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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

Election 2014



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Cedric Richmond



Chris Bruno



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Data News Endorsements



Throughout the history of America, Blacks have struggled to first gain the right to vote, and secondly, to keep it. We must exercise our right to vote in every election so that our voice can be heard, and the change we seek, can come to pass.

By 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.

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 Congress.

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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

Freddie Allen
The Bookworm Sez
Edwin Buggage
Dr. Benjamin Chavis
Parnell Herbert
Terry B. Jones
Glenn Summers
MG Calla Victoria
James Washington
Art Direction & Production
MainorMedia.com
Editorial Submissions
datanewseditor@bellsouth.net
Advertising Inquiries
datanewsad@bellsouth.net

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Mary Landrieu

sional 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.

U.S. House of Representatives, 2nd Congressional District: Cedric Richmond

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,



Cedric Richmond

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 health care 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 proforma 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.

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



Chris Bruno

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 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.

Judge Domestic Court Section 2: Janet Ahern

Data News Weekly strongly endorses Janet Ahern for Judge of Domestic Court Section 2. We feel she has the experience as an attorney handling family law for over two decades. She is a woman with a vision to bring much needed changes to Domestic Court. It is her goal to have interpreters available for our citizens that do not speak English, also she would like to take a more holistic approach and bring in social workers to help navigate some of the problems that arise in family court. She also plans to run her



Nakisha Ervin-Knott

court in an efficient and effective manner and be proactive in cases on her docket as to create an environment where there are fewer delays in the courtroom.

Constitutional Amendment 6: Yes

Data News Weekly supports Constitutional Amendment 6. This amendment raises the cap on the millage dedicated to police and fire protection in Orleans Parish. Our



Janet Ahern

public safety is important and we cannot endanger our citizens and with the passage of this proposition this decision to fund public safety is in the hands of the voters. If this Amendment passes it would authorize the City to have the flexibility that other municipalities already have where the New Orleans City Council can ask the voters to consider an increase to pay for en-

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on page 10.

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



Highly Qualified, Hard Working, Fair

PLEASE VOTE FOR NAKISHA ERVIN-KNOTT

ON NOVEMBER 4TH 2014

Paid for by Nakisha Ervin-Knott Campaign Committee

Donna Brazile

Leading the Fight for What's Right

Voting is Always Important

By Edwin Buggage

As we near the November Primary there are many races for several elected offices in addition to several constitutional amendments and local ballot initiatives. But the one race that has been getting the most attention is the race between U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu who is fighting to win a fourth term. This race has become not only a state but national concern because if Landrieu loses her seat it may be the margin of difference that may give the Republicans control of both Houses of Congress. Donna Brazile, who is a New Orleans native and national political strategist, TV personality and author, was in New Orleans working with the Mary Landrieu in her bid re-election.

Brazile feels that it is important that voters understand that this as is every election important, in some instances more important because it has a direct impact on local issues. "This is a very consequential election, people believe that off year elections aren't important because there is not a Presidential Election but I think that non-presidential elections are essential because when turnout is low we see for example the results of 2010, when we saw the rise of Tea Party Republicans get elected," remarks Brazile. Continuing speaking of the detrimental aftermath that comes along with non-participation, "During some of these races what we saw were Governors and legislators who were elected cut spending on education, healthcare and of course do whatever they could in their power not to work with President Obama."

Mary Landrieu and the Attack on Women by Right Wing Republicans

She feels that this race has become a national concern because Senator Landrieu heading the energy committee and other issues she has championed to level the playing field for many Americans. "I think Louisiana is a very important race and the Koch Brothers are spending hundreds of millions of dollars to get the Republicans to gain control of the U.S. Senate. I think they have targeted Mary Landrieu because she is Chair of the Energy Committee, think about the power of that seat that regulate oil and gas and this is one of the major indus-



Left to right Data News Weekly Editor Edwin Buggage, US Senator Mary Landrieu, Political Strategist Donna Brazile, Data News Weekly Publisher Terry Jones.

tries for the Koch Brothers. So they don't want someone like Mary who believes in equality, and believes that America needs a raise and believe in women getting equal pay for equal work and somebody who would fight for Louisianans so they have to spent a significant amount of money trying to defeat her," says Brazile.

