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New Orleans

# Data

News Weekly

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St. Peter Claver Jazz Extravaganza

Data Zone Page 6

October 18 - October 24, 2014 49th Year Volume 25 [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com)

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

# It's Your FUTURE

# Voting Matters

... how hard is that?

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New NOPD Chief Named

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Mary Landrieu



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# Voting Matters 2014



By Edwin Buggage

As we approach the November 4th Primary Election we at Data News Weekly in the name of promoting civic engagement and voting; in this issue we will focus on early voting. In this election early voting begins on October 21st and runs thru October 28th for the Primary Election that will be held on November 4th and on November 22nd thru 29th for General Election that is on December 6th. These are the locations in New Orleans:

**City Hall**  
1300 Perdido St.,  
Room #1W23  
New Orleans, LA 70112

**Algiers Office (Courthouse)**  
225 Morgan St.,  
Room #105  
New Orleans, LA 70114  
504.658.8323

**Voting Machine Warehouse\***  
8870 Chef  
Mentour Highway  
New Orleans, LA 70127  
504.658.8300

**Lake Vista Community Center\***  
6500 Spanish Fort Blvd  
2nd Floor Meeting Room  
New Orleans, LA 70124  
504.658.8300

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## 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

Edwin Buggage

Editor

Calla Victoria

Executive Assistant

June Hazeur

Accounting

### Contributors

Edwin Buggage

James Washington

Julianne Malveaux

The Bookworm Sez

Ryan Gabrielson, Ryann

Grochowski Jones and Eric

Sagara

John McCusker

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.

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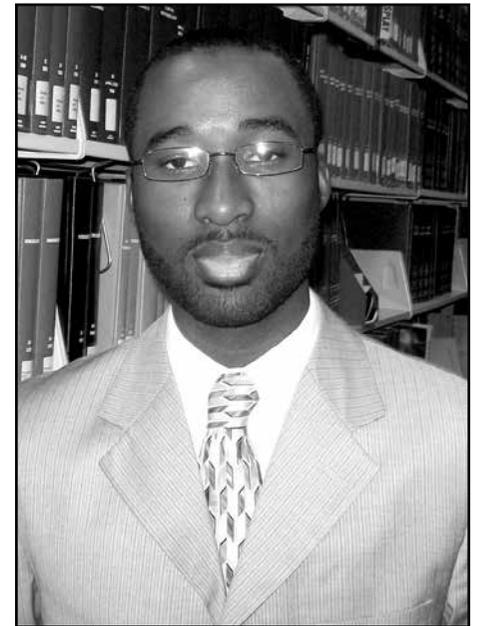
Viola T. Johnson



Herbert McGuin



Vincent Sylvain



Cameron Mims

### Getting Out the Vote

There are many groups that are working to promote early voting especially during this election since the primary will be held on Tuesday and not the normal Saturday when elections are normally held in Louisiana. "One of the things we try to stress is the importance of early voting because there are things sometimes that can get happen that may prevent someone from voting. And since this election is on a Tuesday, there are more factors that may prevent some from getting to the polls to cast a ballot, so I am encouraging people to take advantage of early voting," says Vincent Sylvain, who serves as the Louisiana Coordinator of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, an organization that does outreach to promote voting.

Voter registration drives have been going on all over the City with the goal of getting more people civically active. Herbert McGuin, is a Librarian at Xavier University has partnered with Dr. Pamela Moore who teaches Political Science at Xavier to get more young people signed up to vote. "It has been a mostly positive experience" says McGuin. "I have gotten a cross section of kids' information about voting in addition to some registering. But I realize this is only the first step, voter education is also important so I talk to them about learning the issues so they can become informed voters."

While it is encouraging during election season to see so many outreach efforts to get people involved in voting, but there are some that feel voting registration and education should be a year round affair. For it is the thing that can empower the community, "At Ashé, we use art and culture for community and

economic development. Therefore, to stay true to our mission, it is imperative that we connect with community. Voting gives us a voice, so we can never be disconnected from politics. We have to engage, use our collective power to make change. We can't grow our communities, our cities, etc., without being a part of the process," says Viola Johnson, Communications Director for the Ashe Cultural Center. Continuing on the importance of voting she says, "So Voter Registration is of paramount importance because we know that, we don't do periodic drives here at Ashé. Our Executive Director, Carol Bebel, wants us registering folks daily. Any member of the community can come in and fill out an application to vote, all year long. It's that simple."

### What is at Stake?

As mentioned in my last piece regarding voting, African-Americans voted at a higher percentage than Whites during the last Presidential Election. But closer to home many continue to be absent from the polls they must realize that every election is important. "Some feel mid-term elections as not being important, it does not have the cache as when it's the President or Mayor's race. But we try to let people know that they are just as important because in these elections they determine whether or not the president is going to be able to carry out their agenda, says Vincent Sylvain. "In the case of President Obama in his first term we saw the Democrats lose several seats in the House of Representatives and as a consequence the majority is now Republican and the result is stagnation taking place in the government. The House going one-way and the Senate the other has hampered some of

the initiatives President Obama has tried to move forward."

The level of gridlock on Capitol Hill is unprecedented leaving the people of the U.S. frustrated with U.S. Congressional approval ratings being at record lows. This is something that motivated many to get involved. Herbert McGuin says he has become frustrated with the way things are going in Washington D.C. and realize that it affects what is also going on at the local and state level, "Part of why I became incensed and wanted to get involved was sparked by a radio show hosted by Joe Madison, he was saying that if Republicans take the U.S. Senate they would try to make an impeachment run on President Obama and try to make that part of his legacy. And while I am not pleased with everything he's done it is better than many of his predecessors particularly George W. Bush."

