James Andrews
Ambassador of New Orleans Music and Culture
By Edwin Buggage

James Andrews is part of an amazing musical tradition of a City that continues to bless the world with great music. Over the years he has been at the forefront of New Orleans music as a great trumpet player and vocalist performer. He is affectionately known as “Satchmo of the Ghetto” named after an album and documentary that focused on him and his life in Treme. As we move into Jazz Fest, which is two weekends where the City is filled with people from all over the world attending an amazing festival that showcases some of the greatest in music, food and crafts; Andrews is a veteran of Jazz Fest performing there since he was a young boy growing up in Treme. Today he is all grown and is part of a great musical heritage that is being led by him and his family, adding to the great wellspring of music coming out of New Orleans. “I love doing Jazz Fest,” says Andrews. Continuing in his unmistakable “Treme” accent he says, “When we have crowds of this size getting exposed to the music it helps in keep...
ing the New Orleans musical legacy alive and the crowd and the festival is like no other in the world.”

Today his neighborhood is on the map in ways unimaginable. The place where his love of music began in the neighborhood of Treme’ is now a place where tourist and others come to experience authentic Black New Orleans. Speaking of his connection to his neighborhood as an important part of his identity as an artist and a person he says onstage he channels the energy of many of those whose shaped his life’s outlook and perspective, “When people come out and see me they are getting authentic New Orleans. I feel like I am an ambassador to Treme’, also I feel playing for the crowd at the Fair Grounds means so much because I grew up playing Jazz Fest. It brings back so many great memories having played at the festival ever since I started playing the trumpet. It means so much because when I am onstage, I feel I am representing the best of both Treme’ and my City to the world.”

Andrews believes that having a place for musicians to play inside of Treme’ is essential to continue the tradition of the great music coming out of the City. So he and his family came together to open Ooh Poo Pa Doo, named for the 1960 hit by Andrews grandfather the great New Orleans Singer Jesse Hill. “Although we gig in a lot of places we felt we wanted to create a venue for musicians to play at here in Treme’. I am also excited that we are seeing the reopening of the historic Carver Theater. I can remember growing up seeing movies and I am glad they put a lot of effort into making it a venue for music and other events to help further revitalize Treme’.

Jazz Fest brings back fond memories for Andrews, as he reminisces about his grandfather Jessie Hill playing Jazz Fest, “Every year we went to Jazz Fest with my grandfather,” recalls Andrews, “He used to take us over there and we would tap dance with him onstage at his shows. It always brings back memories for me thinking about the older generations for the guys that are not around anymore. I think about now as I am getting older playing these gigs and continuing the tradition, and it is an honor and privilege to play the fest knowing that all those great people played on, and we are carrying the torch for the next generation.”

As the City have changed post Katrina in ways both good and bad, from a musician’s standpoint Andrews sees in some aspects it is a good thing but in respect to the culture he feels the City suffered a loss, “I definitely feel the changes after Katrina are good, I think people go out more to hear live music and there are more venues to play around town, and more opportunities to go away and perform. Also I feel there is more appreciation for New Orleans Musicians after Katrina. But I feel with so many people who were not able to return something was lost, some of the authenticity, and I can’t explain it but it was a feeling that seems to be lost. Because I feel what makes the City special is the people and without them some of that magic is no longer there. “On a lighter note he speaks of how he got his nickname Satchmo of the Ghetto, I’ve always loved and admired Louis Armstrong and I would always play and sing his songs at an early age and that became my nickname on the street.”

In recent years the Andrews name has become synonymous with great music. Andrews’ younger brother Troy “Trombone Shorty” Andrews has become a breakout star and is closing the Jazz Fest on the Acura Stage. Also his cousin Glen David Andrews has also become a rising star. Speaking with pride on his brother and cousin’s success he says, “I am glad to see them reaching their full potential and setting the bar higher for musicians from New Orleans. I remember taking them to different gigs and showing them the ropes like my grand father did me and I am glad to see them become successful.”

All of the Andrews will be performing on separate stages on the final day of Jazz Fest. And with all of their shows they are all great performers that know how to put on an amazing set. James Andrews in the spirit of Satchmo says he wants his audience to leave his set feeling good. And as Pharrell Williams monster hit “Happy” blazes the airwaves everywhere, it is James Andrews that’s been accomplishing this on stage for decades and does not see an end in sight of his great performances. Saying of what his desired effect of his shows he says, “When people leave my show I want them to be happy and feel like wow they’ve had a great time. My show is about a great time. It is about a good time in New Orleans, something that gives them that old good time New Orleans feeling.”

