Lighting The Road To The Future
New Orleans Data News Weekly “The People’s Paper”

The Struggle for Freedom, Justice and Equality

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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MLK and JFK 50 Years Later

By Edwin Buggage

MLK and JFK 50 Years Later

Last year marked the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. dared to dream, making a speech that moved a country into collective action to continue to right the wrongs of a society at a time where Lady Liberty's light did not shine on its darker brothers and sisters. It was also a time where the nation had a young President in John F. Kennedy who a few years earlier in his inaugural address said to the nation “Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.” These words had a dual meaning and irony attached to them. In a nation based on the ideals of liberty, freedom and justice for all citizens, African-Americans were trying to get the country to be true to its creed of all people being created equal. The message of Kennedy idealistic as it seems, was not a reality as fellow Americans were deemed them as outsiders.

On the Cover: This photo shows John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson at the meeting held with Civil Rights leaders on the day of the March on Washington. Figures include A. Philip Randolph, long time union organizer and founder of the LCCR (standing next to JFK), Whitney Young, head of the National Urban League (far right) Martin Luther King (second left), John Lewis of SNCC (back left) and Loren Miller, an NAACP lawyer and housing rights activist from Los Angeles (fourth from left).
Our most powerful stories aren’t told in books.

Where some see cracks of pain, we see grooves of progress. Where some see a never-ending struggle, we see real possibilities ready to be enjoyed. The Civil Rights Movement started our journey toward equality for everyone. At AARP, we are proud to continue that journey and help create new stories of living life to the fullest.

As we celebrate Black History Month, the dreamers of yesterday and the leaders of tomorrow, we look forward to helping every community realize their **Real Possibilities**.

We all have stories of success and triumph that deserve to be told. Share yours today. Visit [aarp.org/tellastory](http://aarp.org/tellastory) and add your legacy to the history books.
Hundreds Of Volunteers To Join City Year New Orleans For Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Of Service At Arthur Ashe

The City Year New Orleans corps will return to Arthur Ashe Charter School for the City Year Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service on Monday, Jan. 20.

City Year, a national organization that unites teams of young people for a year of service in high-need urban schools, mobilizes its 2,700 corps members and thousands more volunteers nationwide each Martin Luther King, Jr. Day for a day of service in the community. City Year considers the holiday “a day on” not “a day off” for its staff and corps members.

More than 250 volunteers will come together to build the second phase of the edible garden at Arthur Ashe Charter School, which is operated by the non-profit charter management organization, FirstLine Schools, and features the Edible Schoolyard New Orleans (ESYNOLA) organic gardening and kitchen program. This service day will support ESYNOLA and FirstLine in developing its one-acre teaching garden that serves more than 600 students in grades K-8th. Service projects include: planting fruit trees and other garden plants, building planter boxes, picnic tables and an outdoor reading nook, mulching, and other beautification projects in the Oak Park Neighborhood.

New Orleans First Lady Cheryl Landrieu and Delta Regional Authority (DRA) Federal Co-Chairman Christopher Masingill will kick off the service day during an opening ceremony. The rest of the service projects include:

- In honor of The MLK Day of Service, more than 250 volunteers will come together to build the second phase of the edible garden at Arthur Ashe Charter School.
State & Local News

Forty-two City Year New Orleans corps members serve at four public FirstLine schools across New Orleans, providing individual academic interventions to students who have fallen behind in school. Working side-by-side with teachers, our corps members serve full-time in the classroom and use research-based tools and techniques to help students who are struggling to stay in school and on track to succeed. City Year New Orleans teams are sponsored locally by CSX Transportation, Entergy, and the Patrick F. Taylor Foundation.

Appointed by President Obama and confirmed by the US Senate, Chairman Christopher Masingill performs a day of service each year on MLK Day. The DRA is a federal-state partnership working to stimulate economic development in eight states along the Mississippi River Delta by creating jobs, building communities, and improving lives.

The Day of Service will take place on Monday, January 20, 2014 with the Opening Ceremony beginning at 9:15 a.m. (Volunteer Registration at 8:30 a.m.), followed by service from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Arthur Ashe Charter School, 1456 Gardena Dr, New Orleans, LA 70122.
with few rights. So during this time of social upheaval these two men found their lives intertwined in ways that continue into today.

**Remembering the 1960’s and the Struggle for Freedom, Justice and Equality**

“The lives of Kennedy and King were an important part of times we were living in during our struggle for justice, one was the leader of our country who promised better times and the other was the leader of our movement trying to make it a reality,” says Julia Aaron Humbles, who was a freedom rider from New Orleans. Today she is still involved in helping people in need. Speaking of the relationship the President had with the African-American community she says, “We received Kennedy warmly, we felt he had charisma and seemed committed to ensuring the rights of all people we thought he was honest and fair.”