Vincent Sylvain cannot stress enough how important he feels this election is, and one race in particular for him that is of great concern is the re-election battle Democratic Senator Mary Landrieu finds herself in, "The Battle for the Senate is a race I am looking at and feel is the most important one on the ballot in November. She is being challenged by several candidates with one being a Republican and considered a major challenger. This seat for Louisiana could change the balance of power in the U.S. Senate. What's at stake is the direction of governmental policies that can affect the voters. If Landrieu is defeated what you are going to see is the progressive agenda challenged. We will see an effort to block voting, a more aggressive stance around putting policies in place around immigration; also an attack on entitlement programs and the list goes on and on. That's why it is important to

participate because your way of life is going to be affected by the outcome of what happens November 4th; we are looking at the balance of power of this country being determined based on who gets elected or re-elected."

### Voting and the Voice of Generation Next

Cameron Mims is a sophomore at Xavier University and has been involved in the community since a very young age. His father is well-

Cover Story, Continued on page 11.

Elect **NAKISHA Ervin-Knott**  
CIVIL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE - DIV. D



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# NOPD Gets New Chief

*Mayor Landrieu gives Nod to Interim Chief Michael Harrison*

## Data News Weekly Staff Report

On Tuesday evening during the Night Out Against Crime event in Algiers, Mayor Mitch Landrieu gave the nod to Interim Chief Michael Harrison, choosing him to fill the position permanently, and ushering in a new era in the New Orleans Police Department.

7th District Cmdr. Michael Harrison was elevated to the interim position two months ago after the unexpected retirement of Ronal Serpas.

Prior to being tapped to serve as Interim Chief, Harrison spent 23 years rising through the ranks before Landrieu chose him for the top job.

At the time, Landrieu said that Serpas' departure after four tumultuous



Mayor Mitch Landrieu listens as Michael Harrison speaks after Landrieu made him police chief at a Night Out Against Crime event in Algiers. (photo by John McCusker)

Cmdr. Harrison represents what that looks like."

Harrison, said he'll focus on relationships within and outside law enforcement, "building the ones that were never built and repairing the ones that were broken." He continued, "I think I'm the poster child that there's no more glass ceiling."

The announcement was met by applause from a range of elected officials, from City Councilman Jason Williams, who called Harrison "the perfect person for the job," to District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro and Sheriff Marlin Gusman.

"He's reached out to everybody. That's the mark of a great leader," Gusman said.

With the support of several district commanders, the new chief expounded on five priorities under his watch for a department that has seen its ranks reduced by about 30 percent in four years, while still required to implement the vast slate of court-mandated reforms under the federal consent decree.

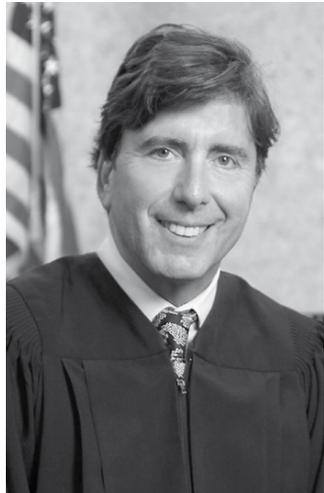
Harrison said he expects to build

manpower in the department, reduce crime and murders, revive a community policing initiative that has waned with the manpower shortage, comply with the demands of the consent decree and build more career development avenues within the force.

"We are rebuilding the NOPD from the top down," he said.

Harrison, is a 1987 graduate of McDonogh No. 35 High School, and joined the force in 1991. He was served as a detective in the major case narcotics section, then 8th District sergeant in 1999. He moved to the department's Public Integrity Bureau as a supervisor in 2000, and in 2009 he was named an assistant commander in the 7th District, which covers the majority of New Orleans East.

Harrison served as commander of the Special Investigations Division from January 2011 to 2012, managing the NOPD's criminal intelligence, narcotics, vice and gang enforcement units. He later was promoted to district commander.



RE-ELECT JUDGE  
**CHRIS BRUNO**  
*Civil District Court ~ Division F*

## ENDORSEMENTS

Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu  
State Representative Neil Abramson  
State Senator John Alario  
State Senator Conrad Appel  
Clerk of Court Dale N. Atkins  
State Representative Jeff Arnold  
State Representative Austin Badon  
First City Court Constable Lambert Boissiere, Jr.  
Council-Member Jared Brossett  
Council-Member LaToya Cantrell  
Council-Member Susan G. Guidry  
Sheriff Orleans Parish Marlin Gusman  
Council-Member Stacy Head  
State Senator David Heitmeier  
State Representative Nicholas Lorusso  
State Representative Walter Leger, III  
State Representative Helena Moreno  
Criminal District Court Clerk of Court Arthur Morrell  
State Senator Jean Paul Morrell  
State Senator Ed Murray  
Council-Member Jason Williams

### FORMER OFFICIAL'S ENDORSEMENTS

Former Congressman Anh "Joseph" Cao  
Former State Senator Diana Bajoie  
Former Second City Clerk of Court Marty Broussard  
Former Council-Member James Carter

Former Council-Member Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson  
Former Council-Member Cynthia W. Lewis  
Former Council-Member Cynthia Hedge Morrell  
Former Civil Sheriff Paul R. Valteau

### INTER-FAITH ENDORSEMENTS

Reverend Johnny R. Arvie  
Reverend Dr. Elvin J. Bazile, Jr.  
Reverend Rufus Bonds  
Reverend Gary Lee Curtis  
Reverend Dr. C.S. Gordon, Jr.  
Reverend Douglas Haywood  
Reverend Louis A. Jones  
Reverend Dr. Ernest Marcelle, Jr.  
Reverend Willie Montgomery  
Reverend Fred T. Porter  
Reverend Irvin Scales  
Pastor L. Gerome Smith  
Reverend Robert Turner  
Reverend Aubrey Wallace, Sr.  
Reverend Cedric Wilson  
Reverend Calvin W. Woods, Jr.