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Today, James Andrews is part of a great musical heritage that is being led by he and his family, adding to the great weltering of music coming out of New Orleans.
By James Wright

NNPA - National Urban League President Marc Morial has joined a new gun-control advocacy organization that aims to galvanize Americans to end gun violence.

Everytown for Gun Safety, founded earlier this week with the support of former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, was formed to counter powerful pro-gun lobbyists on Capitol Hill.

Morial, a former mayor of New Orleans, is familiar with the pain and destruction that gun violence can cause.

“Gun violence has often primarily been associated with poor, urban neighborhoods,” Morial said. “But the truth is that gun violence can and does happen everywhere. The common denominator is easy access to guns.”

Bloomberg, who has been a force in the Mayors against Illegal Guns organization and Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, has committed $50 million to help the organization, which also has the support of billionaire business magnate Warren Buffett.

Morial points out that gun violence kills 86 Americans daily and “yet the U.S. Congress has failed to enact legislation requiring comprehensive gun background checks, despite overwhelmingly public support.”

“In an effort to press for change in Washington and move beyond Congress to bring common-sense gun policies to state capitols, corporate boards and state and federal elections, Everytown’s supporters will back candidates and legislation aimed at saving lives and raise awareness around urgent gun safety issues,” Morial said.

Morial, who will serve on Everytown’s advisory board with Bloomberg and Buffett, said that fighting gun violence has long been a part of his public life.

“This is a fight to which I have been committed — whether being the first U.S. mayor to bring suit against major gun manufacturers to hold them accountable for their part in the senseless cycle of violence or focusing on the reduction of gun violence in the name of public health and community safety at the National Urban League,” he said.
Kayla Neville

The Voice of a New Generation

by: Edwin Buggage

Kayla Neville is a young woman who is poised to become a leader of her generation. As a senior at De LaSalle High School she is working to create awareness around stopping the violence on the streets of New Orleans; something that plaguing our community and threatens the future hopes and dreams of many young people. “I wanted to work to help others, especially teens like myself from different backgrounds. I realize some do not have access to the same opportunities I’ve had, so I am working to make a difference in the lives of others.”

Continuing she says on the origins of her giving spirit she says, “I come from a family of volunteers and I was always taught that it is better to give than to receive, so that is what I am trying to do.”

Whether it is real or imagined some feel that young people do not have the desire to be civically engaged. This is something that Kayla feels is not necessarily true, that in fact young people do want to get involved, but Kayla feels that there is a disconnect between the generations. “I feel that some older people think young people aren’t listening, but we are. Also I feel that young people have the desire to respond and want to do something about the issues that affect our community, but sometimes we don’t know how. But I think it is about the young and old communicating better to bridge the generation gap and create better understanding to address the issues facing our community, especially those that affect my generation.”

Recently, Kayla won a $2500 college scholarship essay contest sponsored by local radio station WQUE-FM Q93, Attorney Morris Bart, Crimestoppers and other businesses. In her essay she wrote how she would create a non-violent community and since her winning she has shared her essay with other students at schools and leaders with discussions hopes that violence in New Orleans can be reduced especially among ages 24 and under. “I am glad that I had the opportunity to have my voice heard, being able to reach people, and hopefully have them beginning to think about how we can stop the violence in our community,” remarks Neville.

Recently, Kayla has been a three year active Teen Council member of NORDC, a Eucharistic Minister, member of campus ministry, student council member, cheerleader, a runner-up in The Miss New Orleans Pageant 2013 and a member of the De LaSalle High School Student Council. In addition Kayla has been a three year active Teen Council member of NORDC, a Eucharistic Minister, member of campus ministry, student council member, cheerleader, a runner-up in The Miss New Orleans Pageant 2013 and a member of the De LaSalle High School Student Council. In addition Kayla has been a three year active Teen Council member of NORDC, a Eucharistic Minister, member of campus ministry, student council member, cheerleader, a runner-up in The Miss New Orleans Pageant 2013 and a member of the De LaSalle High School Student Council.