Since 2008 and the election of Barack Obama we have seen the rise of the politics of polarization. We have also seen the rise of extremism in the Republican Party that has voted against their own constituents' interest to score partisan political points. In addition to some who have made comments that were extreme toward women as it relates to issues of birth control, rape etc. Brazile feels this is a troubling trend, "Many of those who are invested in electing Republican candidates like the Koch brothers have spent more money demonizing female candidates. I believe women are strong and proven leaders and I think having Mary Landrieu remain in the Senate and having the Democrats retain control will provide a good checkpoint for what I believe is the right wings extremism over the last six years since Barack Obama took office."

Voting and the Power to Empower Your Community

When we look back at the south we see states where Republicans hold Governorships as well as the majority in state legislatures. This is something Brazile feels need

to change and it can only happen if more people get to the polls. "I hope we can revitalize the two-party system in the south, you have Republicans running everything because Democrats sometimes don't get out and vote, African-Americans don't come out and Republicans take over and what happens is there is a 99 percent chance that they will not support the kinds of issues that African-Americans and others think are important. They mock poor people and threaten them with fewer resources and I also believe when they take over they try to diminish our voting rights, they make us re-litigate our civil rights and they don't protect our equal rights. So I hope we can continue the progress we have made under Senator Landrieu. But most importantly Barack Obama have two more years left in office and I tell my friends don't just pray for Barack Obama send friends up to Washington that will help him raise the minimum wage and equal pay for women. Help him keep our country safe and secure so that we can rebuild our infrastructure and bring jobs back to America."

When speaking of Mary Landrieu's main challenger Louisiana 6th District Congressman Bill Cassidy; Brazile feels he is not good for Louisiana as she begins to list things that would possibly happen if Bill Cassidy is elected. "He is not a yes vote on raising the minimum wage, he's not a yes vote of helping to get African-Americans judicial appointments, he is not a yes vote

on insuring that students have the resources they need to attend college, he is not a yes vote on supporting HBCU's, he's not a yes vote on equal pay for women, he's not a yes vote to help Barack Obama to fight the Ebola outbreak. He is not just a no vote to President Obama, but a no for Louisianans." Continuing she says, "And you can look at his voting record as proof, the NAACP compiled a list of all the top issues affecting African-Americans and Bill Cassidy earned an F, and when you combine those national issues with those local issues his election would not be good for those who have progressive agendas who want to help all the people of Louisiana not just a few at the top."

The Politics of Inclusion vs. The Politics of Exclusion

Contrasting Mary Landrieu's record to Bill Cassidy she says, "There is a clear difference between Mary and Cassidy. He insinuates that poor people are in the predicament they are in because they are lazy, when what they need to uplift themselves are resources and opportunities. Mary has been a proven leader and whatever the issue is Mary has taken up many causes and she has been doing this for her three terms in office and she will continue to fight to secure rights for all the people of the State of Louisiana."

Speaking of other Republicans across the state and how they have not championed causes of poor people or people of color, "I cannot remember when Bobby Jindal, Bill Cassidy or David Vitter stood up and fought for our values and when I say our values I mean the ones that are just as American as apple pie and just as delicious as the gumbo we have in Louisiana, but they will not fight for poor people or uplift African-Americans. Mary has been tremendous in helping provide grants and opportunities for all people of the state. Also as you see in her commercials and inside her camp many different types of people are under her tent giving their support."

The Recipe for Civic Engagement

Likening civic engagement to gumbo that have many different ingredients, Brazile says that voting is only one piece and there are many other things that create the

whole picture of civic engagement. "The roux of our democracy is voting, we have to vote, but it does not end with that you have to stay engaged. You want appointments, President Obama just appointed me to the Fulbright Board, and I think I am the second African-American woman ever to be appointed to this board. You have to stay engaged. Also we need young people to run for office and take positions in government to have a voice and be at the table when decisions are being made. I am constantly looking for Louisianans to push to get out there and serve on committees I keep the pressure on Obama I keep the pressure on Mary. You keep the pressure on everybody if your community is to get what it needs."

