

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

**Data**

**News Weekly**

*"The People's Paper"*

**Kirk  
Franklin  
to Speak  
at Dillard**



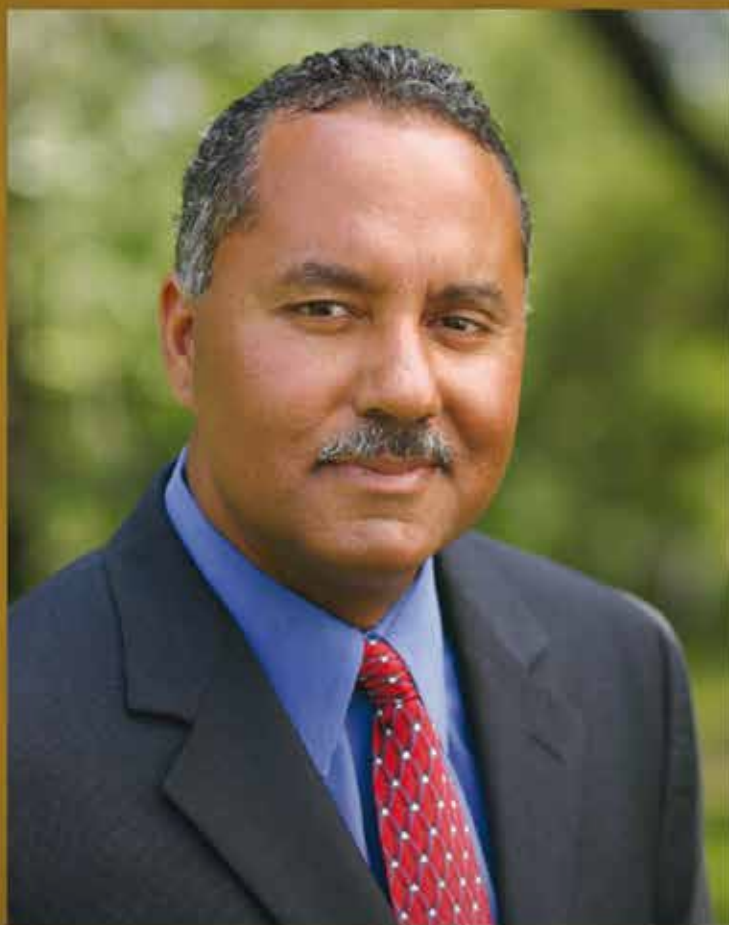
FREE  
COPY

**Data  
Zone  
Page 6**

February 1 - February 7, 2014 48th Year Volume 40 [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com)

Election 2014

# The Power of Your Vote



**It's Time to Choose**

*The Soul of New Orleans*

**Page 2**



**Newsmaker**

**Data  
Endorses**

**Page 4**

**National News**

**The State of  
Our Union**



**Page 11**

# New Orleans to Vote on Key Offices



## Michael Bagneris

**M**ichael Bagneris is challenging incumbent Mitch Landrieu to occupy the office of Mayor of the City of New Orleans. Data News spoke with him about his campaign and his positions on the issues and why he believes he should be elected to the City's highest office.

One of the criticisms of Mayor Landrieu is that certain parts of the City are seeing a full recovery while others are limping along almost a decade later. Bagneris says this would change under his administration. "I would make sure that the resources the City has would be equally distributed, I would not have a select few areas that would be taken care of. Also I would move to diversify the economy and most importantly I would not raise monies for the City on the backs of our citizens by raising property taxes, sanitation fees, utilities bills and hidden taxes with traffic cameras.

Bagneris believes that with a more diverse economy in addition to investing in infrastructure and other quality of life issues would attract businesses to New Orleans. "We spend 1.9 billion dollars in Jefferson Parish we do that because we don't have the retail options and we must bring those things to our parish, so money can stay in the City. Also we should work on doing better to develop and market ourselves as a family friendly place with recreation and entertainment facilities

and become a destination City for families. Also we have to invest in ourselves, by fixing streets and other things in our infrastructure to become more attractive to investments. And that means to expand the footprint of investment opportunities beyond a few select areas of the City."

The case that Mayor Landrieu makes for re-election is one based on numbers he repeats, but often can be misleading and does not reflect the story of the lives of real people especially the City's most vulnerable citizens according to Bagneris.

"The numbers the mayor and the police chief put out were proven by the legislative auditor and inspector general as false. They made a determination and downgraded the records so it would not reflect how bad violent crime was in the City. Another thing is the fact that the Mitch Landrieu had very little to do with murders being down, the fact is doctors were saving more lives." Continuing he says, "Shootings were up and that is the yardstick you use to measure violent crimes. There are less non-fatal shootings but the fact is shootings are up."

While crime is at the forefront of the issues on each candidate's agenda, in the larger sense it is the inequality of opportunities and unequal access to resources that are the causes of many of the problems. Bagneris recognizes this and says if elected he will use his office to advocate for more educational

opportunities for the City's most disadvantaged citizens. "Education is a large part of why some turn to crime and violence. If a person is not educated academically or vocationally with a skill or a craft then some will commit crime. I would try to work towards getting vocational training in the schools that prepare those people for the jobs that are coming into the City. We are going to have a 1.3 billion dollar hospital built so why aren't we training our people for these jobs lab technicians, medical assistants and other paraprofessionals, that's what we should be doing with our youth. Also with construction and we can deal with our young Black men and women not just with having a job but learning the business side of it as well."

New Orleans continues to be a tale of two cities, one prospering and another sinking further into the abyss as neglect and blight are facts of everyday life in some of these neighborhoods. Bagneris has a plan that he feels could help eradicate this problem in addition to serving the common good by making some of the City's most vulnerable citizen's homeowners. Explaining his plan he says, "Structured blight rest within the authority of the City and what we can do is we can help families below a certain income acquire the property free, we will give them the property if they can get a church, or non-profit family and friends to fix up the property and give them

Cover Story, Continued on next page.

## INSIDE DATA

Cover Story . . . . .	2	State and Local News . 9
Publisher's . . . . .	4	Dollars and Sense . . 10
Data Zone . . . . .	6	National News . . . . 11
Commentary. . . . .	8	

## 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

Cheryl Mainor

Managing Editor

Calla Victoria

Executive Assistant

June Hazeur

Accounting

Contributors

Edwin Buggage

Julianne Malveaux

George E. Curry

Terry B. Jones

Charlene Crowell

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.