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Bottle Trees
Poor Man’s Stained Glass or Garden Earrings

By MG Calla Victoria

Bottle trees are becoming increasingly popular as ornamentation in gardens all over America. Sometimes called "poor man's stained glass" or "garden earrings," these glistening tall glass and metal sculptures add lots of bling to any garden decor. Although a fabulous addition to any landscape, bottle trees are not a new concept, in fact they originated a very long time ago during the ninth century in the African Congo. The central Africans tribes believed that evil spirits could be captured in bottles, so they placed glass bottles dangling from twine or stuck on top of sticks near their homes to trap the evils spirits that prowl during the night. When the sun came out the next day it created extreme heat in the glass bottles thus burning up the evil spirits. Also bottle trees altars were a way for the Africans to honor deceased relatives. You may remember seeing bottles dangling from trees in the movie “Ray” and stuck on dead tree branches in the movie “O Brother Where Art Thou.”

With the colonization of America, the bottle tree tradition traveled along with enslaved Africans to America's Deep South. The slaves placed bottles on crepe myrtle trees, as myrtle trees recur in the Old Testament being associated with the Hebrew slaves getting their freedom. Although much of the folklore is long forgotten or that some considered it a pagan ritual, bottle trees are on the rise. Some clever person has even come up with a botanical name for the whimsical bottle tree; it is called Silica transparencii (for "clear glass).

If you are interested in adding a bottle tree to your garden you can find them at most upscale garden centers and online, or you can make your own. To construct a bottle tree you can use any color bottles, but cobalt blue is the most desired color in the folklore tradition because the blues of the water and sky places the bottle tree at the crossroads of heaven and earth, also blue is said to be the most calming color. You can use any size bottle; however longer necked bottles have less chance of blowing off the branches. The bottles are placed upside down with the neck facing the trunk of the tree. There are many how-to videos on bottle tree construction online as well. Most gardening centers sell bottle trees constructed from rebar to make the metal tree branches, but long branches of dead trees work just fine.

Check out my "Gardening Tip of the Week" at www.thegardeningdiva.com

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

Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these features.
Harrah’s Casino was the place to be for the All White Easter Jam. Data News Weekly VP of Sales, Glenn Jones and other friends helped make the night unforgettable, so of course, Data was there! 

Photos by Glenn Summers
As we approach May 17, the 60th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s Brown v. Board of Education landmark decision outlawing “separate but equal” schools, several studies show that our schools are more segregated now than they were three decades ago. And there are no indications that things are likely to change for the better in the foreseeable future.

A report by the Economic Policy Institute (EPI) titled, “Brown v. Board at 60,” concluded, “Today, things are getting worse. The typical black student now attends a school where only 29 percent of his or her fellow students are white, down from 36 percent in 1980. Actually there were two Brown decisions. The first, in 1954, outlawed racially segregated public schools, which had been defended as “separate but equal.” Faced with foot-dragging by intransigent school officials in the Deep South, the Supreme Court issued a second ruling in 1955, sometimes called Brown II, declaring that the schools had to be desegregated “with all deliberate speed.” But speed was nowhere to be found. Two years after the court ruling, no Black child attended schools with a White student in eight of the 11 former Confederate states, including Alabama.

The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR), a coalition of nearly 200 organizations, noted, “It took ten years after Brown, but beginning with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the nation committed to desegregation and it worked. Courts and executive agencies consistently supported desegregation plans and from 1968 to 1988, as more schools integrated, academic achievement increased for African American students.” However, that progress stalled. “…The legal and political tide turned against integration during the 1980s,” LCCR observed. “Courts stopped ordering desegregation plans and began dismantling existing plans – both court-ordered and voluntary. Federal agencies stopped aggressive enforcement and by 1989 schools were beginning to resegregate, reversing many of the academic gains of the previous 20 years.”

Upon entering office in 1981, President Ronald Reagan set the political climate for retribution. And so did an increasingly conservative Supreme Court. But some African-American leaders also played a role in dismantling desegregation. An investigation of regresegregation in the South, conducted by ProPublica, focused on Tuscaloosa, Ala., my hometown. The city had been under a federal desegregation decree since 1979. In 1993, with Tuscaloosa vying for a new Mercedes-Benz plant, business leaders decided it was time for them to make a move. “Publicly, the city’s movers and shakers said the lack of neighborhood schools made the district unattractive … Behind closed doors, they argued that if they did not create some schools where white students made up the majority – or near it – they’d lose the white parent dollars still remaining,” the investigation found. “Districts under desegregation orders aren’t supposed to take actions that increase racial separation. And so the city’s leadership decided the desegregation order needed to go, and they believed the time was ripe for a court to agree.”

