans, children and their parents pulled themselves up by their bootstraps, took lemons and made Lemonade! What a great way for young people to learn the ins-and-outs of entrepreneurship while having a great time. Data News Weekly was a supporter of this tremendous annual event along with other local businesses and corporations like Entergy, George's Enterprises and Raising Cane's and the results were fantastic. Look out for tomorrow's business leaders and future tycoons, they were all visible on Lemonade Day 2013!



## A Good Night Sleep's Dedication to New Orleans Continues!

### 90 Formerly Homeless Individuals Will Sleep Soundly Tonight

A Good Night Sleep, a Los Angeles based non-profit organization dedicated to providing beds to those transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing, continues to build their partnership with UNITY of Greater New Orleans. Dedicated to aiding families, children, and individuals who are making a new start and creating a new life in New Orleans, AGNS is donating another 90 beds bringing their total donation to 200 since the partnership began in November 2012.

A Good Night Sleep (AGNS) was launched after its founder, Jennifer Kenning watched the 2009 blockbuster, *The Blindside*. She was overcome with emotion after watching the scene where

Leigh Anne Tuohy, Michael Oher's guardian mother, shows him his new bedroom complete with a bed, something he had never had before. She began searching for a way to make an impact for those without a bed, only to realize that there was not a single organization with this purpose. With that, Jennifer set out to provide 'A Good Night Sleep' for those in need.

To date, AGNS has successfully donated 1148 beds to various organizations throughout the country. Thus far, they have partnered with the Los Angeles Downtown Women's Center, InnVision Shelter Network in San Francisco, PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) in San Diego, Humble Design in Detroit, The Salvation Army's Haven Program for Veterans in Los Angeles, and The Furni-



Uhaul with beds.



Jennifer Kenning with bed recipient Tish Mc-Gee.

ture Bank of Atlanta. Later this year, they are already prepared to donate an additional 81 beds to the Mack-Ashland Housing Complex in Detroit, PATH, as well as UNITY for a fourth time in August!

UNITY of Greater New Orleans unites over 60 agencies to provide housing and services

to the homeless. These partnerships directly affect UNITY's 20 year old mission as they aim to prevent, reduce, and end homelessness. Along with the necessities UNITY provides, they also have taken it upon themselves to conduct outreach on the streets, renovate apartment buildings into homes for those struggling,

assist others locate affordable housing, as well as implement nationally proven strategies and advocates public policy to prevent and reduce homelessness.

The AGNS team is dedicated to the city of New Orleans and continuing their partnership with UNITY GNO. In fact, they will be providing the beds for UNITY's mixed housing complex on Louisiana Ave. later this year. Both organizations firmly believe that each one of us is at our best after a good night sleep and hopes that providing a comfortable bed will position these New Orleanians to make a fresh start and achieve their goals and ours alike!

**For more information about these organizations and those involved please visit: [www.agnsfoundation.org](http://www.agnsfoundation.org) and <http://unitygno.org/>.**



# Shoot Ya Best Shot!

## The Autocrat Club's Circle of Friends Fundraiser

Photos by Glenn Summers

The Circle of Friends Committee held their annual fundraiser on Saturday, May 4th at the Autocrat Club Ballroom. "The Soul Man" Michael Baptiste and "The Real Soul Band" provided the entertainment for the evening with a variety of music as only he can deliver. The food was great. There was a full house with lots of dancing and fun. It was a big success and "The People's Paper" was there as usual to capture it all.



