Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans Data
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“The People’s Paper”

Bayou Classic Fan Fest Highlights

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14th Annual Holiday On the Boulevard

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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It is again that time of the year where for the fourteenth consecutive year, music and merriment are the order of the day as Ashé Cultural Arts Center lights up the boulevard with musicians, actors, merchants, and the community, creating an astonishing holiday family festival and marketplace in Central City New Orleans. The Ashé Cultural Center since opening its doors has become a beacon light for the arts community and Central City. Located in the Cultural District at 1712/24 Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard in New Orleans, the festival will bring together a hefty mix of talented individuals from a variety of art forms including many from the world of music that over the two day festival will showcase the best the City has to offer in the fields of jazz, hip-hop, R&B, gospel, folk, reggae, sprinkled with spoken word and incredible dancers.
“Holiday on the Boulevard is an opportunity for folks to begin the process of slowing down to enjoy the bonds of family, friendship and community. It is a time to assess the blessings of the rapidly departing year and to set expectations and goals for the New Year. Such deep thoughts then combine with music, good food and fellowship to offer an unfrenzied and unhindered respite from the demand of too full lives,” says Carol Bebelle, Co-founder of the Ashe’ Cultural Center and its commitment to the betterment of the New Orleans community not just doing the holiday season, but year round.

In the spirit of preserving and recognizing our cultural traditions on Friday, December 6th, “Holiday on the Boulevard” kicks off with the Annual Kwanzaa Demonstration led by our special holiday icons Baba Kwanza (John O’Neal) and Mama YeYe (Olayeela Daste). Young people will learn about the principles of Kwanzaa, the meaning behind its terminology and the significance of the lighting of the Kinara. Afterwards, at the Imagination Tour, participating children will travel the continent of Africa. With some of the youngsters dressed in African attire and becoming dancers led by Mama Jamilah, while others take to the drums to play rhythms taught by master drummer Luther Gray of Bamboula 2000. That afternoon, the community is invited to learn more about Ashé and its programming at the Annual Luncheon and Open House.

The importance of the festival is more than simply a display of the cultural arts, but it also provides economic opportunities for small businesses offering a variety of services with visibility that will hopefully expand their customer base and increase their revenues. “Holiday on the Boulevard” allows us to practice economic development at the community level. Small vendors, artists and entrepreneurs are able to participate in the money changing that happens in such high volume during the end-of-the-year holidays. We call it cooperative economics or “Ujamaa” in the Nguzo Saba—Seven Principles of Kwanzaa,” says Bebelle of the “Holiday on the Boulevard’s” larger purpose.

It is free to the public and those attending are encouraged to don their dancing shoes, because it is promised that the grooves will make you just want to move. As with some festivals the weather is a problem, but not with this one for all the entertainment is indoors, free, and open to the public.

The festival as always will feature the best in local talent and will kick into high gear for two fun-filled days starting on Saturday, December 7th, and Sunday, December 8th, with a list of artists that span lyrical spoken word on the Boulevard, to instrumental delights. The festival goes will experience the melodious vocals of the Golden Voices Choir with special guest Rev. Lois DeJean; Songbird Michaela Harrison, the explosive Tereasa B & NStyle, and Reggae Masters Zion Trinity. Closing out the festival is the amazing homegrown Trombonist Delceayo Marsalis & the Uptown Orchestra. The weekend also includes other surprises, including a “Lyrics, Beats & Masterpieces” showcase and an appearance by the winners of the Central City Fest Dance Contest. As we enter the Holiday Season, it is important that this time of the year we use as a time to reflect on what it is we can do to build a better community. And what is dawned on 14 years, Holiday on the Boulevard has come to symbolize the community at its best coming together in the spirit of “UMOJA” (Unity), “HARRAMBE” (Working together in Unity) and “UJIMA” (Collective Work and Responsibility).

Bebelle is excited about another year and encourages the entire community from all backgrounds, saying this festival is for everyone. “Why should you attend “Holiday on the Boulevard?” Easy, because it offers a great benefit to you individually as proof of what a community like Central City working together can accomplish. It benefits the vendors financially. It benefits the community spiritually by bringing in the energy of lots of people, along with the vibe of togetherness, relaxation and calm. So we invite you to please come to “Holiday on the Boulevard” and relax, relate and renew with fun fellowship, family and friends in Central City, and get a taste of the soul of New Orleans.”

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CARE IS THE HEART OF OUR WORK.
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Bayou Classic Fan Fest Highlights

Photos courtesy of Bonneefied Images, LLC

Champions Square provided entertainment at the 2013 Bayou Classic Fan Fest. Q93 Sponsored the event featuring musical artists Juvenile and Mannie Fresh, Iris P, Shorty, August, Sevyn Streeter and Rico Love along with the Q93 crew.