Continuing the Fight for What's Right

Brazile believes that African-Americans must continue the fight to participate and be included. She feels that today many of the gains that African-Americans have earned they stand on the shoulders of many who've come before and it is our responsibility to honor their courage and sacrifices. "The right to vote wasn't simply about getting access to the ballot box, it is to get access to how laws are made and how policy is created and if you are not at the table you are on the menu." Continuing she says as to what has become her life's mission. "As long as I am alive I am going to be at the table even if I have to bring in a folding chair. I will tell anybody to scoot over."

Recalling her childhood and the solid foundation that was given to her by her parents and how that has shaped her need to make the world a more just a fair place she says, "When I think about what's shaped my life I think back to my childhood growing up in this region and I think back to my parents and I think about Riverdale High School and think about my daddy who caught the bus to work. I think about my mother who caught the bus from Kenner all the way to Orleans Parish to work. They made all kinds of sacrifices for us and they put eight out of their nine children through college because they didn't have the opportunity to go to school so I feel we owe it to the next generation to stay involved and try to make the world better for the next group of Americans."

Louisiana Program Failing Hundreds of At-Risk Children

Southern Poverty Law Center, Advocacy Center Urge Federal Officials to Take Action

NEW ORLEANS, La. – Two civil rights groups urged federal officials today to investigate Louisiana's Coordinated System of Care ("CSoC") program, which is failing to prevent young people with severe behavioral health needs from being unnecessarily funneled into detention centers and hospitals.

In a letter to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Southern Poverty Law

Center (SPLC) and the Advocacy Center describe how the CSoC program is plagued with long wait lists and major gaps in services. The letter can be read at: <http://sp.lc/133r9I9>.

CSoC was created to provide mental health and other services to young people in an effort to keep them in their homes and communities rather than in institutions. Without these services, youth end up in hospitals and jails in order to receive mental health treatment.

"This program, if implemented properly, could greatly improve the lives of children with severe emotional and behavioral needs in Louisiana," said Sara Godchaux, SPLC staff at-

torney. "But these children and their families cannot access the full benefits of the program if the state does not provide the services they need."

Louisiana's program was established in 2012 with a Medicaid waiver that allows the state to use Medicaid funds to pay for services delivered in a young person's community or home. It offers five specialized services: crisis stabilization, short-term respite care, parent support and training, youth support and training, and independent living/skills building. Statewide expansion of the program is expected by mid-November.

But many young people are

not receiving the services they need. The letter describes how there are no crisis stabilization providers in the state, leaving families without appropriate support in crisis situations and causing them to rely on the very institutions the service is designed to avoid.

The short-term respite service, which provides care to a youth and a break to the child's caregiver or guardian, is also unavailable to many families due to a shortage of qualified providers. Respite care is a key component in preventing children from ending up in hospitals and other institutions. The program is also failing to connect families with parent and

youth support and training.

By not providing these integral services, the program is in violation of the Medicaid Act. It also violates the Americans with Disabilities Act by failing to provide services in the community to Louisiana's most vulnerable youth, creating an even greater risk of institutionalization or incarceration.

"There is a crying need for the services that the Coordinated System of Care promises," said Nell Hahn, Director of Systems Advocacy and Litigation at the Advocacy Center. "After years of work, these services should not just exist on paper. At risk children need reliable, quality services now."

GET HIS BACK

Republicans have made it clear that they want
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PRESIDENT OBAMA

VOTE DEMOCRAT
NOVEMBER 4TH



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Harrah's Fest

Photos by Glenn Summers

Harrah's Fest New Orleans 2014 celebrated 15 years of entertainment with family and friends on Saturday Oct 25, 2014 and Data was there!!!



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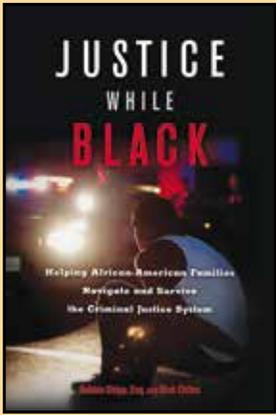
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Justice While Black



“Justice While Black”
By The Bookworm Sez
“Justice While Black” by Robbin
Shipp, Esq. and Nick Chiles
c.2014, Bolden \$14.00 / \$17.50
Canada 160 pages

You have the right to remain silent.