# WBOK 1230AM

**A BAKEWELL MEDIA COMPANY**

**Real Talk for Real Times...**

1639 Gentilly Blvd. New Orleans, LA 70119 (504)942-0106

www.wbok1230am.com

## Connect to the Source

Data News Weekly, your one stop for what's happening in New Orleans.



ladatanews.com



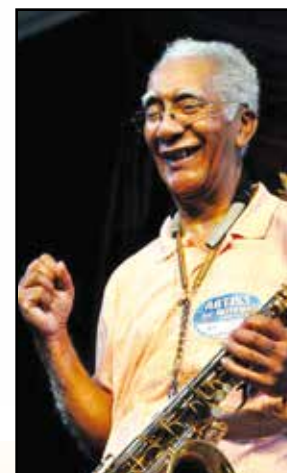


# Shoot Ya Best Shot!

## Jazz Fest 2013 Closes Out with a Bang

Photos by Kichea S. Burt

As the 2013 Jazz Fest hit the second weekend, the stages continued to sizzle with the hottest artists in Jazz, R&B, Country and Rock music. The fans were not disappointed and neither were we! It was a great time, and we will look forward to next year.



More photos on Facebook  
and [ladatanews.com](http://ladatanews.com)



## Hip Hop Connection

## The Hip Hop Dilemma



By Jineea Butler  
NNPA Columnist

I call it The Hip Hop Dilemma. The symptoms are all around us. You hate the new direction Hip Hop is going in and you hate that the young boys are wearing tight jeans. Still, Hip Hop has a tremendous pull, something that you can't ignore.

And if it's a dilemma for our younger generation, imagine what it's like for adults. Ask your mother or aunt what is their di-

lemma with Hip Hop and the question will ignite a long, drawn out conversation because in some way or another Hip Hop bothers them. Deeply.

I am writing this column, in part, because I want to help bridge the generation gap in our community. Just because our elders don't like our music – and will admit that their elders didn't like what they were playing when they were growing up – doesn't mean I have to ascribe negative motives to them or they to us.

Civil Rights leaders just want us to use our power wisely and remember the battles from which we came. At the same time, the Hip Hop pioneers and legends just want to be recognized for their greatness and they want the true meaning of Hip Hop to be appreciated by all age groups.

True Hip Hop artists and fans have been preparing for the day real Hip Hop returns. In the meantime, a new school of young people are making their own way, making their own rules with the power that has been prematurely handed to them. .

## What is Hip Hop?

If you ask most, it's music gone wild. But it's more than that. This art form represents a way of communicating – an attitude, a position, a swag, life lived freely. When people talk about Hip Hop, they say it's a youth movement. This is our first dilemma. Hip Hop will be 39 years old this year (it began August 11, 1973). That was the age of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. when he was assassinated in Memphis.

More than half of African

Americans were born after Dr. King gave his "I Have a Dream" speech at March on Washington. That was nearly 50 years ago! Instead of teaching the younger generation, some elders have left the youth to their own devices, expecting them to absorb the lessons of their movement without providing the needed guidance.

Consequently, some of our artists make missteps – Lil Wayne denigration of Emmitt Till is one example – because our music legends are not spending enough time with younger artists.

## Who should be leading them?

Logically, legends such as Afrika Bambaataa, Kool Herc, Grand Master Caz, Pebble Poo, Rox-

anne Shante and Kangol Kid. They should be schooling the young people on respectful content, situations to avoid and direction. The Tru School artists like Big Daddy Kane, Rakim, KRS-ONE, Del La Soul Brand Nubian, and Monie Love should be the body of A&R's who are nurturing the music we know and love at the record labels and the radio stations.

Young people naturally look to their elders for direction, but what do they see? Do they see someone they want to model themselves after? They don't see benefit and prosperity in what their parents are telling them? Or, do they see broken homes and gun shots? They can't help but see the legends trying to get back in the game, the real Hip Hop

Hip Hop Dilemma,  
Continued on page 11

## Class of 2013

## Summon the Courage, Choose to Serve and Live with Compassion



Marc Morial  
President and CEO  
National Urban League

## To Be Equal

"Raise your eyes now, and look from the place where you are... for all the land that you see I will give to you." Genesis 13: 14-15

University commencement season is a time of high hopes and great celebration. I was again reminded of that this past Saturday when I delivered the commencement address at Huston-Tillotson (HT) University in Austin, Texas. This coming weekend, I will also speak during graduation ceremonies at Tuskegee University and Alcorn State.