#61

**ALLIANCE**  
for good government

years "falls beautifully into the strategy to begin to develop the city for a new generation of leadership, and I believe that, at this time,

## Revelations of Goddesses Opens at Le Musee De F.P.C

Artist Eleanor Merritt's solo exhibit "Revelations of Goddesses" will be on display at Le Musée de f.p.c., 2336 Esplanade Ave., beginning with an opening reception at 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25. The exhibition will be on display through January 25, 2015.

"Reflections of Goddesses" is a retrospective that spans Merritt's 50 plus year career. The earliest painting is from 1957; and the most recent is from 2012. And the one continuous thread through her decades of work is the celebration of women.

"I always wanted to glorify women," Merritt says. "I'm still a feminist, and I went

through that whole time in the '70s when I was very active in the movement to help women artists receive the recognition that they hadn't been able to acquire in the '50s and '60s. So I've always wanted to show women as strong, powerful icons."

An art student at Brooklyn College CUNY in the 1950s, Merritt studied under renowned abstract painters Mark Rothko and Ad Rhinehart. She has become a trailblazer and passionate advocate for African American and women artists. She is a charter member of the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C.; and former board member and vice president of the Women's Caucus for Art. She has had more than 25 one-woman shows and her works have

traveled as far away as Shimoneski, Japan. She retired as chairperson of the art department in the Westbury NY school system and now lives in Sarasota, Fla.

Early on, Merritt made a name for herself with bold, figurative portraits of powerful African American women. By the late-1970s, her portraits became more abstract.

"I have always used figurative references in my work," Merritt says. "Over time these images have become more abstract and the painted surface very textural. My style continues to evolve with persistent exploration. As an artist, this journey has been one of constant experimentation and renewal of my creative force with each image I create."

ladatanews.com

# Dr. John Ruffin to Deliver Keynote at Dillard Founders' Day Convocation



Dr. John Ruffin

Dr. John Ruffin, founding director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), will deliver the keynote address at Founders' Day Convocation set for Sunday, October 19 at 3 p.m. in Lawless Memorial Chapel. The University will be celebrating its 145th anniversary. Founders' Day is designed to acknowledge the founding of the university and its historical benchmarks.

Ruffin, a 1965 Dillard University alumnus, is a well-respected leader and visionary in the field of minority health and health disparities. He has an impressive track record of developing and supporting programs to increase the number of minority scientists, physicians and health care professionals. The hallmark of his career has been his success in institutionalizing minority health and health disparities research within the organizational structure of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The NIMHD has been leading the way in facilitating cross-agency collaboration among federal government agencies and private partnerships and integrating science, policy, practice and community ef-

orts towards eliminating disparities in underserved populations.

Ruffin earned a M.S. in Biology from Atlanta University, a Ph.D. in systematic and developmental biology from Kansas State University and post-doctoral studies in biology at Harvard University.

A 'Sunday Dinner' – Bringing back a fading family tradition

Immediately following the convocation, The Ray Charles Program

for African American Material Culture will host a 'Sunday Dinner' in an effort to celebrate and bring back the tradition of family meals. The dinner will be served from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Kearny Dining Hall on Dillard's campus.

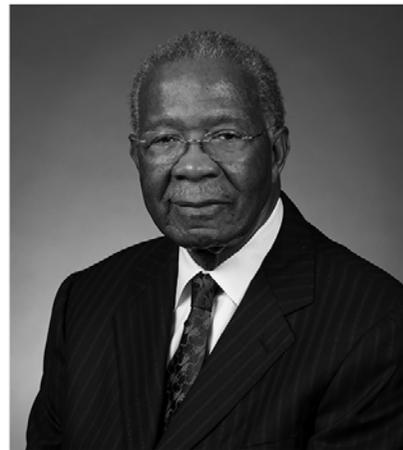
The inaugural "Dillard University Sunday Dinner," is a dining experience to fellowship and thank our most dedicated and valuable Alumni. This event will not only

provide a unique dining experience for guests, giving them a tour of traditional New Orleans and Southern cooking from featured New Orleans chefs, but also reawaken the customary practice of Sunday dinner. The menu includes baked potato soup, shrimp & grits, walnut and rum pie and many other delicious options. Featured chefs include Gason Nelson, Christian Green and Dillard Dining Services'

own Joel Williams for a taste of New Orleans and Down Home Southern Cooking.