The court did agree to bow out after some Black leaders went along with the plan. “The roster of witnesses lined up behind the school board shocked many in the black community,” ProPublica reported. “It included some of the city’s most influential black leaders, including a city councilman, a state senator, and Judge John England, Jr…Rumors spread within the community that England’s and others’ support had been part of a secret arrangement with white leaders.”

Curry, Continued on page 11.
The Welcome Table New Orleans is ready to look closely at the impact instead of a negative impact.

The Welcome Table New Orleans, in partnership with the Urban League of Greater New Orleans and the St. Roch Community Church in St. Roch, will be held on Monday, April 29th, at 6:00 pm at New Hope Baptist Church in Central City and Tuesday, April 29th at 6:00 pm at St. Roch Community Church in St. Roch. Anyone interested in learning more about The Welcome Table New Orleans initiative will be held on Monday, April 29th at 6:00 pm at New Hope Baptist Church in Central City and Tuesday, April 29th at 6:00 pm at St. Roch Community Church in St. Roch. Anyone interested in learning more about the initiative is invited to attend one of two sessions.

For more information about The Welcome Table New Orleans, contact Deputy Mayor Judy Reese Morse, jrmorse@nola.gov or 504-658-4930.
Footwork Therapy

Rachel Carrico
Second Liner Profile Series for Data News Weekly

Tyree Smith, Secretary of Family Ties Social Aid and Pleasure Club, gets a certain sparkle in his eye when he talks about second lining. “The music—it just takes you away from everything. The music is just amazing. It’s therapy for a lot of people, and I know I’m one of the people that it’s therapy for.” Dancing through the streets on Sunday afternoons provides Smith, and many others, with a form of mental, physical, and even spiritual healing that he relies on as a weekly “stress reliever.”

Smith, who grew up in the Seventh Ward, attended his first second-line at the age of 13 when some friends brought him along. “I was like, ‘What’s going on?’ I didn’t really know what a second-line was.” But once he was introduced, he was hooked. “When I saw what people were doing, and how people were having fun, then I thought that that was something I wanted to do.” He set about perfecting his footwork, with help of mentors along the way. Despite the fact that second-line dancing is, first and foremost, “do whatcha wanna,” Smith struggled to master the footwork. “It was real hard because, at first, I couldn’t keep up.” When he started second-lining in the early 1990s, a faster tempo of brass band music, mixed with hip hop influences, was gaining serious popularity amongst second-liners, who in turn innovated quicker footwork techniques. Smith dedicated himself to studying it. “I started going [to second-lines] on the regular—whether it was uptown, downtown—and I just started watching people. And I was like, ‘Oh, I got that move. Oh, I got that move. OK, I can do this, I can do that.’ So I just put all that together and created my own style.”

Today, Smith is encouraging younger generations to follow in his footsteps—literally—in keeping the tradition alive. He looks forward to his own children parading someday. He also founded a new division of Family Ties, called D2, to provide an opportunity for younger men to experience the exhilaration of parading inside the ropes. D2, which stands for “Division 2” of Family Ties, came out the door for the first time on October 6, 2013. Long before that, they had established themselves as a presence on the sidelines, as each Sunday, club members and supporters sported a new D2 T-shirt. “We had a movement going on. We called it the D2 Movement.”

The D2 Movement came to an end not long after their debut parade, due to a growing public perception that the club was involved with illegal activities, and not just dedicated to parading. Smith firmly denounces these accusations. “We’re just about having fun, making people laugh. We’re about the tradition. It’s something that we try to keep going. I want everybody to know that D2 is a Social Aid and Pleasure Club.” He concludes wistfully, “It was great while it lasted, it was.”

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Data News Weekly, your one stop for what’s happening in New Orleans.
Jackson, Miss., Mayor Lumumba’s Legacy Remembered

By Margaret Summers

Washington, D.C.-area friends and supporters of the late Jackson, Miss., Mayor Chokwe Lumumba gathered on Saturday, April 12 at the David A. Clarke UDC School of Law in Northwest to honor the human rights activist and former "people’s attorney." More than 60 people attended the event.

Lumumba took office as Jack- son’s mayor on July 1, 2013. Barely eight months into his term, he died on February 25, 2014 at age 66. He was eight months into his term, he died.

"Freed from court oversight, "Chokwe” after the slain 1960s Congolese anti-colonialist and prime minister Patrice Lumumba.