Perhaps best known as the

university where Jackie Robinson served as athletic director and basketball coach before he set out to break the color barrier in baseball, Huston-Tillotson is the oldest Historically Black College and University (HBCU) west of the Mississippi. For 137 years, it has opened doors of educational opportunity that might have otherwise been closed to many African American students. The enthusiasm and optimism I saw in the faces of this year's HT graduates – and that I expect to see at Tuskegee and Alcorn – reaffirmed my belief that the future is indeed in good hands.

My message to the graduates was simply to make sure that in addition to emerging from college academically prepared, they should also embrace their obligation to pave the way for the next generation and leave this world better than they found it. I am all too aware that this is easier said than done. So, I also shared three

key observations, or better yet life lessons, to help them navigate this next phase of their journey. I call them the three C's – courage, choice and compassion.

The class of 2013 is graduating at a pivotal moment in American history. Fifty years ago, from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Dr. Martin Luther King shared his passionate dream that America live up to its promise of liberty and justice for all. That same year four little Black girls were killed by a terrorist bomb planted by the Ku Klux Klan at Birmingham's 16th Street Baptist Church, and civil rights hero Medgar Evers was assassinated in the driveway of his home in Jackson, Mississippi. Now 50 years later, we have witnessed the second inauguration of the nation's first Black president. As I told the HT graduates, we've come a long way baby, but we still have a long way to go.

While many of the legal impediments to equal opportunity

have been eliminated over the past half-century, new challenges including voter suppression, criminal justice abuses, economic inequality and opposition to common sense gun safety legislation, have risen to take their place. All of these problems will require this generation of graduates to muster the kind of courage shown by people like Jackie Robinson, Texas Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, and National Urban Leaguer Heman Sweatt, who fought the battle to integrate the University of Texas in 1950. They each found the courage and made the choice to devote themselves to a cause greater than themselves. They each demonstrated the kind of compassion required to act beyond individual interests and clear obstacle-laden paths so that those who followed could have better opportunities. The baton is now passing to a new generation, and I have no doubt they will rise to the challenge.

The National Urban League has always engaged young people in our empowerment movement. For more than 40 years, our Black Executive Exchange Program (BEEP) has been cultivating new leaders and inspiring achievement by enabling African American students to interface and network with African American business professionals to prepare for careers in corporate America. In addition, the National Urban League Young Professionals (NULYP) engages young professionals ages 21-40 in voluntarism and philanthropy to empower their communities and change lives.

Many of today's HBCU graduates have been touched by those and similar efforts. We expect that they will use the blueprint of courage, choice and compassion summoned and shown by so many before them. We expect that they will pass it on and choose to serve.



# Spring Remix



Dr. Eric Griggs, MD  
Data News Columnist

## Take an Aspirin

Don't we all wish it was that simple? A simple pill to take to make all of our headaches go away. Car issues, money problems, problems on the job- the whole gamut. If only there was a simple solution to make them disappear, or at the very least, help us to be stress-free. Sadly, life is not that simple. There are no magic pills. We are forced daily to not only deal with the stresses of life, but even worse, because of societal perceptions, internalize our stresses. Phrases such as: "Suck it up", "Just deal with it", or more commonly, "I'm fine" has become the expected phrases when stressful situations arise when actually, nothing could be further from the truth. We live in a world where the line between Mental "Health" and Mental "Ill-

ness" has become so blurred that both have become taboo, particularly in the African-American community. Get the facts.

## Let's start with the definitions.

### Mental Health is defined as:

The psychological state of someone who is functioning at a satisfactory level of emotional and behavioral adjustment

(wordnetweb.princeton.edu/perl/webwn)

### Mental Illness is defined as:

Any disease of the mind; the psychological state of someone who has emotional or behavioral problems serious enough to require psychiatric intervention

(wordnetweb.princeton.edu/perl/webwn)

The line between the two, as

interpreted above, is abundantly clear. Mental Health refers to a person's overall well-being and ability to respond and adapt to the occurrences in their environment, much like that of physical health. Accordingly, Mental Illness is what occurs in the presence of pathology. It is a medical condition and often times, intervention is required. In order to overcome the stigma of Mental Health, people need to understand the parallels between mental well-being and physical well-being.