18 months to rehab it and when they are done the City will give them the title to the property. Also we will have another component for our first responders, firefighters, police, teacher's etc. that they would be able to get a low interest loan to rehab the home and I have spoken to banks that are willing to work with us on this. Once the property is rehabbed and once the cost of the loan is paid off the person is given the title. The third prong is an entrepreneur can come in and buy a piece of property rehab it and put it on the market and once it is sold there is a split between the builder and the City, with the City's portion going back into the program.

We can get rid of eyesores and created homeowners and it doesn't cost the City money and it expands the City's tax base with more homeowners."

Michael Bagneris has had an amazing and inspirational life's journey from beginning his life in the ninth ward to an Ivy League education and making an impact on his community. Speaking of how his story can inspire young African-American boys and men that they can aspire and reach higher he says, "I was blessed, and when I was growing up love was a substitute for the money we did not have. I had two parents and especially my mother who was a very strong woman, stressed the importance of education. Today when I go out and talk to young people I say. Education is the transportation that can bring you to any destination and that concept was instilled in me. I was taught that anything is possible you just have to work for it and having that foundation for everything I've done in life."

Bagneris has gained a cross-section of support in his bid to unseat Mayor Landrieu, he says of his success in garnering this support is that his ability to bring different groups of people together and come up with solutions. "I really believe that you can have people of different opinions and bring them together to come up with solutions to the many problems that plague our City. Like for instance, the recent noise ordinance although I believe nothing coming from New Orleans musicians is noise, but this sound ordinance was solved by bringing everybody together at the table and then coming up with solutions, with all parties getting a fair shake and voice weighed equally regardless of where they were from; and that is something that hasn't been done in the mayor's office in the last four years bringing people together even those who disagree with you, and I plan to change that where everyone can have a voice in the direction of the City."



## Marlin Gusman

**H**e is the incumbent candidate in a race that has become heated against former Criminal Sheriff Charles Foti and Present School Board Member Ira Thomas. Data News Weekly recently caught up with Sheriff Gusman to speak about his re-election campaign.

Speaking on why he should be re-elected he says that he had a monumental task and has performed well in making changes to the Orleans Parish Prison. "Since Katrina we have been rebuilding and reshaping this office as opposed to simply patching up what was broken that was left by the previous sheriff. We decided to go in a different direction. We had the nation's 8th largest system in the world and we thought we can do things in a better way that makes our community safer and getting away from the old ways of doing things. As opposed to simply warehousing prisoners, we focus more on rehabilitating them."

He distinguishes himself from his opponents by saying, "I am focused on rehabilitation and helping people reconnect with their families, I work to help to get them the skills when they are released to get jobs and not become repeat offenders. These are actually things we are doing presently and building on those things. We are taking a long-term approach to crime prevention and I feel that makes the City safer for our citizens."

After Hurricane Katrina the jail was in horrendous condition, in addition to inheriting a jail that was one of the largest and worst run prisons in the nation, Gusman speaks on how he has worked to to reform and modernize the jail. "I

have guided this office through one of the worst natural disasters in our history and it's been tough but I am determined to continue moving in the right direction with many of the things we've implemented since I've been sheriff."

Gusman touts the success of his many programs in helping to reduce recidivism rates. "The programs we've put in place have been very effective, in fact the Department of Corrections did a study showing that those who go through our re-entry program only 13 percent return; a number compared to 25.6 percent who doesn't go through the program that is a 47 percent decrease in repeat offenders, and this is something I am proud of and want to continue to get that to an even lower number of repeat offenders."

Charles Foti was a long time sheriff in New Orleans. Gusman says we cannot revert to the throw people away and throw away the key approach of Mr. Foti. Speaking of his time as sheriff he says. "Charles Foti as sheriff created the nation's 8th largest system, housing people wherever he could creating a prison industrial complex warehousing inmates, since coming into office we have reduced the prison population from 6000 to 2100."

Gusman realizes that many of his inmates will re-enter society and he has developed partnerships with a variety of both profits and non-profit organizations to help inmates transition back into the community. "We have partnerships with the Urban League, the Council of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Associated Catholic Charities, Office of Public Health. We have partnerships with 41 private companies hiring ex-offenders, also we part-

ner with faith based institutions. Today partnerships are necessary to leverage those relationships and get the things you need."

Gusman sees there are problems with inmates that ate much more complex than their choices to commit crime. He feels that a long-term approach to combat criminal activity is needed with services that are preventive and not simply punitive. "Jails should be reserved for those who are violent and those who just don't get it, and for those who continue to commit crimes. Mental health has been a problem and I believe we need to have better mental health services available in our community so some could avoid crossing the lines to commit criminal acts. I also think to have alternatives to incarceration, the electronic monitoring, or day reporting center or the re-entry program. The more we can keep people out and have them be productive the better we can be as a community. I don't think we should go back to these large jail systems."

Gusman says he is the best candidate in the race and feels the citizens should cast their ballot for him because he is a reformer who has put in place programs and initiatives that work and are making the community safe. "I am committed to making the community a safer place and the buildings and practices we employ are getting us there. I believe in making people better, I don't want to focus on how many people we can lock up, our focus is on how well we can prepare people when they get out and contribute in a positive way to our City."

# Data News Weekly Endorsements in the February 1<sup>st</sup> Election



Michael Bagneris



Marlin Gusman



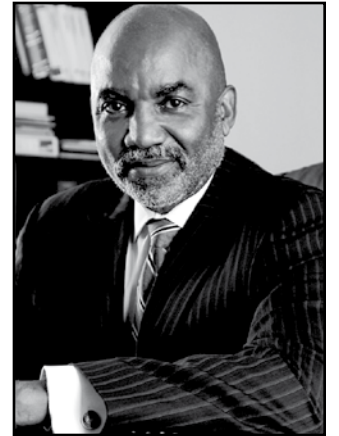
Eugene Green



Nadine Ramsey



Dr. Dwight McKenna



James Gray



**Terry B. Jones**  
Publisher,  
Data News Weekly

Data News in our role as “the People’s Paper”, encourages you to go out and vote. These are the candidates we have endorsed in several of the races taking place on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

## For the Office of the Mayor- Michael Bagneris

Mayor- For the last four years Mitch Landrieu has been touted as the Mayor working to create “One New Orleans”, however, we feel that his record does not match his rhetoric. No matter how well intended, there are portions of the City which have been neglected. This lies squarely at the feet of the person who was charged with leading the City. No statistics, no matter how eloquently delivered can erase the trouble that certain parts of the City faced post Katrina. That’s why it is good that we have an alternative who can steer this City and its resources in a different direction. That person, we feel, is Michael Bagneris. Bagneris is the candidate with the experience in multiple capacities to deal with the myriad of challenges facing New Orleans. As a person who has lifted himself up by his bootstraps, he knows what

it is like to be on both sides of the divide. He has the backing of a diverse coalition of business leaders and political parties but most importantly the rank and file people of the City who feel that their quality of life not improving under the present administration. Bagneris, worked in city government under the Ernest “Dutch” Morial administration, which was inclusive, empowered and inspired people. Those days can come again under the leadership of Michael Bagneris, someone who can bring people together and move the City forward.