1. Fan Fest Crowd  
2. Iris P  
3. August  
4. Juvenile and Mannie Fresh  
5. Shorty  
6. Wild Wayne and Rico Love  
7. Wild Wayne and Sledge  
8. Sevyn Streeter and dancers

Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events
Bayou Classic Honors MillerCoors’ Moses Brewer

Photos courtesy of Bonneefied Images, LLC

Moses Brewer, Director of Multicultural Relations at MillerCoors, was honored for his longstanding support of the Bayou Classic. Brewer, who recently announced his coming retirement was presented with an Appreciation Award for his 31 years of support for HBCU Football Classics, and was also presented with a special framed photo collage titled “Mr. Bayou Classic”. Colleagues, friends, and family gathered in the MillerCoors Suite at the Superdome to watch the game, and cheer on both teams, and of course, Data was there!
The Joy of the Gospel

By Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr.
Founder & President, Rainbow PUSH Coalition

Pope Francis is displaying an extraordinary style and passion that demands our attention. He addresses the needs of the poor, those on the margins of society, that demands our attention. He has witnessed “a globalization of indifference,” in which the poor are dehumanized and ignored. Pope Francis’s exhortation, more than 50,000 words long, deals broadly with the church, the papacy, and matters of the faith. He is not a revolutionary. His focus and passion to the growing church’s opposition to abortion and tax evasion among the most powerful.

He warns of the corruption and the ethical poverty of ignoring the poor. In our politics, poverty has become literally unspeakable. Politicians talk about defending the middle class, or “middle out economics.” The poor are scorned as lazy or incompetent. Politicians vote to cut off food stamps, to cut unemployment insurance, even to cut back programs of nutrition for impoverished mothers and infants, while they refuse to close the tax havens that allow multinational corporations and the wealthy to avoid paying taxes.

Too many policymakers devote their energy to raising funds from the affluent and protecting their interests. They seek careers and fortunes not public service. Pope Francis sees this as a moral corruption, and calls for “more politicians who are genuinely disturbed by the state of society, the people and the lives of the poor.”

At the same time, Pope Francis issues a stern warning to the complacent. Without justice, there can be no peace. Building up police and armaments offers no answer. Peace will come only when there is hope, and a committed effort to provide opportunity and justice to those who are locked out or pressed down.

Economic populism is not foreign to the Catholic Church and has been articulated by previous holders of the papacy. But Pope Francis’s clear words and bold style make his message compelling. This is an authentic world-changing gospel of good news. This is a return to the original gospel that Jesus taught. It seeks not pity for the poor; it seeks their emancipation. And churches cannot be silent in the face of growing inequality and desperation. People of faith must go forth and be willing to be “bruised, hurting and dirty” in the cause of justice. This is a charge all of us, whatever our faith, should take to heart.

Jesse L. Jackson, Sr is founder and president of the Chicago-based Rainbow PUSH Coalition. You can keep up with his work at www.rainbowpush.org.

Entergy New Orleans is Prepared for Winter Weather

Company offers safety, money-saving and other tips

Winter weather has arrived in the New Orleans area.

Here are some convenient tips for keeping your family and home warm and safe this winter season. For more, visit Entergy’s safety page.

Stay Comfortable for Less

Besides urging customers to keep safety at the forefront, Entergy New Orleans also offers tips to help customers battle winter’s chill, while still keeping a lid on energy bills:

• Adjust the thermostat. During winter months, grab a sweater or a blanket to stay toasty, and set the thermostat to 68 degrees. Every degree higher can add 3 percent to your bill.

• Conserve hot water. Wrap your electric water heater with a water heater blanket and set the thermostat to 120 degrees or medium.

• Replace air and furnace filters every 30 days or as required by the type of filter.

• When you change your light bulbs, replace them with energy-efficient models. Entergy recommends Energy Star-qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs that use 70 percent less energy and last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

• Seal air leaks. Install weather stripping around doors, windows and any location where there may be a path between the inside and outside of your home.

More tips, as well as clear, do-it-yourself videos, to help put these ideas to work can be found at energyneworleans.com/save-money.
Tulane Green Wave Accepts 2013 R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl Invitation

Louisiana Teams to Face Off at 13th Annual Bowl Game

R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl Officials today invited the Tulane Green Wave to represent Conference USA against the Louisiana Ragin’ Cajuns at the 2013 New Orleans Bowl on Dec. 21 at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome.

Executive Director for the bowl, Billy Ferrante, voiced his excitement for having the Green Wave in the game for the first time. “We’re looking forward to having Tulane in this year’s matchup. It’s very exciting for us to have a team located right in our own backyard, and we couldn’t be more pleased to share this bowl experience with their team, coaches and fans. Having two Louisiana teams playing in the Dome for the first time will undoubtedly let the good times bowl.”

Tulane finished their season 7-5, and will make their first bowl appearance since the 2002 ConAgra Hawai’i Bowl. Entering his first bowl experience as the Green Wave’s head coach, Curtis Johnson was excited to accept the invitation on behalf of his team. “Playing in our first bowl game in over a decade, and having it in our hometown is an ideal situation for our team. We have worked extremely hard to get here and we’re excited that our fans will get the opportunity to experience the highlight of our season.”

The Green Wave’s dynamic defense has only allowed 21.2 points per game, which is 22nd overall in the NCAA and a huge improvement over last year’s average of 38.4 points per game. Sophomore cornerback Lorenzo Doss is tied for second in the NCAA in interceptions with seven this season, and Tulane is tied for seventh in team interceptions with 16. The Green Wave leads college football in interception yards with 362.

This will be the Green Wave’s first appearance in the R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl. They join former Conference USA representatives East Carolina, Southern Miss, Rice and Memphis.

The 2013 R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl will be played on Dec. 21 at 8 p.m. (CST) at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome, and will be broadcast on ESPN and ESPN Radio.

For more information on the R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl, visit www.neworleansbowl.org.
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