As she recounts these times she speaks of what was her first of several encounters with Dr. King that she says helped shape her life and mission to keep working to uplift and help those less fortunate. “I was 18 years old at the time and we wanted Dr. King to take part in the Freedom Rides that would start in Washington D.C. and end in New Orleans. We felt he could bring more attention to our struggle, he said he could not because he was out of jail on bond and I said to him not disrespectfully we are too, and we want you to ride with us. Although King did not ride, he supported us and before we got on the bus he came over to me and gave me a hug and a kiss and said young lady never give up on your beliefs and this is something I’ve never forgotten.”

Sandra Monroe, who during the early sixties was a young teacher beginning a career that spanned over three decades reminisces about these times speaking of Kennedy she says she and many others liked Kennedy for what he was proposing, but that they trusted and admired King in their fight to get results, “We lifted Dr. King on a pedestal for his courage to make things better for all people, and we also admired some of the people who were involved locally in the civil rights struggle such as Jerome Smith, Julia Aaron and Matt Suarez.”

Rev. Samson “Skip” Alexander is a Civil Rights Veteran, Labor Leader and Historian who felt that the times shaped JFK and his place in history. That
while he may have been a good hearted and benevolent person he was reluctant in his commitment to Civil Rights. “During those times there was the Freedom Rides going on, James Meredith trying to integrate Ole Miss, we were still trying to integrate the schools in New Orleans and also we were trying to ensure voting rights for all people and Kennedy because he was the President and his brother the Attorney General he was thrown into the fray and was forced into action.”

Remembering I have a Dream and Civil Rights as a Moral Issue

The issues involving Civil Rights was more than simply a political issue but a moral one as well, as King and the movement were vigilant in dramatizing man’s inhumane acts against his fellow man something that moved Kennedy into action. After seeing these continued acts of brutality and lack of respect for federal law in May of 1963 Kennedy began to frame Civil Rights as a moral issue. In a nationally televised address on June 6, 1963, President John F. Kennedy urged the nation to take action toward guaranteeing equal treatment of every American regardless of race. Soon after, Kennedy proposed that Congress consider Civil Rights Legislation that would address voting rights, public accommodations, school desegregation, non-discrimination in federally assisted programs, and more.

Months later on August 28, 1963 a quarter of a million people gathered in the Nation’s Capital where Dr. King stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial giving his “I Have a Dream” speech. Rev. Alexander was there and remembers the day, “I was taking pictures that day and was traveling mostly with the people from New Orleans, it was a great day as we took one step forward in demanding that we would have a hand in shaping our destiny and living with dignity.” Sandra Monroe remembers watching the march on television, “I remember watching it and all the great people in our community coming together in a spirit of unity offering ideas, saying that if we worked together we could accomplish great things and change the country for the better and we did move forward as a race.”

Killing the Dreamers but not the Dream for a Better America

The 1960’s while a time of great progress as people fought against the tides of injustice, tragedy lingered in the background as some who were on the frontlines of the struggle were gunned down in this climate of hate. During this decade the lives of both Kennedy and King were cut short by an assassin’s bullet. A little over three months after the March on Washington, JFK would be shot in Dallas and in 1968 MLK’s life would be taken in Memphis. But while these men died their legends live on as both have become icons in the struggle for peace equality and justice.

“When President Kennedy was assassinated it was like a family member had died,” says Julia Aaron Humbles. “We felt for his family and the country had come to love his wife as much as they did him, it was a sad day for America.” Also harkening back to those days of darkness Sandra Monroe says, “I was working at Carver Junior High and I had my classroom door decorated with Kennedy’s photo, he’d become something special to our community and when this happened everyone was upset that we’d witnessed the killing of our president on television.” Continuing speaking on Dr. King’s death Monroe says, “We didn’t know what was happening, it was times of so much uncertainty, we didn’t know if we were safe, it was really scary times because so many great people were losing their lives fighting for justice.”

Barack Obama, the American Dream and Continuing Strides Towards Freedom

But as we fast forward into the twenty-first century we see that the country has made great strides in the area of racial relations, but while racism and discrimination are still problems, it is undeniable that things have gotten better. Today we see African-Americans in all spheres of American life. We have seen history being made as this nation has elected its first African-American President in Barack Obama. Something that many veterans of Civil Rights thought they would never live to see. “It is great to see that Blacks take a giant steps forward, because so many have fought for this opportunity to participate in democracy and be in places we could only dream about when we were marching,” says Rev. Alexander.