## Criminal Sheriff- Marlin Gusman

Criminal Sheriff- When elected as Sheriff, Marlin Gusman inherited one of the worst reputed jails in the country. Hurricane Katrina made a bad problem even worse. But under his leadership, a path has been forged, and steps have been taken to improve the jail and institute programs which have helped reduce the number of people returning to jail. In addition, Sheriff Gusman has put in place several educational programs and other initiatives that assist in turning the lives of prisoners around. Since becoming Sheriff, Gusman has been tough but compassionate. His opposing candidates have launched attacks against him as expected, however, one candidate in particular, is a step backward. That candidate is former Sheriff Charles Foti. When comparing their records side by side, Gusman is by far the better choice. And as we move forward

we should continue to distance ourselves from the former dark days of the warehousing of those arrested. We must continue on the present course and we should give Sheriff Gusman a chance to continue to build on many of the great things he’s been able to accomplish since becoming Criminal Sheriff.

## Coroner-Dr. Dwight McKenna

Coroner- Dr. Dwight McKenna has the experience as a general surgeon and has served in public office on the New Orleans School Board from 1987-1992. With the stepping down of longtime Coroner Dr. Frank Minyard, the City needs a person who is respected in the medical community to serve as Coroner, and that person is Dr. Dwight McKenna. He has the experience and temperament to lead, he is what the City needs right now after several decades of the office run by Dr. Minyard, whose controversial tenure sometimes left many questions surrounding deaths unanswered. Most recently, the case regarding Henry Glover. We need someone who will be efficient and effective and at the same time have compassion for the families of the deceased. We believe that candidate is Dr. Dwight McKenna. This is the choice the City must make if we are to move forward. In this race Dr. McKenna’s opponent is Dr. Jeffrey Rouse, Frank Minyard’s Deputy Coroner whom he endorsed when dropping out of the race. As a City in the midst of change, we need a new face and

direction at the Coroner’s Office and that person is Dr. Dwight McKenna.

## City Council District C- Nadine Ramsey

District C encompasses the French Quarter, Faubourg Marigny and Algiers. Nadine Ramsey, a former Chief Judge at Orleans Parish Civil District Court has the experience and the connections to the various communities in District C to bring people together. It is time for a fresh face and new approach to doing things in District C and in the City Council in general. We feel it is good to have a mix of old and new members to bring diverse points of view and perspective to the Council Chambers. While we believe Ms. Clarkson has done an adequate job in her tenure being on the Council twice in District C and as a Council Person- at- Large it is time for a changing of the guard. And Nadine Ramsey is the right person with the right mix of governmental experience and real ties to the community.

## City Council District D- Joseph Bouie

District D — With Cynthia Hedge-Morrell term-limited out of her current seat, District D, which includes Gentilly and surrounding neighborhoods, three competitors are vying to occupy this post. Of these three candidates we feel that Joseph Bouie stands head and shoulders above his competitors. With an impeccable record of helping people throughout the years as a veteran

activist and academic, he’s empowered many inside the district and beyond. Many of those who occupy middle-class status, and are African-American can look at SUNO as a place where they were nurtured and received the jumpstart for their professional lives. SUNO is the institution where Dr. Bouie, who once served as Chancellor, presently serves as a Professor in the School of Social Work. It is this background and years as a change agent that will make him effective in serving the constituents of District D and giving them the leadership they need and deserve as it continues to rebuild.

## City Council District E- James Gray

District E — District E is a large district, spreading across New Orleans East and the Lower 9th Ward. It is the district that has seen quite possibly the most hardship post-Katrina. As other parts of the City have seen progress District E has continuing issues with blight, lack of commercial activity and other quality of life issues. While Cynthia Willard-Lewis is a household name in the district, James Gray has taken the reigns of leadership and become a strong voice for the residents of District E. Armed with intelligence, competence, integrity and passion, Gray is poised to continue to do what he’s started is and that is to give strong representation to the district and get them the resources they need to experience a full recovery.



# Get More Of Your Refund.

## Get Free Tax Preparation on Super Tax Day.

If you earned less than \$52,000 in 2013, you could get a potential \$6,000 refund through the Earned Income Tax Credit program. Super Tax Day makes it easy to find out if you qualify.

Entergy is proud to partner with local community advocates to sponsor Super Tax Day at IRS-certified Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites in your community. These sites provide free tax preparation. They'll also make sure you get the full refund you have coming to you, including any available credits.

So don't pay hundreds of dollars on tax return preparation. Get the help you need, free of charge on Super Tax Day. It's the smartest, easiest way to get more of your refund.

### What to bring:

- A valid photo ID.
- Your W-2s and/or 1099s.
- Social Security cards for you and everyone you claim on your returns.
- Previous years' tax returns (if you have any).
- For direct deposit refunds, bring a canceled or voided check, or your bank account number and routing number.

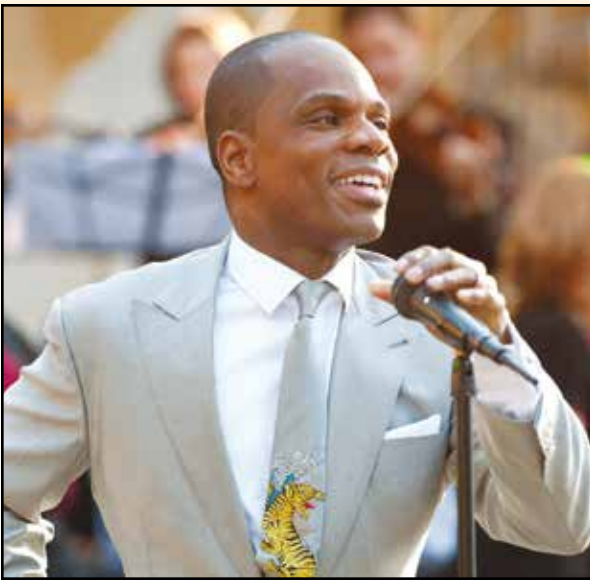
## Attend The Super Tax Day Nearest You!