But then, you already know that. You’ve seen it all your life on TV, read it in books, heard it in movies. It’s almost become a cliché.

You have the right to remain silent, but you also have the right to speak up – which is precisely one of the things you don’t want to do if you’re arrested. In “Justice While Black” by Robbin Shipp, Esq. and Nick Chiles, you’ll learn why, among other things.

It is a sobering story: one in three young black men can expect to be jailed in his lifetime. The number of imprisoned African Americans is disproportionate to the number of jailed whites in this country. Ev-

eryone with dark skin knows about Driving While Black and Shopping While Black.

And, of course, there are the headlines...

The fact is that if you’re black – particularly if you’re a black male, Attorney Shipp says - you are vulnerable to being a potential suspect in a crime. It doesn’t matter who you are, who your father is, or even if you’re innocent: as soon as you’re put in the back of a police car, you’re probably going to jail.

If that happens, the first thing to remember is to go against human nature and shut up. Be polite, answer questions succinctly, but don’t try to talk yourself out of anything. It won’t work; it

could make things worse.

Know your Constitutional rights, laws of search & seizure, and other rules, and teach them to your children. Shipp says that the Nation of Islam has proven the propriety of this; rarely does she see Muslim clients, in or out of jail.

Know how to proceed when stopped while driving or walking. Learn to keep impulses in control when faced with arrest. Remember that the prison system is driven by economics. Don’t think that you can’t afford a private lawyer; talent doesn’t necessarily cost much. Ask questions and accept advice, but think hard before accepting a plea deal.

And above all: never stop hoping.

Turn on the news, pick up the paper, and you know that everything’s changed – or has it? A basic history of African Americans, police, and prison is part of what you’ll find inside “Justice While Black.”

Like a gavel on a judge’s bench, author Robbin Shipp (with Nick Chiles) hammers home point after important point on each page, with information that will make you want to take notes (but you don’t have to; there’s a handy synopsis in the back). Her advice covers adults and children as young as four years old, male and female, and includes tips on minimizing trouble and finding the right attorney. I was

Book Review/

Continued on page 11

You have a nice set of wheels but can't find a place to park them.



Landlords must allow you to make reasonable accommodations to ensure full use of your apartment. Telling you that you can't install grab bars and ramps is against the law. You can fight back.

If you suspect unfair housing practices, contact HUD or your local Fair Housing Center. Everyone deserves a fair chance.



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ELECTION DAY: NOVEMBER 4



JANET AHERN AND
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ENDORSED BY:

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EXPERIENCE WE CAN TRUST

Elect **#65**
JANET AHERN

FAMILY COURT JUDGE
DOMESTIC SECTION 2

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT JANET AHERN



MACY'S Model of Fairness



Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
NNPA Columnist

the observations and reports of others, there is nothing more instructive than getting a firsthand experience and knowledge about a matter of serious concern. Over the past several years, there have been a series of incidents and situations where Black Americans and others have been targeted for unfair treatment as a result of "racial profiling."

Racial profiling while driving, walking, shopping, traveling on transportation systems and in other places has had a debilitating impact on the intergenerational mindset of millions of Black Americans. This may surprise some but I do want to talk about what I experienced personally this fall while shopping at various MACY'S department stores in New York, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles and in Atlanta.

Of course, I had heard that there had been allegations about past incidents of racial profiling while shopping at some of the major department stores across the nation. MACY'S is the larg-

est department store chain in the United States. Given the fact that Black Americans spend in excess of \$1.2 trillion as consumers each year, one should expect that we would be welcomed to shop inside all major retail stores.

When I went inside of the flagship MACY'S store at Herald Square in New York City recently one evening to purchase a necktie, I first noticed that there was an unexpected array of Black American, Latino American, Asian American and White American salespersons. In other words the diversity of the salesforce in MACY'S was very evident. They all really exhibited a respectful, helpful and wholesome attitude toward me and other customers who were busy looking for the best quality product at the best sale price.

I went over to one young brother in his late 20s and asked him if I could speak to his floor manager. I wanted to inquire about MACY'S inclusivity not just for the floor salespersons, but also for the floor

and retail department managers. He said, "Of course Sir, I am the manager of the men's department on this floor. How can I help you?"