Julia Aaron Humbles worked on both of Obama Campaigns and says she is proud of Obama, but she is even prouder of the voters who came out and showed that this country has evolved and that in the 2008 and 2012 Presidential Elections judged and voted for a person based on the content of their character and qualifications. And with electing Obama, there is electricity that reminded her of when Kennedy was elected president in 1960. “He has been able to achieve great things even in the face of opposition no other president ever had to face. And he is addressing many of the issues Dr. King was trying to address at the end of his life and they are poverty and inequality and that is an issue that is larger than race. Obama is doing the work I think King would be doing today if he were still alive. I think that both King and Kennedy’s work to ensure the rights of all citizens is still a work in progress, we have come far, but we still have a long way to go, but I believe as I did when I got involved in the movement that any and everything is possible.”
of the past sacrifices and victories of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. The living legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. should be a legacy of present-day continuing the good fight for freedom, justice, equality and economic empowerment in America, Africa and everywhere in the world. Yes, today that is a big order and a tremendous challenge.

As a young, statewide youth organizer from 1963 to 1966 for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in my home state of North Carolina, I witnessed first hand the incredible genius and courage of Dr. King. I also remember his militant band of preachers, community organizers and student leaders who had become impatient with the status quo of systematic racial injustice in the United States. Golden Frinks, the N.C. state field secretary of SCLC recruited and introduced me to Dr. King and SCLC. Working with Dr. King changed my life for the better.

Today, my purpose is simply to apply what I believe is the living legacy of Dr. King to some of the most pressing issues that oppressed people face nationally and internationally. Remember when Dr. King spoke out against the atrocities of the Vietnam War in 1967, there were many in the African American community who could not readily make the connection that saw between the issues of racial and economic oppression in the United States and the issues of war and peace in southeast Asia. One of Dr. King’s famous quotes was, “An injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” It was only after Dr. King’s tragic assassination in 1968 that many shared his opposition to the Vietnam War.

Martin Luther King Jr. would not have supported the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In fact, there should be much louder voices now concerning the post-colonial devastat- ing wars and violence in the Sudan, South Sudan, Central African Re- public, Somalia, and in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo where millions have died. There is just too much public silence about these and other global violent con- flicts. Dr. King’s commitment to nonviolence was non-negotiable.

This month will mark the 85th birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Across the nation and throughout the world community, millions of people will pay tribute and celebrate the birth of one of our greatest freedom fighters and most effective leaders. The legacy of Dr. King is more than a federal holiday although we should never forget the protracted but successful struggle that was required to get that holiday recognition signed into law.

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The Wise Decision
5 Reasons to Motivate You, Even in January

By Sterling Wise
Special to NNPA

Look, I get it. It’s cold, you’re busy and you don’t feel like exercising:

- Not today. Not on a Monday in January.
- So I’m here to remind you of just how important exercise is and how great it makes you feel. Even on a Monday in January, especially on a Monday in January!

These 5 Reasons to Motivate You will help you to stick with your exercise routine so that you’ll begin the New Year feeling energized and excited.

There isn’t a one-size-fits-all answer for motivation, since different things motivate different people, so explore all 5 motivators below...

Motivator #1: Health
Have you looked at the long list of health benefits that exercise delivers? Pretty impressive. Not only does exercise help you achieve and maintain a healthy weight, it also helps lower bad cholesterol, triglycerides, and blood pressure, while improving the amount of good cholesterol in your body.

Additionally, exercise strengthens your bones and muscles, lowers your risk of cancer, decreases stress, helps you battle depression, and even improves your sex life.

Motivator #2: Enjoyment
If exercise hasn’t been enjoyable for you, it’s time to find a way to make it fun. Everyone likes doing things they enjoy. You might hate running but enjoy swimming or riding a bike. Perhaps you don’t like being alone and would rather be social. So join a team! Or maybe you don’t like the idea of driving all the way to the gym, changing out, and exercising with a crowd. Find out when your local gym is least populated, and hit the weights then. Do what’s most fun for you and you’ll be less likely to stop.

Motivator #3: Increased Confidence
If you’re out of shape or overweight, it can take a lot of courage to start an exercise routine. Remember to be confident in who you are, no matter what size or shape.

Don’t compare yourself to the skinny, toned figure strutting her stuff through the gym. Keep your eyes on your goal and don’t expect perfection after just a week of exercise. Strive to have your best body—not someone else’s.

Motivator #4: Goal Achievement
If you’re just getting started in the world of exercise, or if you’ve simply gotten stale, a good place to start is by setting goals. How much weight would you like to lose? How far would you like to run? Working towards a goal is a great motivator. However, don’t set up for failure by striving after unrealistic goals.