For more information or to find free tax preparation sites near you,  
visit [entergy.com/eitc](http://entergy.com/eitc) or dial **2-1-1**.

Super Tax Day is  
brought to you by:



# Leading Gospel Singer and Motivator, Kirk Franklin is Brain Food Lecturer at Dillard University



**Lecture will be held in  
Lawless Memorial Chapel  
Thursday, Feb. 6 at 7 p.m.**

On Thursday, Feb. 6, 2014, America's Grammy award-winning gospel singer, motivator, and best-selling author, Kirk Franklin will deliver the Brain Food Lecture in Lawless Chapel on Dillard's campus. The event is free and open to the public.

Franklin is the leading contemporary gospel artist in the country and is known for his ability to fuse gospel with contemporary music, thus, winning the accolades of audiences across generations. His combination of styles such as Hip

Hop, Rhythm and blues, pop and gospel has put him at the top of Billboard's gospel, Christian, and R&B/Hip Hop charts. He has also been the recipient of an impressive number of awards including nine Grammy Awards®, 39 Stellar Awards, 16 Dove Awards, and eight NAACP Image Awards, to name a few.

In addition to Franklin's success as a contemporary gospel artist, he is the executive producer of BET's highest rated gospel talent show Sunday Best, chairman and CEO of Fo Yo Entertainment, and the New York Times best-selling author of The Blueprint: A Plan for

Living Above Life's Storm. Franklin speaks throughout the country on topics such as "The Absent Father: Crisis for the American Family," "Personal Accountability: Challenging the African American Community," "Faith in Culture" and "Hip-Hop and the Church Experience."

Seats are on a first come basis. For more information go to @BrainFood, visit [www.dillard.edu](http://www.dillard.edu) or call 504.816.4800. Upcoming lecture: March 12 – Dr. Joyce Roche, former CEO of Girls, Inc. and author of The Empress Has No Clothes; April 2 – Panel (National Black College Hall of Fame Legacy)

**THIS SATURDAY, BE PART OF THE UNIFIED MOVEMENT & CHANGE OUR HISTORY.**

EVERY MAJOR ORGANIZATION HAS COME TOGETHER TO ENDORSE **BAGNERIS FOR MAYOR.**

**#11**

PAID FOR BY THE MICHAEL BAGNERIS CAMPAIGN



*It's about Impact.*

---



## 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](http://blackhistory2014.ladatanews.com)



In Collaboration with EPMG UNITED

# Awakened from a Dream



**Julianne Malveaux**  
NNPA Columnist

Mid-January is the time when Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday is commemorated. Cities, towns, and colleges across the country lift their voices and rise up the language of Dr. King's dream that people are judged by the content of their character and not the color of their skin. They cherry pick the King dream, forgetting that he also spoke to the "check marked insufficient funds" and the fact that African American people always got the short end of the economic stick.

Members of Congress, mayors and governors issue proclama-

tions and speak to their constituents about the dream. Some of these speakers have worked in direct opposition to King's dream, cutting food stamps, refusing to extend unemployment coverage for those whose checks were cut off on December 28, nearly a month ago. They talk the talk and they don't walk the walk. They are marching to the dream of a different drummer.

I am writing after the fact because it is never after the fact. The hypocrites who rail about social and economic justice need to be held to some standard. They need to be confronted about their hypocrisy around the dream. They need to read all of King, not just the passages that mollify them and make them feel good. They cannot dream a dream of social equity without working for economic equity.

I have the same criticism for my hip-hop brothers and sisters who can set almost anything to music. Why not take the words

"cash the check" and educate our young people about what Dr. King really said. The generation who can electric slide from the Negro National Anthem (I am not kidding – I've seen it) ought to be able to slide their way to a freedom song. Instead they mostly myopically enjoy the music, not the words.

My preacher brothers and sisters, too, take snippets of the King dream and turn it into a sermon. Why not tell the whole story about Dr. King being rejected by his supporters when he connected poverty and racism with Vietnam. Supporters turned their backs on him. The foundation that once embraced his work dropped him because he told the truth. People who vied for his company suddenly shunned him. Now, in death, he is a hero.

In 1968, 72 percent of all White people disapproved of Dr. King, as did 55 percent of all Black people. Black folks have racial fealty, but not racial radicalism. Were it

not for racism, too many African American people would embrace some aspects of conservatism. That's why too many of us celebrate President Barack Obama without analyzing the work he has done.

Indeed, Africa American people have a schizophrenic relationship with President Obama. We like his swag, his confident representation of a powerful Black man. We are ambivalent about the ways he has used his power, too often to essentially ignore the challenges that the Black community faces. He says this year will be his year of action around income inequality, poverty, and unemployment, and we all understand that action trickles down. Will it trickle down to us? Our president, he of Black man swagger and confidence, will not say.

What will this year of action mean? Five areas have been selected as experimental areas where funds and focus will be targeted. Each of these areas

has challenges, but it would have been powerful if he had highlighted the area, just a stone's throw away from the White House, where African American men and women have unemployment rates that exceed 20 percent, where teens who want to work cannot find jobs, where the King dream is nothing more than a nightmare for them, where their pain is hardly addressed.

Hypocrisy and hip-hopcrisy. Elders and young'uns both speak of the dream but hardly embrace it. There is a week of commemoration and then we move on. If the dream is real, it is not a weeklong dream; it is an affirmation of those things Dr. King cared about – the eradication of poverty, social and economic equity, voting rights, and peace. We have attained none of these dreams, yet we commemorate the dreamer.

**Julianne Malveaux is a Washington, D.C.-based economist and writer. She is President Emerita of Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, N.C.**

## Obama Seeks to Do Something with Do-Nothing Congress



**George C. Curry**  
NNPA

President Obama's State of the Union speech Tuesday night, parts of which were shared over the weekend, was designed to be upbeat and to again sketch his vision for an economically "United" States of America. But this year's speech, like the one a year ago and like his second inaugural address, was a gallant effort to remain relevant during an era of a do-nothing Congress that will do even less in 2014.