I smiled and responded, "Excuse me, I want to know if you are indicative of MACY'S commitment to racial and ethnic inclusivity in employment, especially at the managerial level?" He said, "Yes I am representative of how MACY'S continues to move forward to give opportunities for long term career development." His name was Steven and he further affirmed, "Sir, we have a strict non-discriminatory policy at all levels of MACY'S management and employment. In fact I take pride in how MACY'S today treats all people who shop here and who work here."

I later journeyed to the west coast and inside of the MACY'S in South Central LA, I found the same inclusive array of brothers and sisters all working together in the retail sector with a mutual respect for all their customers. At a time of severe renewed racial polarization in too many commu-

nities like in Ferguson, Mo., it was a rather pleasant scene to witness also in Atlanta and in Washington, D.C. to see the actual opposite of racial bigotry and prejudice at work again inside of MACY'S department stores in those cities respectively. I think other large retail chains should learn from what MACY'S is doing to welcome customers and to help engender a sustainable generation of multiracial managers, executives and eventually business owners.

The economic development of our communities needs more corporate partners and supporters like MACY'S. Let's remember to vote! Let's continue to demand freedom, justice and equality. If you are going to shop, spend your money where we are respected.

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is the President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and can be reached for national advertisement sales and partnership proposals at: dr.bchavis@nnpa.org; and for lectures and other professional consultations at: <http://drbenjaminfchavisjr.wix.com/drbcf>

I am always on the alert to make sure that Black Americans are treated fairly and justly. No, I do not go around searching all the time for what is wrong with society and with the world in which we live. The truth is whenever it is possible I would rather point out and lift up what is right and just. Yet when it comes to assessing the progress or lack of progress for Black America, we should avoid being socially and politically blind. We must see facts as facts and not become victims because of the lack of consciousness and awareness.

When it comes to finding out a set of facts, verses depending on

Support Each Other

By Parnell Herbert

Consumers in the African-American community are often criticized for their spending habits. Not because of their purchases but because of who they spend their dollars with. Or more specifically; who they do not spend them with... each other.

It is often said that the Black dollar circulates one time in our own community and then it leaves. All sorts of figures float around about other people's dollars i.e. Asian dollars turn over five times in their communities, White dollars seven times... whatever truth there may be in these statistics; we should support Black businesses. If we don't, who will?

How often have you seen a Chinese person eat in a soul food restaurant or patronize a Black owned cleaners? How many Whites have you seen in Black doctors or dentist waiting rooms?

About 20 years ago I moved to Pensacola FL. with my job at Bell-South. Out of thirteen linemen I was the only Black. To settle myself in town I began looking for a house to purchase but first I had to find a Black realtor. I perused the yellow pages for a Black sounding name. I spotted one; Willie Mae Stanberry. I dialed the number and listened for the voice; "Yep. That's a sister." To be sure I asked "Is this business Black owned." I was assured that it was. I met contracted and purchased a house through her agency.

I went on to find a Black doctor, dentist, insurance agent and an attorney. It presented a challenge but it was worth it to me. Pensacola was like 12% Black. When I wanted a haircut I checked the map and found M.L. King Blvd. I drove to that area of town and it was on. There were my people.

We don't have those issues in New Orleans. Black businesses are

all around us, all we have to do is seek them out and support them.

Recently I have had great experiences with three Black owned businesses.

While paying my cell phone bill at Cellular Plus 7190 Downman Rd. owner Andre' Le'Coq asked me about my \$50 plan. He went on to tell me that I could get the same usage from the same phone, no contract and no start-up fee without changing carriers for \$35 per month. They specialize in "unlimited, no contract monthly plans. This brother will actually talk with you and discuss your needs before he sells you anything and at the lowest price. I listened to his advice, read the pamphlet he gave me and decided to make the change. My bill is now \$15 less than the \$50 I had been paying for several years; thanks to a brother who wanted nothing more than to "Help a brother out."

About a year ago I thought one of my laptops was ready for the technological graveyard and I had a virus on the other. A friend referred me to "Accredited Computer Solutions" 7301 Chef Menteur Hwy. Bro. Donald Autry gave me a half hour lesson in computers while he was repairing one and diagnosing the other. I learned more from him than I ever thought I would want to know about computer technology. He repaired one laptop on the spot and the other in two days. He charged me much less than I had ever spent for computer repair in New Orleans.