Do this and you’ll soon feel overwhelmed and give up altogether. To avoid this, set realistic milestones. When you reach them, enjoy your accomplishment and then set new goals to take your good health even further.

Motivator #5: Rewards
Rewards are a great motivator. In fact, much of what you do in life is motivated by a reward of some kind, whether intrinsic or extrinsic. When it comes to exercise, a good reward probably shouldn’t be an ice cream sundae, but it may be that new pair of jeans you’ve been eying, or perhaps a night out with friends. Maybe for you, weight loss and lowered blood pressure are reward enough. Just know that your hard work is paying off and deserves to be rewarded.

I would love to help you find the motivation to create a healthier life for yourself and your family. Call or email today and I’ll let you know how simple it is to get started.

Together we will figure out exactly what motivates you!

Only The Back Label Counts
Never, ever trust the claims on the front of a food package. Claims like: heart healthy, whole grains, or fiber-filled are often smoke and mirrors to prevent you from reading the actual ingredient list.

The real truth about a packaged food item is hidden in the ingredient list on the BACK label, not in the bold claims on the front.

Scan that ingredient list for high fructose corn syrup, corn syrup, sugar, hydrogenated or partially-hydrogenated oils – if the food contains these items then put it back and choose something healthier.

Nutritional Analysis: One serving equals: 168 calories, 14 fat, 78mg sodium, 6g carbohydrate, 3g fiber, and 5g protein.

Wouldn’t you like all of the healthy rewards of being fit?
LAHC Extends Payment Deadline

Louisiana Health Cooperative, Inc. (LAHC), a non-profit, member-governed health insurance company for individuals and small employers, is extending the payment deadline until January 31st for new members to pay their first month’s premium.

Individuals who signed up for coverage through the Federal Health Insurance Marketplace (HealthCare.gov) by Dec. 24, 2013 were eligible for health coverage as of Jan. 1, 2014. Prior to this announcement, customers had until today, Jan. 10, but this 22-day extension will allow more customers to receive medical care and have prescriptions filled as an LAHC member. As long as members pay their premium by the last day of January, LAHC will retroactively cover their care.

“We want our members to have full access to their benefits right now,” said Greg Cromer, CEO. “Currently, we are the only health insurance company offering coverage statewide on the Marketplace to extend this payment deadline for January’s premium.”

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) selected LAHC on September 28, 2012 to create and operate a Consumer Oriented and Operated Plan, or “CO-OP” statewide. LAHC is Louisiana’s first non-profit, member-governed health insurance CO-OP and provides a variety of coverage options through the state. “We have worked diligently to develop a comprehensive network of providers that includes more than 12,000 health care providers in Louisiana,” said Tommy Teague, Vice-President of Network Development & Provider Relations.

LAHC offers multiple federally-qualified health plans, all of which have been designed to meet standards set forth by the Affordable Care Act. Low- and moderate-income individuals eligible to receive subsidies can enroll before March 31, 2014, in order to receive financial assistance with premiums, deductibles and co-insurance costs. Subsidies are available through the Marketplace where individuals can shop for and purchase health insurance online at HealthCare.gov.

Additional information on Louisiana Health Cooperative, health insurance plans, provider network and subsidies can be found at www.myLAHC.org.

21 Louisiana Young Leaders Admitted to National Fellowship Program

2014 NLC Institute Fellows Announced

The Louisiana Chapter of New Leaders Council (NLC) is excited to announce the 2014 Institute class of outstanding, young leaders. This year’s Fellows are a characteristically diverse class, including successful attorneys, aspiring politicians, entrepreneurs and those in the non-profit sector. The 21 Louisiana Fellows are established leaders in their communities from parishes across the state. Profiles of this year’s Fellows can be found at http://newleaderscouncil.org/2014-nlc-fellows-louisiana/.

“Since 2010, NLC Louisiana has built a strong base of talented leaders working for social change in their communities,” says Rachael Hebert, NLC Louisiana Co-Director. “This year’s NLC Fellows will receive training and development to help them on their leadership journey, which we engage through a robust, 12-week leadership training program that includes networking events, educational webinars, and a peer support network for professional development and entrepreneurial life plans.

“Once again, our chapters have set an exceptionally high bar on the quality and talent level of the Fellows they have recruited. We could not be more excited to welcome over 600 Fellows for the 2014 Class, being held in 31 chapters across the nation. I am extremely confident that this class of leaders will emerge more prepared than ever to become incredible leaders in their respec- tive communities.” NLC Chairman Eric Clay said.