Heading into his sixth year of office, President Obama has

finally accepted the reality that he can't change Washington. At least, not for the better. Having already passed the Affordable Health Care Act, the signature accomplishment of his administration, Obama's goal in his last two years will be less ambitious: to continue to improve the economy, lower the unemployment rate, expand access to early childhood education, enact immigration reform, make progress on climate control and curb the nation's propensity to get entangled in wars that have little, if anything, to do with our national security.

With many of his proposals lost in the logjam of Congress, President Obama now plans to do more by executive order, according to his aides. Speaking Sunday on ABC's "This Week," Press Secretary Jay Carney said, "What we saw in 2013 was a Washington that did not deliver for the

American people. The president sees this as a year of action, work with Congress where he can and to bypass Congress where necessary..."

According to the Washington Post, White House senior adviser Dan Pfeiffer has submitted a three-page memo that outlines a different strategy for 2014.

"Among its conclusions is that Obama, a former state legislator and U.S. senator, too often governed more like a prime minister than a president. In a parliamentary system, a prime minister is elected by lawmakers and thus beholden to them in ways a president is not. As a result, Washington veterans have been brought into the West Wing to emphasize an executive style of governing that aims to sidestep Congress more often."

That means more executive orders and leaving the legisla-

tive haggling primarily to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nevada).

Obama understands that the Republican-controlled House in particular will continue to obstruct whatever legislative plans he might offer.

According to the Pew Research Center, the 113th Congress is on track to be one of the least productive. Unlike most measurements that only take into account the amount of legislation passed, Pew tallied only substantive legislation and found this Congress lacking.

Consequently, according to another Pew survey, "Views of Congress remain historically negative: just 21% have a favorable opinion of Congress while 70% view it unfavorably. Opinions of Congress fell to a 20-year low in August 2011, following the contentious debate over raising the

nation's debt ceiling, and have never recovered.

"Large majorities across nearly all demographic and partisan groups have an unfavorable impression of Congress. About seven-in-ten independents (73%) view Congress unfavorably, as do 69% of Democrats and 67% of Republicans."

In a break from his normal over cautiousness, President Obama acknowledged that race may be a factor in the strong oppositions to his programs.

"There's no doubt that there's some folks who just really dislike me because they don't like the idea of a black President," Obama told the New Yorker magazine in an interview. "There is a historic connection between some of the arguments that we have politically and the history of race in our

**Curry, Continued on page 11.**



## The Home Depot Launches “Retool Your School” HBCU Grant Program Contest For Fifth Straight Year

### HBCUs Gear Up To Compete For \$250,000 In Grants For Campus And Facility Upgrades

The Home Depot, the world's largest home improvement specialty retailer, continues its commitment to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's) with the announcement of its fifth annual Retool Your School Campus Improvement Grant Program, a program designed to provide sustainable and lasting renovations to give new life to HBCU campuses. This year's 2014 Retool Your School Grant program will award \$250,000 as one \$50,000 Tier I Grant, three \$25,000 Campus Pride Grants for

the top 3 schools that receive the most votes and social media activity, and thirteen \$10,000 Tier II Grants. HBCU's are required to submit a brief description of their projects by Feb. 10, 2014 for consideration, with full proposal details due by March 10, 2013. Online voting will take place from Feb. 17 to April 14 at [www.retoolyourschool.com](http://www.retoolyourschool.com).

Since its inception in 2010, the response to the program has increased each year. The support and participation of HBCU's, alumni, students, parents and the community continues to escalate. To date, more than five million votes have been cast as the HBCU community bands together to restore and renovate the HBCU community

most deserving of one of these awards.

“The Retool Your School Grant Program is one of the most exciting projects for The Home Depot,” said Melissa Brown, manager of multicultural marketing. “We are thrilled to offer this Campus Improvement Grant program to HBCU's. Our goal is to help maintain a program that unites the entire HBCU family, while offering sustainable projects to help maintain our HBCU's allowing them to continue the legacy of providing a tradition rich in history. As we approach this fifth year, we continue to see increasing support and participation in this program which is a testament to its value to the HBCU community.”

## Congressman Cedric Richmond, Speaking to Crowd of 70 Hillary Supporters, Announces His Support of Ready for Hillary

This week, Congressman Cedric Richmond spoke to a crowd of 70 Hillary supporters in Washington, DC, and offered his enthusiastic support of Ready for Hillary, the national grassroots organization with nearly two million supporters encouraging Hillary Clinton to run for president in 2016.

Local Hillary supporters, who gathered at Phillips Restaurant & Lounge, also had the opportunity to learn from Ready for Hillary Black Americans Director Quentin James about how they can mobilize local support for a potential Hillary candidacy. The event took place on the eve of Hillary's visit to New Orleans for

her speech at to the National Automobile Dealers Association, and it marked Louisiana's first official gathering of grassroots Hillary 2016 backers.

In a statement explaining his support for a potential Hillary candidacy, Congressman Richmond said, “When you are weakened and wounded, you find out who your true friends are. After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita wounded the Gulf Coast we found not only a friend in Hillary but a champion for our recovery. You can always count on her to stand up for what she believes in, make the tough decisions, and do the necessary work. For this and many other reasons I, too, am ready for Hillary.”

## ‘School Choice Week’ in Louisiana; 175 Events Planned in the Pelican State

This week is School Choice Week in Louisiana and across the country. More than 175 events are planned across the Pelican State, in addition to 5,500 events nationwide. Lending support to the effort is Governor Bobby Jindal, who recently proclaimed Jan. 26 – Feb. 1 as “Louisiana School Choice Week.”


National School Choice Week spotlights all types of education options for families – including traditional public schools, public magnet schools, charter schools, private schools, online learning and homeschooling.

In addition to raising awareness of school choice options in Louisiana, the Week also provides students, parents and teachers with an opportunity to call on leaders in Baton Rouge to expand access to high-quality education environments for children.

The Week officially kicked off at a major rally Saturday night in Houston, Texas. Today, students wearing

National School Choice Week's signature yellow scarves will ring the opening bell of the New York Stock Exchange.