New Orleans is known for its great restaurants; Marc "Johari" Lawes and family have opened a wonderful new restaurant "The Half Shell Bar and Grill" 3101 Esplanade Ave. The only thing that impressed me more than the food is the service. As you walk through the door you are

greeted with a warm smile and a friendly "Welcome to The Half Shell."

Server Dominique Spadone, who lives nearby, says "It's a great addition to the neighborhood. There is nothing like it in Mid-City." The warm and friendly family like atmosphere extends itself to patrons and employees alike. Marc, the General Manager is the epitome of a people person; he makes customers feel at home as he treks from table to table chatting with them and probing to find out what he can do to make their next visit an even more pleasurable experience. Our twice weekly happy hour has been a great success; Monday and Wednesday diners are treated to a dozen oysters at regular price and a half dozen free with a complimentary glass of wine. Our signature dish is Voodoo Blu Oysters." Try them for an experience you will not regret.

We have to step up and support each other. If we don't who will?

I'm with Mary Because I Care About Our Future



Terry B. Jones
Publisher,
Data News Weekly

It is time to get to the polls and let your voices be heard. We cannot allow the hands of time to be turned back by our non-participation and let Bill Cassidy become our U.S. Senator. If we do this it would be the nail in our coffin as it relates to our agenda. This is a person who along with other Republicans at the state and national level are against the poor, against ensuring your right to the ballot, are enemies of our elderly, of veterans and a host of other things. He is part of a chorus of Republicans where all they can say is "no" to everything.



United States Senator Mary Landrieu

Since launching his campaign he has not really spelled out an agenda on what he would do, all he's done is race bait and run negative ads about someone who has been a friend and ally to our community and that is Mary Landrieu. She's been on the frontlines of many of the things that are important to us and unlike Bill Cassidy she has been all inclusive in her campaign as evidenced by her support from a broad cross-section of people from both parties and varied interest across the state.

When I think of Bill Cassidy and look at his ads, what I see reminds me of my City growing up in the 1960's. A world where African-Americans occupy the margins of society. In his ads you don't see any of us, or any persons of color, or young people. In my opinion he is a fossil stuck in the past and trying to drag our state down a road we fought hard to leave and never return to. What we must do in this

crucial time for our state is come together under one umbrella of our shared interest. And I feel the person best equipped for this task is Mary Landrieu.

She is our voice and has become powerful in Washington sitting on and also chairing important committees that will bring much needed resources into the state that will help all the people not just a few as would be the case if Bill Cassidy is elected. His record speaks for itself; the N.A.A.C.P gave him an "F" when grading his voting record in regard to the issues that affect African-Americans. We cannot afford to gamble with our future. We have to come out in large numbers and vote for Mary Landrieu because we deserve leadership that will address our needs and concerns. So I am Terry Jones, Publisher of Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper" and I care about our future and that is why I'm with Mary.

In The Spirit

Spiritually Speaking...

Refresh with Paul



James Washington
Guest Columnist

I remember reviewing the letters of Paul in bible study. In doing so I was constantly reminded that one cannot look at Paul without really seeing Jesus' amazing handiwork. Now you need to know that I think Paul is an awesome person when it comes to the story of his life. I haven't found a biography or autobiography of anyone in or outside of the 'good book' who comes close to my admiration for Paul; Jesus notwithstanding. Because the two are so closely associated

with one another, I can't help but consider the impact of this tandem on human history. Just in case someone wants to debate me on this by bringing up the lives of the 12 apostles, I have considered them as well as the prophets and I'm just one of those who is in awe of Paul. A very large part of the bible is devoted to Paul's building of the early church at a time when who you worshipped was a life and death decision.