Jackson, Continued from page 8.

Black communities must open their own reading academies in churches, community centers, libraries and parks to ensure that young Black men will learn to read well before the 8th grade. Black communities must create their own mentoring, tutoring, employment, entrepreneurship, technology, and father development classes for young Black men and boys. We can no longer afford to wait for America’s solution to this catastrophe. Constructive help is not coming! The destruction of Black males in the U.S. can no longer be consid- ered an American problem. These horrific statistics are evidence that America does not care—or worse! Source: Minority Students and Public Education by Dr. Michael Holman

Phillip Jackson is the Founder and Executive Director of the Black Star Project in Chicago, Illinois. He can be reached by email at blackstar1000@ameritech.net
The School Nobody Wanted — Except the Community

By Khalil Abdullah
New American Media

The recently announced closure of Sarah T. Reed Senior High School in New Orleans will usher in the first school district in the country with no publicly run schools — and some community advocates see Reed’s demise as a sign that the local community’s voices don’t count.

“People in our community in New Orleans feel like the voices of parents, students, and teachers have been left out. It’s a perception, especially during this education reform process after Hurricane Katrina. That is how folks have been feeling for years,” says Chris Sang, the communications director of the Vietnamese American Young Leadership Association (VAYLA), a community-based organization that has fought to save the school.

Reed is located in the eastern part of the Big Easy. Its students are drawn from the surrounding neighborhoods, which are predominantly composed of African American, Latino, and Vietnamese families.

The school’s closure was announced by the Recovery School District (RSD), an agency established by the state in 2003 to address the problem of failing schools. The state legislature strengthened RSD’s authority to expedite school closures in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, when many New Orleans schools were physically devastated and student and teacher populations became dispersed.

While the RSD oversees failing schools, other public schools in New Orleans operate under the Orleans Parish School Board and the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. But the majority of the schools that receive public funding in New Orleans — over 60 of less than 90 schools — are under the RSD, which is now exclusively composed of charter schools. Charter schools receive public funding but are run by independent boards and are subject to different regulatory requirements than traditional public schools.

As of 2013, 85 percent of the city’s nearly 43,000 public school students are enrolled in a charter school — by far the highest percentage in the country, according to the National Alliance of Public Charter Schools.

Sarah T. Reed and George Washington Carver Senior High School were the last public non-charter high schools under the RSD. Along with Reed’s closure, it was simultaneously announced that George Washington Carver would transfer to become a Charter School. RSD will be the only all-charter school district in the country.

Pictured is Sarah T. Reed Senior High School which will be closed by the RSD, while George Washington Carver will be transferring to become a Charter School. RSD will be the only all-charter school district in the country.

The RSD never gave the same attention to Reed that it gave to the charters,” he says.

The shift from an effort to restructure programs to a fight to save the school itself came in 2011, when VAYLA learned that the school was going to be phased out.

“What the community was gentrifying,” Sang says. “The residents moving into the community weren’t used to sending their kids to the local public school. They were looking at other options.”

The number of teachers began tapering off, though the preponderantly African American and Latino population, many of whom attended the school’s ESL classes — remained enthusiastic. But as the number of students declined, says Sang, there were fewer available resources as well.

“It was a democratically-run school. The involvement of the community was tangible. You could see it,” Sang says. The level of energy on the part of parents and activists in Chicago parallels what he has experienced in New Orleans in the losing battle to keep Sarah T. Reed open. Though gentrification was not the driver in Reed’s closing, Sang attributes the school’s decline in both cities to similar root causes.

“Sarah T. Reed has never received the resources that it needed to be successful in serving its students,” he says.

Sang is not dismissive of the efforts of local charter schools to be inclusive, but he points out that some of the education reform advocates who come to New Orleans will have a significant impact on the education system before moving on.

“Longtime community residents who dare to question or challenge are sometimes viewed as obstacles,” Sang says. “We at VAYLA want to make sure that the people who are here are part of the process, that they’re at the table and that they get a chance to weigh in on what their future is.”

www.ladatanews.com January 18 - January 24 2014

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Distribution Manager Position Available

Data News Weekly is seeking a Distribution Manager for our weekly newspaper distribution.

The position requirements are:

• Must have a valid Louisiana driver’s license
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• Must have a thorough knowledge of the City of New Orleans
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This is a part-time, part-time position.

Contact Terry at Data News Weekly in person.
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BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2014

Celebrate the triumphs of today’s icons and commemorate those that have contributed to Black History… or better yet, American History.

blackhistory2014.ladatanews.com

In Collaboration with EPMG UNITED