When it comes to our bodies, there are multiple campaigns out there to encourage us to get fit and exercise for at least 30 minutes a day. Millions of dollars are spent encouraging us to eat right and "just move" as preventative measures to avoid physical ailments such as Diabetes, Hyper-

tension, and Cancer to name a few. However, much less common are the campaigns to motivate us to maintain and sharpen our mental well-being, effectively keeping the subject "taboo." We are much less likely to discuss mental and emotional issues in our lives for fear of being labeled as "crazy" or "unstable." The sad reality is that this propensity of avoidance only potentiates the problem and leads further down the road to Mental Pathology and further from Mental Health.

The key to sound Mental Health can be found in three areas: Stress Management, Enjoyment of Life, and a Healthy Attitude. Here are a few tips.

1. Don't let your emotions get "bottled up" inside.

Spring Remix,

Continued on page 11

# Pipeline to the People

By Corey Anderson

*Question: How Do You Feel About Jason Collins' Announcement?*

By Corey Anderson  
Data News Weekly Columnist

Despite the wars on racism, drugs, terrorism and the like, The United States of America has another challenge that has been coming more and more to the forefront every minute of every day. The challenge of the acceptance of homosexuality has plagued some and, to others, has opened an array of new avenues due to the acceptance. America has always taken pride in having deeply rooted itself in the Bible and other religious texts, helping it become the "land of the free" and allowing those to practice and preach what they solely believe. The disclosure of Washington Wizards' own Jason Collins as the first male athlete who is an active player and openly gay has made a whirlwind of opinions come out. However, if one wanted to really be "free," should they only obey religious laws that have been placed in front of them? Shouldn't people be able to live without persecution due to their personal sexual preferences? Should people who believe homosexuality is wrong, be persecuted by those who believe it is fine? Is this a publicity stunt? These are a couple of questions that come to mind when the debate of civil unions and same-sex marriage is brought up. We decided to get your opinion.



## Brandon Revader

"Honestly, I would be surprised because it would've never occurred to me that my friend was living that lifestyle. I feel that Jason Collins was brave because he is an athlete who many people see on tv. He knew that people would have their opinions about him, but he still showed enough courage to voice himself."



## Tayler Foe

"If one of my friends opened up to me about being homosexual the news would probably be unsettling. Eventually, as time goes on, I'll get past my state of shock. People come in all shapes, sizes and sexual orientation and should be accepted for who they are and the qualities they possess."



## Delvin Jones

"It wouldn't be an issue for me, personally. If the person is considered a friend of mine it wouldn't change how I look at him/her. I understand the pressure and prejudices in society and understand why people would want to keep that information to themselves. I wouldn't feel deceived or lied to."



# Color in the Foliage

By MG Calla Victoria

We usually look for color in blooms in our gardens but there is one genus of plants that gives you spectacular color in its foliage. Bromeliads provide a rainbow of color in its thick striking foliage because in many varieties of bromeliads the bloom is not blinging, or in many cases the plant only blooms every five years. Neoregelias are the largest genus of bromeliads and have the largest spectrum of color variations from stripping, to mottling (dot markings), and painted tips. One of my favorite neos is called 'painted fingernails' because the foliage is dark green except for the tips which are blood red. The neos have the most vivid variations in the foliage of all bromeliads as its bloom is nothing to speak of, so the vibrant foliage is nature's way of compensating. Other bromeliads like Guzmania have more showy and long-lasting blooms but the foliage is just green. And then there are those bromeliads that give you two-for-the-money, great blooms and vivid foliage. The Aechmea blanchetiana is a very large bromeliad growing five feet high by five feet wide with vibrant large strap-



Pictured here is the Aechmea Blanchetiana

like golden foliage and when they bloom there is an amazing spray of cobalt blue blooms. The Alcantara imperialis rubra is one of the largest and hardiest bromeliads. Imperialis is massive spreading six feet wide by six feet tall. The large semi-rounded leaves of this big girl are reddish purple on top and green on the bottom. The Alcantara imperialis rubra can survive outdoors year around zones 9 and 10, and when it finally blooms (in fifteen years) it sends out a bloom spike that

shoots up eight to ten feet.