Founders' Day Convocation and the Sunday Dinner are open to the public. There is no charge to attend to the convocation; however, inaugural Sunday Dinner is reasonably priced at \$10.15 excluding tax for individuals without a Dillard meal plan. For more information go to [dillard.edu](http://dillard.edu) or call

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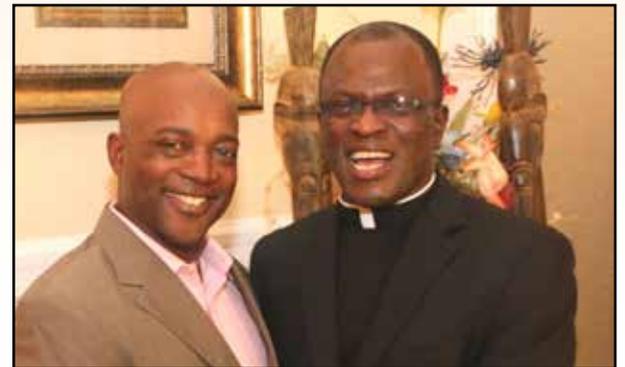
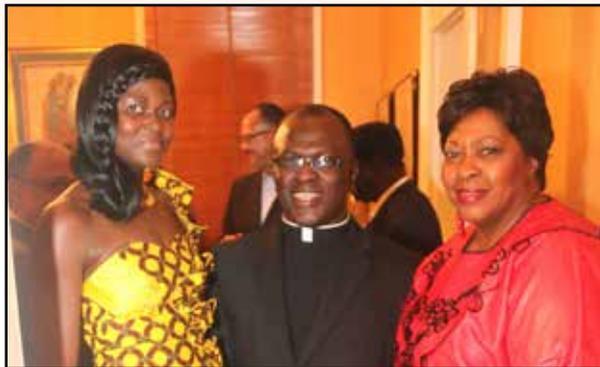


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## St. Peter Claver Jazz Extravaganza

Over 200 guests gathered at the Pre-Jazz Extravaganza VIP Reception hosted by Rev. J. Asare-Dankwah at his residence prior to the St Peter Claver Jazz Extravaganza. This highly anticipated event was attended by over 500 guests who marveled at the School hall which was transformed into SPC Music Hall. Mary Elizabeth Delatte Andry was the Supervising Producer and Paul West served as the Corporate Coordinator for the event which featured a champagne toast to Alvin "Carnival Time" Johnson for his Mardi Gras song "Carnival Time".



Visit [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com) for more photos from these events

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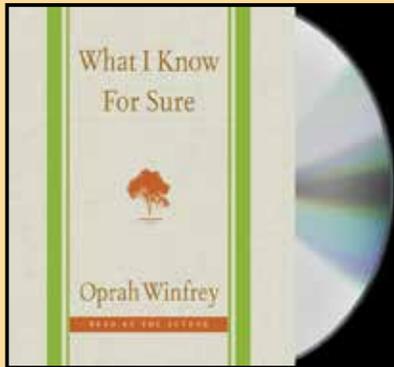
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# What I Know for Sure



“What I Know for Sure”  
By The Bookworm Sez  
“What I Know for Sure”  
by Oprah Winfrey  
c.2014, Macmillan Audiobook  
from Flatiron Books \$24.99 /  
\$28.99 Canada  
4 CDs / 4 hours

**Death and taxes.**

That’s what your father used to say were the only things in life that you could count on. Neither one was escapable; both were consistent.

You can also bet that night will follow day and that there’s good in the world somewhere. You know rules were meant to be broken and hearts can mend. And after listening to “What I Know for Sure” by Oprah Winfrey, you’ll learn a few other things you can pretty well rely on.

Years ago, during an interview, the great Gene Siskel asked Oprah Winfrey what she knew for sure. Winfrey was “at a complete loss for words...”

“At the end of the day,” she says, “what exactly do I know for sure?”

The answer was in fourteen years’ worth of her magazine columns – and in this book.

When she had Tina Turner on her show, for instance, Winfrey was nervous and self-conscious about being Turner’s back-up dancer – until, “in an instant,” she realized the joy of seizing the moment. Enjoy yourself,

she says, “because this moment is about to be over.”

Or take the word “delicious.” Winfrey says it applies to experiences and to foods – and “I know for sure that a meal that brings... real joy will do you more good” than just grazing through the refrigerator. And, for sure, there’s no law that says you have to clean your plate.

Treasure your neighbors and friends, she says, and take time to play. Read books. Look for connections with others, but remember that you control your own life. Know that who you are supposed to be has a lot to do with who you are now. Communicate, but know when to be quiet. Understand that love doesn’t have to be in the romantic sense.

Learn the power of “thank you” – and that includes gratitude for yourself and the body you’ve got. Take care of that body. Embrace growing older. Look for miracles. Be ready to give, but learn to say “no.”

And remember: “If you’re holding anyone else accountable for your hap-

piness, you’re wasting your time.” Be fearless. Be compassionate. “Keep moving.”

I’m always of the mind that an audiobook is better when read by its author. In this case, “What I Know for Sure” is a double delight because... well, it’s Oprah.

Indeed, I couldn’t imagine anyone other than author Oprah Winfrey presenting this book – in part, because only Winfrey can relay the excitement we know well from her TV shows; and in part, because she adds so much emotion to this audiobook. We feel the joy, the heartbreak, and the fun about which she talks - but don’t think for a minute that this book is just fluffy. No, there’s solid advice inside here, ideas that are useful for anyone, and stories that are perfectly entertaining.

This is an easy audiobook to listen to because it’s filled with positivity and... well, it’s Oprah. And if you’re a fan, then “What I Know For Sure” is one I think you’ll love to death.