#15



EUGENE

# GREEN

COUNCIL AT LARGE  
DIVISION 1



[WWW.VOTE EUGENEGREEN.COM](http://WWW.VOTE EUGENEGREEN.COM)

Thank you for your endorsement of my candidacy for the office of New Orleans City Council At-Large Division 1.

Thank you also, Data News Weekly for your many decades of service to this community.

To our citizens, I would greatly appreciate your vote.

**Please Vote Saturday February 1st**



Find us on:  
**facebook®**

**more photos  
more stories  
more data**



# Elections, Voting and the Shaping of History

By Edwin Buggage

As we enter the month of February, it is historic on two fronts; one is of course Black History Month where we commemorate the contributions of those who are part of our rich historical legacy. This month is equally important because citizens will be heading to the polls to make the choice as to who holds local offices. This election as is all elections is of historical significance in that these are the people who will help navigate and shape the future of the City, so it is important to get out and vote.

Today voting is more important than ever given the recent decision of the Supreme Court weakening the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and also a Presidential Election mired with problems of voter suppression in states across America. As of today this trend continues as it is being challenged across the country, in an attempt to set back the historical clock to the dark times of segregation. It is in the shadows of this historical legacy that looms large that people must consider when they go to the polls. It is in the spirit of those historical figures who fought and even died so that we can live with dignity and have a choice in who would lead us; so when we vote we are making history and honoring their legacy and sacrifices.

While in 2008 and 2012 in the elections of Barack Obama to the nation's highest office, there was an excitement that resembled a movement around the themes of change, hope and yes we can. During these elections African-Americans were energized and made it to the polls in record numbers. It was their hands that in part made history. Today, we are in a similar place in our City as we are on the eve of our local elections. Where change and hope in the aftermath of the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and the continuing effort to rebuild is what fuels the flames of so many in a City that desires a better life for themselves and their children. And that is something that can be accomplished through real civic engagement by putting people in office who will lead the City in the right direction. And it is with the

simple act of voting that the people can help in shaping the future and agenda of the City.

Our history is one of many great warriors of Civil and Human Rights, some of these great men and women's names are enshrined in history, but we must realize that we are all molders and shapers of the history of our people; so it is in this spirit as we begin Black History Month that we must again go to the polls in record numbers and let our voices be heard. It is in this act of voting and civic engagement that we honor many of our cities freedom fighters.

For we are all connected to this history, whether we are active participants in the struggle for equal rights and justice or not; It is in our historical DNA by being African-American that makes our existence in this country political. That our position in society and how governmental policies affect us historically is always a point of contention and conversation. In the struggle for Civil and Human Rights New Orleans has always been front and center. It is in New Orleans that the Plessy v. Ferguson case eventually reached the Supreme Court in 1896. A verdict that made segregation in

the south the law of the land. It is also the place where the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) was formed. Additionally, it is the City that was immortalized in the painting of Norman Rockwell's "The Problems We All Live With" that shows 6 year Ruby Bridges and Federal Marshals walking her to integrate William Frantz School in New Orleans.

So it is in this moment in history that we must not take for granted our gains, because with the stroke of a pen or our non-engagement in political matters we can find ourselves on the margins of history and not part of the agenda of a City that is changing. Where its history is being rewritten every day, but we must ask ourselves who will be the authors, or who will have a hand in telling the story, and what will the priorities be as we rebuild. So that is why getting to the polls and voting is important.

We have to ask ourselves in this historic rebuilding what will the future of African-Americans be and how will we fit into the City in all aspects of it. And not just as part of the marketing materials and brochures for the City where people come and experience the culture we create and many times

others profit from. But it is time for African-Americans to come out, in force and demand a place where we can have power and empower those who are powerless. To use our votes to empower those who live on the backstreets that are not on the tourist maps and begin to rebuild those parts of the City and make them viable with all the resources they need.

In these races for various local offices it is important that people get out and participate. It costs nothing to go out and vote, but it does cost when you don't because it is your voice that is not heard and therefore ignored. So it is in our historical interest to vote, if not for yourself vote because so many who came before you could not. It is in honoring those who dug a well of freedom that you drink from you are paying homage and respect for your history when you vote.

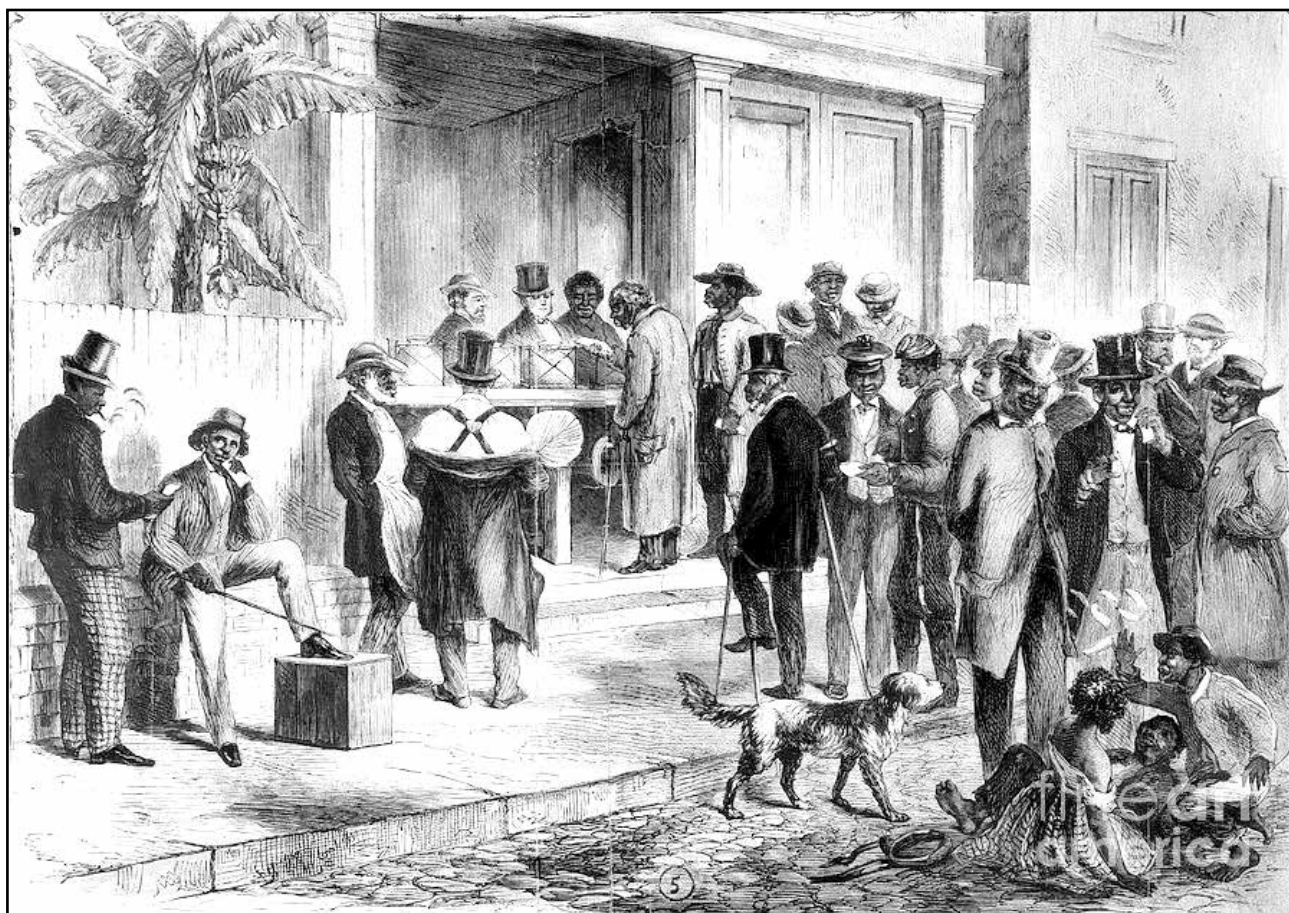
We have a rich history in this City and post-Katrina things are changing. So it is important that we elect leaders that support the continuation of the presence of African-Americans in leadership position, and being at the table when decisions regarding the future and the direction of the City are being discussed. And this