Foolproof care for bromeliads: We are told to keep water in the cup/center of our bromeliads, and we usually keep them indoors as house plants, and the center rots out and the plant dies. This is because some important information is omitted in those instructions. First understand that bromeliads are not like other plants as they are not fed from their roots. The root of the bromeliad is basically for anchoring the plant as most bromeliads grow in the wild at-



Pictured above is the Alcantara Imperialis Rubra, one of the largest and hardiest bromeliads.

tached to trees or telephone posts because they are mostly epiphytes (they do not need soil to survive). All bromeliads are covered with thousands of microscopic scales, and the scales capture moisture and nutrients to feed the plant. Water in the cup/center of bromeliads is only necessary if the bromeliad is kept outdoors because during the heat of the day the water in the cup of the bromeliad provides humidity which the scales can absorb. If the plant is indoors do not keep water in the

cup but mist the plant well daily so that the scales can do their work, only after the soil is completely dry should you water the bromeliad. Misting is the most important thing that you can do for bromeliads.

Send your gardening questions to me at [sowing@thegardeningdiva.com](mailto:sowing@thegardeningdiva.com) and check out my "Gardening tip of the week" at [www.thegardeningdiva.com](http://www.thegardeningdiva.com).

**Remember, never get too busy to stop and enjoy the beautiful flowers!**

Control your diabetes  
for future generations.



We need to control our diabetes because our young ones look up to us. Control your diabetes. For life.

For more information, call 1-800-438-5383. Or visit us at <http://ndep.nih.gov>.



A joint program of the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

A PUBLIC SERVICE OF THIS PUBLICATION

## Walmart Breaks Ground on Store in New Orleans East



Elected officials, community leaders and representatives of Walmart gathered to celebrate the groundbreaking of a new Walmart at the corner of I-10 and Bulalrd Ave. in New Orleans East.

L to R: New Orleans Business Alliance President and CEO Rod Miller, City Church of New Orleans' Pastor Bryan Trosclair, former Rep. Cynthia Willard Lewis, District D Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, New Orleans Business Alliance Chair Henry Coaxum, Mayor's Economic Advisor Aimee Quirk, Mayor Mitch Landrieu, ENONAC President President Sylvia Scineaux Richard, District E Councilmember James Austin Gray II, Walmart Market Manager John Mims and RTA General Manager Justin T. Augustine III.



# Rep. Richmond Announces \$37 Million in Recovery Grants

## Funding to Provide Essential Repairs in the Aftermath of Katrina and Isaac

This week, Congressman Cedric Richmond (LA-02) announced over \$37 million in federal grants to repair damage related to Hurricanes Katrina and Isaac. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced grants that will be directed to St. John the Baptist, Jefferson and Orleans Parishes.

"Louisiana steadily continues to rebuild in the aftermath of natural disasters that have indeed

threatened every aspect of our way of life," said Rep. Richmond. "At a town hall meeting last week in La Place, my constituents were deeply concerned about the funding status for essential infrastructure that is still in need of full repair. Funding announced today will help us stabilize infrastructure for public safety, schools and hospitals. I remain committed to working with FEMA to continue our recovery efforts. Each grant received brings us closer to our goal of full recovery."