Paul himself says in his letters to the church in Corinth, there was indeed a point to his suffering and persecution and the basis for most, if not all, of what he went through was a by product of his faith in Jesus Christ. It's another perspective of one of my favorite scriptures. "But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I (Paul) will boast all the more gladly about

my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong." 2 Corinthians 12:8-10. This kind of thinking and belief led to the eventual proliferation of the church worldwide. It also makes the point of how the lives of so few have impacted and influenced so many in the world then, and also in the world as we know it today. Forgive me if I find this a rather fascinating fact. Paul is who he is because of his unique one on one encounter with Christ. That encounter changed him and ultimately the world in which we live. If that be true, then our individual encounters with Christ should also have a profound effect on us and the world in which we currently live. It is not unusual for new Christians to come under

attack by old friends. It is also not unusual for new Christians to come under the attack of the world, since it is in the world that Satan has some degree of power. I think Paul's good news is there is a place of refuge for all of us, when this happens. He uses himself as an example to follow.

If I surrender my weaknesses to the power of Christ and subjugate my will to that of the Lord's, then I become empowered to deal with whatever is thrown my way. Life, the Christian life, is funny that way. It places what I have described as a bulls-eye on your back, designed to distinguish you from those non believers around you. It, your faith, also sets you up and apart to do great things in the name of Jesus Christ, my personal Lord and Savior. I guess what I'm really saying is when the going gets extremely tough, check the human being Paul. Like Christ,

he's been through and has experienced the worst that life has to offer. But because of his belief system, he's experienced the best of God's promises. It's like a refresher course and I just wanted to let you know where I go during difficult times. You might also find some answers there. The point I'm trying to make is that in the eyes of God, one's weaknesses are welcomed opportunities for God to show up and show out. Have you ever wondered why those who have been through so much are able to stand and witness mightily for Christ? Reexamine the reality of God's grace and you just might get your answer.

May God bless and keep you always.

James Washington is President & Publisher of the Dallas Weekly and Vice President and General Manager of the Atlanta Voice Newspaper.

Illuminating Plant Creations

By LMG Calla Victoria

Natural lighting is about to take on a whole new meaning if the scientist at Glowing Plant have their way. They have created glow-in-the-dark plant material, yes plants that light up when the sun goes down. So forget the solar garden lights, pathway lights, and solar flower pots that illuminate your gardens by night, just plant some glow-in-the-dark plants. And save on your utility bills with glow-in-the-dark plants instead of night lights in the home. Can you imagine buying a potted glow-in-the-dark Christmas tree, no more untangling and stringing lights! This is a case of life definitely imitating art, the ethereal glowing forest featured in the movie *Avatar* will be coming to a backyard near you very soon. Yes fiction has become science and as Glowing Plant C.E.O. Anthony Evan says, "We are only limited by our imagination!"

Barely one year old the San Francisco based, Kickstarter funded, company Glowing Plant is propelling botany light-years into the future. Their team of Stanford-trained Plant science Gurus, using synthetic biology, have combined the DNA of those wonderful light bugs (fireflies), with plants and with lu-



minescent marine bacterium *Vibrio fischeri* to create bioluminescent or glow-in-the dark plants.

The first step in the process was to extract the luminescent DNA from the marine life and fireflies. Then the teams manipulated the DNA via Do-It-Yourself Bio Labs in California. Then they had DNA sequences designed online on a computer using special Biocad software then they made the DNA sequences using DNA laser printing.....What, are you kidding me? Then those newly engineered DNA sequences had to be rewritten so

that plant life could interpret them. Finally the DNA genes were introduced to plant material.

The host plant of choice in these amazing experiments is the *Arabidopsis thaliana*, which is a small flowering plant that is widely used as a model organism in plant biology. *Arabidopsis* is a self-pollinating herb and member of the mustard (Brassicaceae) family. *Arabidopsis* offers important advantages for basic research in genetics and molecular biology because of its extensive genetic and physical maps of all 5 chromosomes are available. Most

importantly, *Arabidopsis* has a very short life cycle about six weeks from germination to seed maturation and because they are self-pollinating many seeds can be harvested very quickly. Glowing Plant's science gurus, using a gene gun filled with high-pressure helium, blast the newly created and rewritten DNA sequences into the small plant cells of the *Arabidopsis* on a petri dish. The sequence contains luciferase, the light-emitting compound found within fireflies. Only less than 1 percent of the plants accept the genes, but the ones that do

mature and start emitting light after two months.