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- Building Asset Through Homeownership: How To Increase the Value of Your Home:  
How To Repair Your Credit  
Presenter: - Neighborhood Development Foundation Fred Johnson and Roz Washington
- Reverse Mortgage  
Presenter: Bayou Equity - Patricia Hightower
- Affordable Energy Solutions -  
The Energy Smart Program  
Presenter: Andre Olagues
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# Mary Landrieu Has Earned Our Vote



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

As I look at the race for the U.S. Senate between Mary Landrieu and her main challenger Republican Bill Cassidy I get angry and you should too at seeing a person who has served and worked so hard to help so many people made to defend outright

lies about her record. She has done so much for the people of Louisiana which includes many things that directly impacts African-Americans, like her support for helping out HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities), African-American businesses and other initiatives.

The list of her many accomplishments and supporters cross party lines and people of all social classes and races have come out on her behalf. And we must do everything in our power to keep her in office because it is us who will win in the end. And if you do not make it to the polls it is like casting a vote for Bill Cassidy, someone whose inter-

est does not include the African-American community, but rich people like himself.

Bill Cassidy has stooped to the sewer of electoral politics with his thinly veiled racial attacks running ads that connect Senator Landrieu with our nation's first African-American President Barack Obama. Landrieu as is President Obama a bridge builder unlike Cassidy who is divisive and deceptive. We must continue to move forward and not let the politics of old win. We have come so far as a people and we still have a long way to go so we must get out and vote.

This election is bigger than Louisiana; it is about the entire

country and balance of power in the U.S. Senate. A loss by Landrieu may tip the balance of power in the Senate into the hands of the Republicans, and with control of both houses in Congress will do everything in their power to work against the interest of working class people, poor and minorities and older Americans.

We must in this election let our voices be heard, that means getting out in large numbers to early vote and making it our responsibility to get the polls on Election Day because the future of our City, state and direction of our nation is at stake. This is a call to all who

do vote, I challenge you to bring three or more people with you to the polls. Vote as entire families; bring your church members, fraternities and sororities make sure you get people to the polls.

We cannot allow someone who will not make our agenda a priority to represent us, so we must as we did in 2012 come out in record numbers. We cannot let those who oppose equality of opportunity and access by using 21st Century racial coding to mute our voices. We must rise up and be heard on Nov. 4th, so get out and vote like your life and future depends on it because it does.

## Data News Endorsements

### Terry B. Jones

It is again time to go to the polls on November 4th; making the primary on a Tuesday, which may cause some people difficulties in getting to the polls, so we suggest that if you can please consider early voting as an option. In the face of many of the challenges that some are making efforts to as far as people trying to keep some away from the polls it is necessary for what is at stake our voices need to be heard.

There are many races on the ballot and we at Data News Weekly after carefully looking at some of them. We have decided in this issue that we have chosen thus far to endorse these candidates. It is a mix of incumbents and one newcomer to elected politics that we are endorsing in this cycle because we feel some have done an excellent job for their constituents and deserve to be re-elected, while others have become comfortable in their seats of power and it is important to pump new blood into the veins of government to give it life and make it more accessible to the people our elected officials are supposed to serve.



**Mary Landrieu**

### U.S. Senate: Mary Landrieu

In the race for the U.S. Senate we endorse Mary Landrieu; she has been a committed leader who has built bridges of understanding between people from diverse backgrounds and been an effective voice for Louisiana and the interest of its constituents. Since her election to the U.S. Senate in 1996 she has been a staunch advocate for the people of her Congressional District. As always she is facing a battle from several opponents one which is well-funded Republican

Congressman Bill Cassidy. He and his proxy's inside of elements of the Republican Party have created ads that distort and in many instances outright lie about the record of Mary Landrieu.

She is one of few people on Capitol Hill who has support on both sides of the aisle. She is a principled independent voice that we need in the Nation's Capitol. Her race along with a few others may determine whether the Democrats continue to hold a majority in the U.S. Senate. This is an important race and we must get out and support Mary Landrieu. She is a valuable voice and in The U.S. Senate where seniority matters; she is a voice that has risen into the ranks of leadership. She chairs several committees and is also part of major committees and subcommittees that are important to Louisiana. Some of which includes the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Subcommittee of Homeland Security and the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Disaster Recovery and many others. She is a voice that we cannot afford to lose on Capitol Hill, so we strongly endorse Mary Landrieu in her race for the U.S. Senate.



**Cedric Richmond**

### U.S. House of Representatives, 2nd Congressional District

Data News Weekly is proud to endorse Congressman Cedric Richmond in his campaign to retain his seat and continue to represent Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District in the U. S. House of Representatives. During his time in Washington, D.C., Congressman Richmond has been responsible for bringing back sorely needed funding for projects to assist the citizens of New Orleans

in our efforts to rebuild our infrastructure post-Katrina. In 2012, he along with Senator Landrieu were able to send about \$56 million in total federal funds for Louisiana that ranged from renovations to the Fort Polk barracks to ongoing Hurricane Katrina recovery projects. He has been a supporter of President Obama and the Affordable Care Act, fighting to bring healthcare for all to Louisiana. We stand with him in this fight.

As a leader in Washington, Cedric is not afraid to make tough calls. For example, his leading pro-forma sessions on the floor in Congress, continuing to do the work of the people of Louisiana instead of choosing to go home to campaign like many of his colleagues in the House and the Senate did. We sent him to work, and that is what he has done. We firmly believe in Congressman Richmond's commitment to the people of New Orleans, and we look forward to his returning to Washington, to continue doing so.