FEMA grants announced today include:  
\$26 million to the City of New Orleans for a new, approximately

117,880 square foot Juvenile Justice Center to replace the Youth Study Center that was damaged in the storm and will be subsequently demolished

\$1 million to repair flooding damage to the St. John High School's gymnasium/cafeteria

\$2 million to repair flooding damage to the St. John High School's main building

\$2.2 million in funding to the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Department for emergency protective measures, including paying overtime owed to the 1,200 people who worked to ensure the health and safety of the public during the storm

\$1.9 million to the Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriff's office to replace city property in five facilities that were damaged by the hurricane

\$2 million to the Louisiana State University Medical Center to make up for unbudgeted funds spent by the hospital to ensure they could provide critical health care services during the hurricane

\$2.3 million to the New Orleans Sewerage & Water Board to replace disaster-damaged water lines in the Audubon neighborhood of New Orleans

## Cover Story, Continued from page 3.

love into me and giving me a solid foundation for my life. And also I think of my own mother Glenda Buggage whose made many sacrifices over the years for me and continues to be someone that gives me support and unconditional love. And as I understand being a mother is a hard job sometimes, I wish the mothers of my two beautiful children Eric and Elise a special Mother's Day and want them both to know that I appreciate the great jobs they are doing with my children. And it is important that as we see many great men accomplish amazing things, we must never forget that behind him is an even greater mother.

We at Data News Weekly in being the People's Paper we wish all the strong, beautiful, resilient women of our community a Happy Mother's Day.

## Spring Remix, Continued from page 9.

- Appropriately share your feelings with others.
- Learn to manage your time efficiently.
- Avoid unnecessary arguments or quarrels.
- Balance work and play.
- He who laughs, lasts. Improve your laugh life.
- Live a healthy lifestyle (i.e., eat well, exercise, and get sufficient sleep).
- Set realistic goals for yourself.
- Be flexible in dealing with people and events

- Forgive yourself for mistakes.
- See the "positive" in events. (<http://studenthealth.uaa.alaska.edu/YourMentalHealth/SecIj.htm>)

**Prescription for the Week:**  
Take time out to talk to a friend. Remember, sharing your headache story could be someone else's aspirin. And as always, remember...Get Checked. Get Fit. Get MOVING!

## Hip Hop Dilemma, Continued from page 8.

heads fighting the power, and no one with solutions.

Where else can you have a job making \$300 million with no educational requirements, no drug testing, no prior experience and your only responsibility is to come up with a slick line that everybody in the hood will repeat.

Hip Hop teaches them they can stay true to themselves and represent who they are in the streets. The street is the place where they feel most comfortable because the streets are real with them; the streets don't lie; the streets give them experiences that are relevant to the world they are growing up in. The schools are not teaching at the pace and in the language that these young people are learning and absorbing information. So Hip Hop music becomes their outlet like generations before but today there is no

agenda, no demand for progress.

We therefore render our entire community defenseless when we allow major entities to use the power of money to entice our young people with a false sense of reality. We are fed images that represent attitudes and personalities of cookie cutter artists who have no vision, who have no morals and who have no idea what kind of damage they are causing. These artists, corporations, and record labels have access to the minds and ears of our most precious cargo. When we don't step in and protect our children from harm in any form, we ourselves are an accessory to the crime.

This conversation will be continued next week.

Jineea Butler, founder of the Social Services of Hip Hop and the Hip Hop Union, can be reached at [jineea@gmail.com](mailto:jineea@gmail.com) or Tweet her at @flygirladay.

**ONLY  
YOU  
CAN PREVENT  
WILDFIRES.**



SMOKEYBEAR.COM



## 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.

Individual & Small Business  
Medical - Dental - Hospitalization  
Prescription Plan - Access to Doctor 24/7

## For ENTIRE household

\$19.95/\$49.95/\$75.00 monthly  
All ongoing conditions accepted  
No age limit for more info - Rated A - BBB  
call 1-877-449-7540 or 504-559-0833