Chokwe Lumumba’s son Chok- we Antar Lumumba, 31, who is also an attorney, is running for mayor of Jackson in the Tuesday, April 22 special election.

"My father had a dream, a pur- pose, to create a new way of gov- erning by, for, and including the people," Rukia Lumumba told the memorial service audience. "My brother helped my father create that plan. My brother was bred to do an academic work. We know nothing else but to love and serve the people.

She said her father believed in participatory democracy and self- determination through people’s assemblies or town meetings, and worker-owned businesses.

Her mother Nubia, who died in 2003, supported and nurtured her father’s vision. "She grew up in Anacostia. D.C. was her hometown. I feel like it’s my home, too," Rukia Lumumba said.

Part of Chokwe Lumumba’s legacy is an upcoming conference on Sunday, May 4 to Monday, May 5 at Jackson State University. "Jackson Rising: The New Economies Conference" will focus on growing and diversifying Jackson’s econ- omy. Chokwe Lumumba and the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, which Lumumba co-founded, are listed among the conference’s co- sponsors.

Chokwe Lumumba(August 2, 1947 – February 25, 2014) was a human rights lawyer, and Mayor of Jackson, Mississippi. Lumumba was born in Detroit, Michigan, as Edwin Finley Taliaferro, the second child of eight born to Lucien and Priscilla Taliaferro. He was elected mayor of Jackson, Mississippi on June 4, 2013.

revolutionary” as an accolade, said Jonathan Davis of the National Con- ference of Black Lawyers (NCBL) in New York. Davis said NCBL, to which Lumumba belonged, serves as the legal arm of the black lib- eration movement. “Wherever [Lu- mumba] went, it was to meet op- pression head on."

Davis knew Lumumba when both attended Wayne State Uni- versity in Detroit, Mich. Lumumba was a law student, and Davis was an undergraduate student. “Lumumba was lionhearted as an attorney,” Davis said. "He represented his clients so ferociously, he was sometimes found in contempt of court by a contemptible [court] system." Lumumba’s clients included Black Panther Geronimo Pratt, who was falsely accused of murder, and rap- per Tupac Shakur, who was cleared of aggravated assault charges.

John Brittain of the David A. Clarke UDC School of Law, met Lu- mumba in the 1970s in Mississippi. Lumumba was still a law student and Brittain had only been out of law school for two years when they worked together on a case involv- ing RNA defendants. It was hoped that he would help Lumumba’s clients. "Lumumba told me he wasn’t running for him- self, he was running to empower the people [of Jackson],” Brittain said. "He viewed [becoming a city official] as revolutionary, a part of building a community of people in Jackson who stand in opposition to oppression." Lumumba was born Edwin Fin- ley Taliaferro in Detroit, Mich., the second of eight children. As a child, he helped his mother collect child support for her child, he helped his mother collect child support for her child.

John Brittain of the David A.

Curry, Continued from page 8.

A person with direct knowl- edge of the arrangement con- firmed to me that a deal was in- deed made whereby a new Black school would be constructed on the predominantly Black west side of town in exchange for sup- porting an end of the court-ordered desegregation. However, after extracting what they wanted- ed from Black officials, Whites reneged on the deal and no new school was erected.

"Freed from court oversight, Tuscaloosa’s schools have seemed to move backwards in time,” according to the Pro- Publica report. "The citywide in- tegrated high school is gone, re- placed by three smaller schools. Central [the former high school that served the entire city] re- tains the name of the old pow- erhouse, but nothing more. A struggling school serving the city’s poorest part of town, it is 99 percent black."

Other cities have undergone similar experiences. A scholarly study at Stanford University found, “Over 200 medium-sized and large districts were released from desegrega- tion court orders from 1991 to 2009. We find that racial school segregation in these districts increased gradually following release from court order...’

Another reason schools are being segregated is that seg- regated housing patterns have remained intact.

“Schools remain segregated because neighborhoods in which they are located are segregat- ed,” said the EPI report. "Rais- ing achievement of low-income black children requires resi- dential integration, from which school integration can flow."

Without dismantling segregat- ed residential housing patterns and getting federal courts or the Justice Department to retain some jurisdiction over court- ordered desegregation plans, public schools are on a path to return to their pre-Brown status of being separate and unequal.

George E. Curry, former editor- in-chief of Emerge magazine, is editor-in-chief of the National Newspaper Publishers Associa- tion News Service (NNPA).
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