# Ebola Knows No Borders



**Julianne Malveaux**  
NNPA Columnist

When it comes to matters of trade and economics, experts are eager to speak of “globalization. People are keen to talk about the dissolution of borders and the many ways that countries work together across the globe. At least part of every Apple computer purchased in the U.S. was manufactured or assembled in Ireland. Many call centers are located in the Caribbean and India. U.S. companies subcontract these jobs to other countries because hourly wages are lower in those countries than at home.

To be sure, this economic globalization does not go well with some. Why can't these jobs stay in the U.S.? If some in Congress have

their way, companies that send jobs abroad may face higher taxes or fewer incentives from those that keep their jobs at home. A downside of globalization is that fluid nature of borders allows for copyright and trademark infringement. Some companies have taken their complaints to world judicial bodies, with mixed results.

Now, Thomas Eric Duncan, the Liberian national who travelled to Dallas to see his fiance and his son, has died. His death raises lots of questions about the world response about of Ebola, especially on the on the African continent. More than 7,400 people have been diagnosed with the Ebola virus, and nearly half have died from it.

When Duncan went to the hospital on September 25, he told staff he had recently been living in Liberia and complained of the flu-like symptoms that can also signal the virus. Ebola sufferers experience fever, headaches, muscle pain, weakness, diarrhea, vomiting, and unexplained bleeding. It can only be transmitted through exposure the bodily fluids of an Ebola-infect-

ed person. Doctors sent him home with antibiotics. When he returned to the hospital on September 28, he was admitted and then quarantined.

Most of the Ebola cases are in West Africa, and Liberia has the greatest number of any country; more than half of those diagnosed in Liberia have died. Guinea has the highest survival rate, but a third fewer cases than Liberia, which of course has the lowest survival rate in Africa. The other African countries, including Nigeria and Senegal, have few diagnoses. But Nigeria, with just 20 cases, has survival rate of 40 percent. There are some reports that the virus has spread to Senegal. Among Western countries, Spain had one and a nurse who treated Duncan in Dallas has upped that number to two in the U.S. There may be unreported cases in other states Canada and other Western countries.

In the U.S., the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has issued guidelines to health care workers to prevent them from contracting the deadly virus. In Liberia and other west African countries, health care

systems are inadequate and without a sufficient number of beds to accommodate those with Ebola. To avoid infecting others, many choose, and others are forced, to lie on the street, ready and waiting to die.

The health care system is so broken in Liberia because there are no resources. The World Bank and the International Development Agency are able to make loans, with the IDA offering loans at favorable terms. But too many African countries have to choose between loan repayment and development. When the choice is loan repayment, schools and hospitals are the most affected.

Clearly, these broken health care systems in West Africa have world impact. Just as Thomas Eric Duncan traveled from Liberia to the United States, others might come from Nigeria or Sierra Leone. The “temperature check” at airports may be less than efficient, and in our global world the Ebola virus can be transported anywhere.

Many see Ebola as an “African disease,” just as they once saw HIV/AIDS as a “gay disease.” Only when these diseases began to affect a dif-

ferent demographic did legislature direct funds to those organizing HIV awareness. Should our legislation not do the same thing for Ebola?

What if the Ebola virus turned up in France and people were dying? Well, France is so structurally different that there are would likely be enough beds to manage the Ebola-infected (just as the U.S. does). There might be a more equitable distribution (or might not), and the country might have more than a scant two doses of an experimental medicine to cure Ebola. The Ebola epidemic began in February or March of this year, yet there was unreadiness when the virus came to the U.S. If we (the US) would have looked at the virus as more than an “African Disease” separated by several miles and oceans and therefore not our concern or priority, perhaps a man's life could have been saved. Maybe we would have been better prepared for the threat when it came “home.”

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

## Endorsements, Continued from page 8.



**Chris Bruno**

### Judge Civil District Court Division F: Chris Bruno

Effective, Efficient, Competent and Compassionate are a few words that describe Judge Chris Bruno, who has been sitting on the bench at Civil District Court since being elected in 2008. He is running for re-election on a record of excellence, hard work and dedication. In his work in the courtroom his docket moves in a timely manner and those who appear in his court matters are and resolved efficiently and fairly in a timely manner. He

is not only a man who serves well in his role on the bench, but in the community as well, serving those in need. When not on the bench he has been involved in many philanthropic efforts. One is helping to build a new senior activity center on Jackson Avenue for Mercy Endeavors which is a non-profit senior activity center catering to all denominations. It primarily serves lower income seniors but is open to all. For his dedicated service he received the Silver Fox Award from the New Orleans Council on Aging for his philanthropy with the senior community. With his amazing portfolio as an experienced attorney, judge and civic service, he is well suited to retain his seat and we gladly endorse Chris Bruno for Judge of Civil District Court Division F.

### Judge Civil District Court Division-D Nakisha Ervin-Knott

Sometimes change is good, and not because someone is absolutely doing a bad job, but what happens sometimes they have stayed in office too long and not as effective as someone with a fresh set of eyes that can possibly give a new vision



**Nakisha Ervin-Knott**

and direction to an office. This is what Nakisha Ervin-Knott has to offer. A different vision for Civil District Court Division D, she comes with great credentials. She has been practicing law for 16 years in a variety of capacities in addition to being involved in many civic activities including holding the office of Past President of the Independent Women's Organization, a democratic women's organization dedicated to promoting the issues and candidates of the Democratic Party. She is poised and ready to steer the

court in a new direction under her leadership, and we put our full support behind Nakisha Ervin-Knott, a voice of change for the better.