must happen in a way that it is not simply as tokens that are being paraded around and telling our community that we are being included, and that their individual position equals our progress. It is not until the least of our citizens have access to opportunities that lift them out of poverty.

Real progress is when we see the gaps in inequality in this City decrease. This will happen when we have leadership who will once again be bold enough and have enough integrity to not put themselves and their political allies before the people of this City. This is the way you make history, by rewriting the past wrongs and by eradicating the unequal access to opportunities that continue to exist in a City that while very cosmopolitan in its history is still very segregated in its everyday existence, by class, and race.

So when you go to the polls, vote for the person of your choice that aligns with how you want to see your City moving forward, but at the same time that have respect for your history, traditions and contribution to the City. Today tokenism and symbolism is not enough, we need people who are courageous enough to fight for those whose voices are not always heard. So by voting you can put someone there that speaks to this issue. Voting is something that can level the playing field because all votes count the same whether it is a millionaire on St. Charles Ave or a waiter who lives in Central City. It is one person one vote.

This is the beauty of our great experiment in democracy, one that we continue to amend to make ourselves into a more perfect union. It is in this day that those who were once considered 3/5ths a person or had no rights and Whites were bound to respect can today stand on equal footing in the voting booth and choose people who will represent them. Today this is under attack and we must be vigilant in securing the rights so many great people fought for. So in voting we honor our great historical figures and we also take part in shaping our own history.





# Obama Scores Points with State of the Union

WASHINGTON — The polls say that President Barack Obama is at a low point, but you couldn't tell it from the tour de force of his State of the Union speech.

He was standing at the podium, but seemed to have a spring in his step. His smile was winning; his enthusiasm for America's future infectious.

Masking the modesty of his proposals in the energy and confidence of his presence, the president launched the pivotal year of his second term with a shrewdly relentless focus on the use of his own power to change policy and convene, shame and inspire other sectors of society.

With the exception of a few minutes on foreign policy — the core of which was to declare an end of the era of "permanent war" — Obama zeroed in on proposals to extend the economic recovery to all Americans, not just to Wall Street investors and CEOs.

Some were merely aspirational: "convening" meetings, "hosting" summits. Others were small tweaks in federal policy, sold on the basis that they would inspire or implore the rest of America — Republicans in Congress or leaders in the private sector — to go along.

Facing Congressional Republicans poised to say "no" on almost every legislative front — with the possible exception of immigration reform — the president made a virtue of necessity by promising to use his own executive powers



to raise wages, train workers and entice the private and non-profit sectors to do their part to create jobs, use new technology and lure investors to the U.S.

"America does not stand still and neither will I," he declared, and with his broad smile and upbeat delivery he sounded convincing.

Obama side-stepped sweeping legislative or ideological proposals on big-ticket items such as tax reform, entitlements, trade or social justice. For the most part, he avoided any invitations to confrontation with his Republican congressional adversaries, other than to almost teasingly warn them away from

trying to dismantle Obamacare.

He insisted that he wanted Congress to raise the minimum wage and extend long-term unemployment benefits. But both ideas have widespread public support and are essentially pragmatic fixes long considered to be par of the American mainstream.

Facing implacable opposition from Republicans on the Hill, Obama is choosing to go around them where he can. Knowing how unpopular he among the GOP base, he will shy away from table-pounding pronouncements that would only inflame the other side.

The White House strategy for 2014 is simple enough: ignore

Congress (for the most part); be busy, purposeful, detail-oriented and reasonable; and hope that a rising tide of an improving economy will lift all boats — including the president's own.

In his State of the Union address, Barack Obama promised to use 32 executive actions and the example-setting and convening powers of his office to drive in economic upturns on behalf of working people.

The goal is a politically indispensable one: to slowly but surely pull the president's job-approval rating up from the low-40 percent in which it has been mired since the fall.

The approval rating number is not just a media plaything, though it is that. It matters greatly to members of Congress — Republicans and Democrats alike — and to the Democrats' shaky chances of holding onto their slim majority in the U.S. Senate.

The rest of the president's strategic reasoning has to do with his assessment of his opposition. He thinks that if he plays things cautiously now — if he avoids giving GOP adversaries a big target — they will self-destruct.

"You can always count on them to say something stupid," he has told his aides.

So that was the strategy in the State of the Union: Speak grandly of relatively uncontroversial things, and hope that the GOP overplays its hand.

Small ball, but runs scored.

Curry/ Continued from page 8.

country, and sometimes it's hard to disentangle those issues."

Obama is not the only one who thinks race drives many of his opponents. A Rasmussen poll last November found: "One-in-four voters believes racism is the driving factor behind opposition to his [Obama's] policies."