This space

can be

yours for

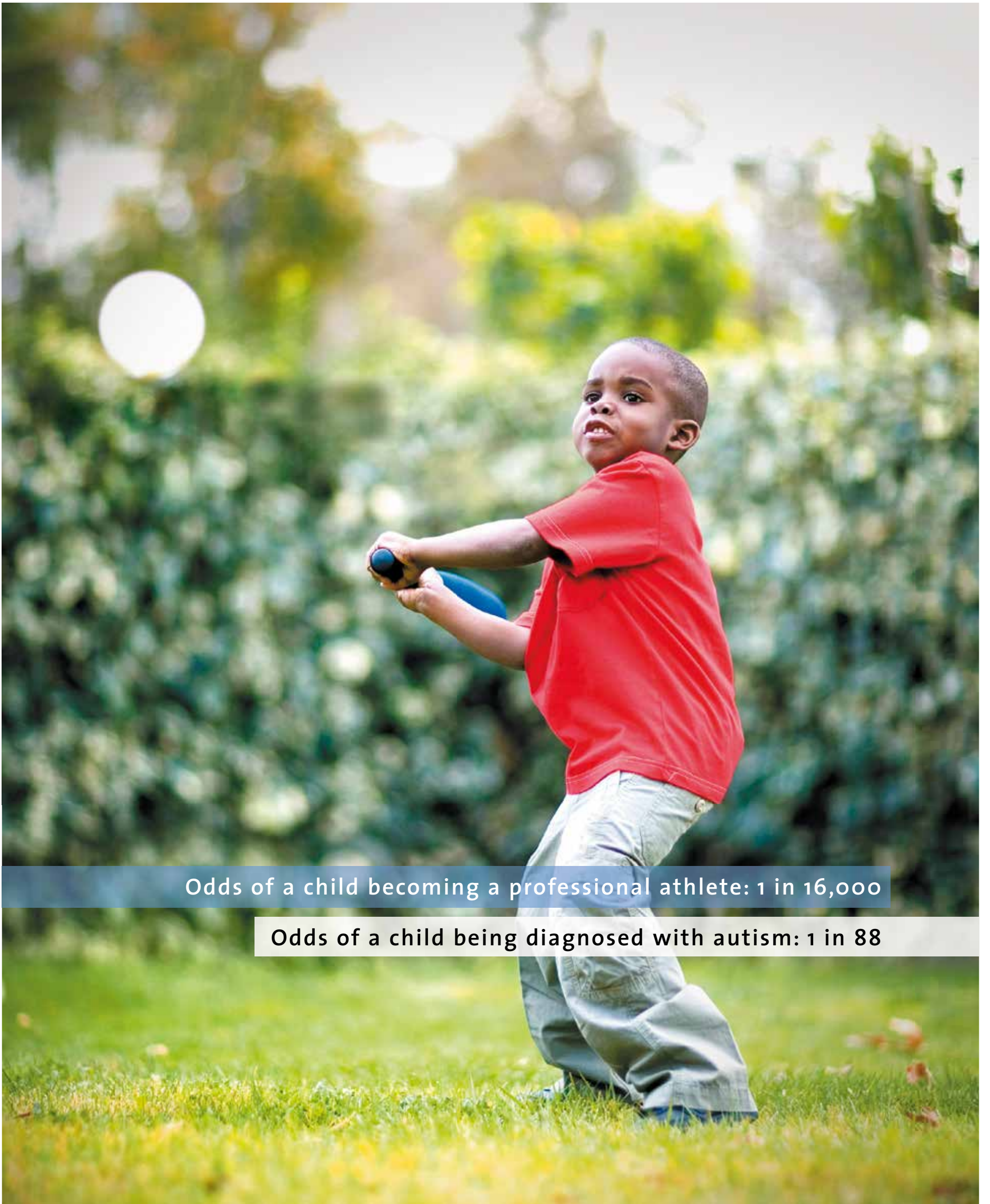
only \$80

Call Now!

**504-821-7421**

ladatanews.com





Odds of a child becoming a professional athlete: 1 in 16,000

Odds of a child being diagnosed with autism: 1 in 88



**Some signs to look for:**

No big smiles or other joyful expressions by 6 months.

No babbling by 12 months.

No words by 16 months.

To learn more of the signs of autism, visit [autismspeaks.org](http://autismspeaks.org)



**AUTISM SPEAKS™**  
It's time to listen.