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# Deadly Force, in Black and White

*An Analysis of Killings by Police Shows Outsize Risk for Young Black Males.*

By Ryan Gabrielson, Ryann Grochowski Jones and Eric Sagara  
Special to the NNPA from ProPublica

Young Black males in recent years were at a far greater risk of being shot dead by police than their White counterparts – 21 times greater, according to a ProPublica analysis of federally collected data on fatal police shootings.

The 1,217 deadly police shootings from 2010 to 2012 captured in the federal data show that Blacks, age 15 to 19, were killed at a rate of 31.17 per million, while just 1.47 per million White males in that age range died at the hands of police.

One way of appreciating that stark disparity, ProPublica's analysis shows, is to calculate how many more Whites over those three years would have had to have been killed for them to have been at equal risk. The number is jarring – 185, more than one per week.

ProPublica's risk analysis on young males killed by police certainly seems to support what has been an article of faith in the African American community for decades: Blacks are being killed at disturbing rates when set against the rest of the American population.

Our examination involved detailed accounts of more than 12,000 police homicides stretching from 1980 to 2012 contained in the FBI's Supplementary Homicide Report. The data, annually self-reported



by hundreds of police departments across the country, confirms some assumptions, runs counter to others, and adds nuance to a wide range of questions about the use of deadly police force.

Colin Loftin, University at Albany professor and co-director of the Violence Research Group, said the FBI data is a minimum count of homicides by police, and that it is impossible to precisely measure what puts people at risk of homicide by police without more and better records. Still, what the data shows about the race of victims and officers, and the circumstances of killings, are "certainly relevant," Loftin said.

"No question, there are all kinds of racial disparities across our criminal justice system," he

said. "This is one example."

The FBI's data has appeared in news accounts over the years, and surfaced again with the August killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. To a great degree, observers and experts lamented the limited nature of the FBI's reports. Their shortcomings are inarguable.

The data, for instance, is terribly incomplete. Vast numbers of the country's 17,000 police departments don't file fatal police shooting reports at all, and many have filed reports for some years but not others. Florida departments haven't filed reports since 1997 and New York City last reported in 2007. Information contained in the individual reports can also be flawed. Still, lots of the reporting police departments are in larger cities, and at least 1000 police departments filed a report or reports over the 33 years.

There is, then, value in what the data can show while accepting, and accounting for, its limitations. Indeed, while the absolute numbers are problematic, a comparison between white and black victims shows important trends. Our analysis included dividing the number of people of each race killed by police by the number of people of that race living in the country at the time, to produce two different rates: the risk of getting killed by police if you are white and if you are Black.

David Klinger, a University of Missouri-St. Louis professor and expert on police use of deadly force, said racial disparities in the data could result from "measurement error," meaning that the unreported killings could al-

ter ProPublica's findings.

However, he said the disparity between black and white teenage boys is so wide, "I doubt the measurement error would account for that."

ProPublica spent weeks digging into the many rich categories of information the reports hold: the race of the officers involved; the circumstances cited for the use of deadly force; the age of those killed.

## Who Gets Killed?

The finding that young Black men are 21 times as likely as their White peers to be killed by police is drawn from reports filed for the years 2010 to 2012, the three most recent years for which FBI numbers are available.

The Black boys killed can be disturbingly young. There were 41 teens 14 years or younger reported killed by police from 1980 to 2012. 27 of them were Black; 8 were White; 4 were Hispanic and 1 was Asian.

That's not to say officers weren't killing white people. Indeed, some 44 percent of all those killed by police across the 33 years were White.

White or Black, though, those slain by police tended to be roughly the same age. The average age of Blacks killed by police was 30. The average age of Whites was 35.

Who is killing all those Black men and boys?

Mostly White officers. But in hundreds of instances, Black officers, too. Black officers account for a little more than 10 percent of all fatal police shootings. Of those they kill, though, 78 percent were Black.

White officers, given their great numbers in so many of the country's police departments, are well represented in all categories of police killings. White officers killed 91 percent of the Whites who died at the hands of police. And they were responsible for 68 percent of the people of color killed. Those people of color represented 46 percent of all those killed by White officers.

## What were the circumstances surrounding all these fatal encounters?

There were 151 instances in which police noted that teens they had shot dead had been fleeing or resisting arrest at the time of the encounter. 67 percent of those killed in such circumstances were Black. That disparity was even starker in the last couple of years: of the 15 teens shot fleeing arrest from 2010 to 2012, 14 were Black.

Did police always list the circumstances of the killings? No, actually, there were many deadly shooting where the circumstances were listed as "undetermined." 77 percent of those killed in such instances were Black.

## Certainly, there were instances where police truly feared for their lives.

Of course, although the data show that police reported that as the cause of their actions in far greater numbers after the 1985 Supreme Court decision that said police could only justify using deadly force if the suspects posed a threat to the officer or others. From 1980 to 1984, "officer under attack" was listed as the cause for 33 percent of the deadly shootings. Twenty years later, looking at data from 2005 to 2009, "officer under attack" was cited in 62 percent of police killings.

Does the data include cases where police killed people with something other than a standard service handgun?

Yes, and the Los Angeles Police Department stood out in its use of shotguns. Most police killings involve officers firing handguns. But from 1980 to 2012, 714 involved the use of a shotgun. The Los Angeles Police Department has a special claim on that category. It accounted for 47 cases in which an officer used a shotgun. The next highest total came from the Dallas Police Department.

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## James Perry to Resign as GNO Fair Housing Executive Director

NEW ORLEANS - Tuesday, the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center (GNOFHAC) announced a nationwide search for a new executive director. James Perry, the current Executive Director, informed the board of directors of his intention to resign his role in early 2015. Perry, who has led the Center since 2005, will transition into an advisory capacity.