While Obama is unlikely to make any progress on race, he hopes that anger over huge corporate profits and record Wall Street gains will be a rallying point for both Democrats and Republicans.

According to the Tax Policy

Center, the top fifth of the population receives 66 percent of tax-expenditure benefits, the middle 60 percent of the population receives a little more than 31 percent of tax-expenditure benefits, the bottom fifth receives just 2.8 percent of tax-expenditure benefits and the top 1 percent of the population receives 23.9 percent of tax-expenditure benefits. And the report pointed out, "That's more than eight times as much as the bottom fifth of the population, and nearly as much as the middle 60 percent of the population."

Republicans, traditional protectors of the rich, aren't likely to join President Obama in trying to narrow the gap between rich and poor. And they're even less likely to do so in a mid-term election year, a time the party in power usually loses seats in Congress.

George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of Emerge magazine, is editor-in-chief of the National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service (NNPA.) He is a keynote speaker, moderator, and media coach. Curry can be reached through his Web site, [www.georgecurry.com](http://www.georgecurry.com). You can also follow him at [www.twitter.com/currygeorge](http://www.twitter.com/currygeorge) and George E. Curry Fan Page on Facebook.



**subscribe**  
to data chatta  
New Orleans in your inbox

**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 \$\$\$  
\$\$\$\$\$

Can you use some extra cash? Try Avon!!! Avon is easy to sell, no experience necessary. It cost only \$10.00 to start.

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.

**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 drivers license
- Must have a truck/van/SUV and must be insured.
- Must have a thorough knowledge of the City of New Orleans
- Work days are Thursday, Friday, Saturday, flexible schedule on those days.

This is a paid, Part-time Position.

**Contact Terry at Data News  
Weekly to apply.**

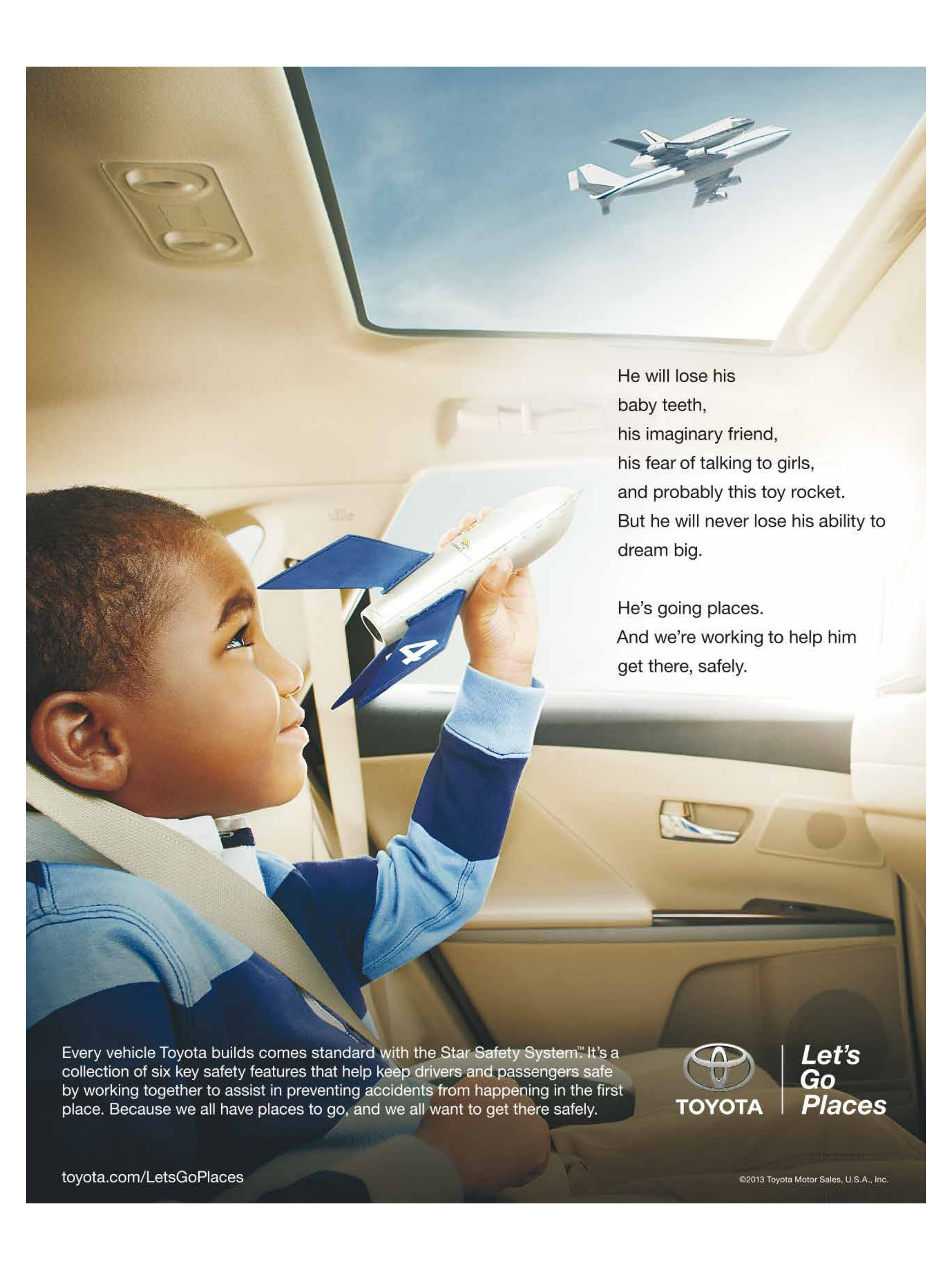
**(504) 821-7421**

This space can be  
yours for only \$80

**Call Now!**

**504-821-7421**





He will lose his  
baby teeth,  
his imaginary friend,  
his fear of talking to girls,  
and probably this toy rocket.  
But he will never lose his ability to  
dream big.

He's going places.  
And we're working to help him  
get there, safely.

Every vehicle Toyota builds comes standard with the Star Safety System™. It's a collection of six key safety features that help keep drivers and passengers safe by working together to assist in preventing accidents from happening in the first place. Because we all have places to go, and we all want to get there safely.



**Let's  
Go  
Places**

[toyota.com/LetsGoPlaces](http://toyota.com/LetsGoPlaces)

©2013 Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.