Over the last 10 years, GNOFHAC has become a national leader in the fair housing movement. The organization's resources have been deliberately focused on high-impact, innovative litigation designed to root out discrimination. The effort has earned more than \$500 million in monetary relief for victims of discrimination. Recent, notable GNOFHAC successes include: near decade long litigation against St. Bernard Parish that



yielded a federal consent decree and four contempt of court findings requiring Parish officials to rescind exclusionary ordinances and grant building permits to affordable housing developers; and a \$62 million legal settlement and creation of a \$470 million grant program benefiting thousands of Katrina affected Louisiana homeowners, geared to resolve allegations of racial discrimination in the Road Home grant program.

Board president,

Tracy Lea appointed a search committee to spearhead the executive director recruitment effort. President Lea stated, "We are excited and very pleased with Mr. Perry's committed and bold leadership over the past nine years." Lea continued, "And while the Center will miss Mr. Perry, we are confident that we can recruit a replacement capable of not only sustaining, but building on our successes."

The Board has retained the services of The Hawkins Company, a Los Angeles based executive search firm with experience working in New Orleans, to lead the executive director search process.

Inquiries about the executive director recruitment should be directed to Ms. Brett Byers of The Hawkins Company. Ms. Byers can be reached at 323-403-8279 or [brett@thehawkinscompany.com](mailto:brett@thehawkinscompany.com).

Cover Story, Continued from page 9.

known community advocate and former member of the Louisiana Parole Board Al "Brother" Mims. Saying of young people, "We are politically engaged but the sad thing is that our voices are not usually heard. I sometimes go to town hall meetings and we are overlooked. There is a misconception that young people are not concerned that is not the case, it is just that some are not listening."

While this generation is not heard through traditional means their voices are heard very prominent in social media and on the web. "Many in my generation get their voices out through blogs and other forms where they have conversations about issues that affects them. It is our way to be engaged and have conversations and expand on what we feel is important," says Mims. "A lot of people take some of the negative things and run with that and very often do not take the time to see there are many more young people who are either doing the right things or want to be involved in something of meaning but they must be given a lane to have their voices heard by older people because I feel we have a lot to offer on these conversations regarding some of the issues that directly affect us."

He feels that there are many issues young people care about, but most importantly they want to have a voice that is respected. "The biggest thing my generation wants is getting our voices heard. Also we want to see politicians getting things done. We want more mentoring programs, opportunities to gain job skills for young people, and, better educational opportunities. What we want to see is elected officials more engaged in everyday life; not engaging us as if they are above us. I feel they can be more effective and connected to the issues that are important by being accessible and not only come through for special occasions or when they are running for office or re-election."

### Voting is Only One Piece of the Puzzle that is Civic Engagement

While Vincent Sylvain feels voting is the most important form of civic engagement he feels it is only a piece of what one must do to be civically engaged. "You have to do more than simply vote. To be fully engaged that may mean joining civic organizations and being on the frontline of issues that affect you inside your community." He feels that those who are chosen to lead must be held to a higher standard from day one after they are elected

and sworn in. "We have to hold our elected officials accountable and you don't have to wait until their up for re-election to critique them; you can work to hold them accountable and make sure they are doing the things that you elected them to do. That process begins when they get in office and it never ends."

Over the last few years post-Katrina some would say that there has been a lack of dynamic leadership in the African-American community. There was a time when leaders were organic coming from the community when African-Americans first began to have political power. Today that is not the case where sometimes there is a disconnect. Recently, one election bucked this trend with Latoya Cantrell beating a well-funded highly connected White candidate in Dana Kaplan for a seat on the New Orleans City Council with a wide range of support. On this election Sylvain says of the factors leading to her victory, "Cantrell was victorious because she did not have to pass out a résumé to say who she was. Her resume was herself and the work she's been doing. Her resume was her involvement prior to running for office and the people rewarded her with victory because of her past participation as a civic leader." Continuing he says, "We don't see enough ex-

amples like this, while I am an advocate of education I find what we see as of late are individuals who are well-educated and have impressive resumes but little to no involvement in the community prior to running for elected office. And this is one of the reasons I think we see some of our elected officials not connected to the issues that are important to the people they represent. We as a community must scrutinize those who choose to run more carefully and not just vote for someone who looks good on paper; because once they are elected unfortunately what the communities oftentimes get is paper leadership."

As we are coming to the beginning of early voting and the primaries that may decide who holds some of these elected offices, it is important to know that the power lies in you the voter. A point made by Cameron Mims. "I think the important thing is to know that the power is not in the politician, but in us because we are the ones that select the leaders and it is our responsibility not just to vote but to make them responsive to our needs and stay involved in the things that go on in our community because at the end of it all, it is us not the politicians that will be key to coming up with solutions to the things that negatively impact our City."

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**Mary** secured billions in Hurricane Recovery Funds to rebuild our communities.

**Mary** fought to protect the Voting Rights Act of 1965 from Republican attacks.

**Mary** recommended African Americans for federal appointment such as Stephanie Finley (U.S. Attorney), Ken Polite (U.S. Attorney), Brian Jackson (U.S. District Judge), Nannette Jolivette Brown (U.S. District Judge), and Clarence Hawkins (USDA).

**Let's not allow Bill Cassidy, Bobby Jindal and the anti-President Obama Tea Party Republicans to defeat us!**

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