As a Master Gardener I am amazed and in awe of these new agricultural creations. The concept of electricity without electricity but through vegetation is mind boggling. Imagine glowing trees someday lighting up the night creating luminous vistas and saving cities millions by discarding street lights. Most large trees like oaks take years to reach their mature heights, but perhaps the Plant Science gurus will start experimenting with fast-growing trees like angels trumpets, one of my favorites.

Imagination, innovation, and sustainability are the fuel that makes the Glow Plant project a success. The company has raised over \$600,000 in pre-orders for these fascinating plant innovations, and yes you better believe my pre-order is in that number. Orders are scheduled to ship late Fall of 2014, while glowing rose plants will ship in the summer of 2015. For further information Glowingplant.com

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

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

Cover Story, Continued from page 3.

hanced police and fire protection. Under the existing law, the City of New Orleans cannot increase the millage dedicated to public safety to pay for more police officers. This amendment empowers the people of Orleans Parish to have a hand in creating solutions to the problems of public safety and it is an investment worth making for our City moving forward.

Constitutional Amendment 13: Yes

We at Data News would like to see the re-population of the Lower Ninth Ward. We believe that if incentives were put in place and pricing made affordable for more people to purchase property or land in this devastated area it could help to repopulate this historic area. Therefore, we support proposed Amendment No. 13 that authorizes the governing authority of the City of New Orleans to sell at a price fixed by the legislature property located in the Lower

Ninth Ward of the City of New Orleans? We feel if this amendment is in place with the things in place that give people at all levels a chance to either own property or incentivize starting a business in the Lower Ninth Ward then it would be a good thing for the City.

The Law Enforcement District Proposition PW Law Enforcement District: Yes

Data News feels that we must vote yes on this proposition that if passed would allow the City of New Orleans to pay for the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office consent decree without raising taxes or cutting city services. With its passage funds can be contributed to assist the City in pay for the consent decree with an existing millage the 2.9 Law Enforcement District millage. But under the current law the money can only be spent to build things, but if this proposition passes it can give the City the flexibility it needs to do other things that

includes funding the operations of the jail. If this passes the City will not have to cut services to pay for operations cost and fulfill the mandates of the consent decree or most importantly the City will not have to increase taxes to of its citizens. Also giving the City flexibility by passing this proposition can help save jobs for City employees who may lose their jobs if some City services have to be cut.

So we in the "New" New Orleans feel we must support this proposition to help deal with having a more efficient and effective Criminal Justice System.

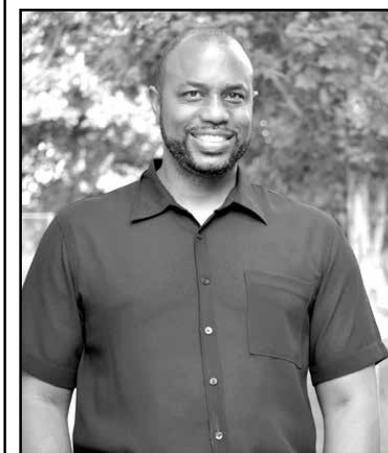
The City Charter Amendment on City Contracting PW HRC Amendment Sec. 6 (Contracts to Which City is a Party): Yes

This is an important change that would help many minority owned businesses to get a piece of the economic pie. As this City is see-

ing resurgence in its rebuilding it is important that Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE's) are in the mix receiving a chance to benefit from the business activity in the City. If this City is to thrive then all must be awarded opportunities to participate. With the passage of this amendment hopefully, it would level the playing field for small, local businesses to be able to participate in work done by the City. We at Data News feel protecting our right to participate is important. And to go further that this amendment is only at a minimum, our goal should be to go beyond getting small jobs as subcontractors and be the prime contractors as well. It is time to compete on all levels and playing the game at all levels without barriers to entry, so this is why we support this amendment.

Data News Weekly Encourages You to Get Out and Get Involved In Shaping Your Future. Get Out and Vote!

Book Review, Continued from page 7.



astounded at this book (oh, those stats!) and at what can be learned in 160 short pages.

While Shipp adamantly states that this book doesn't replace face-to-face counsel, I absolutely believe its \$14 price tag is an invaluable beginning for your family's protection. For you, "Justice While Black" could be the right book on your shelf.

Civil Rights Groups Rally Voters for Nov. 4 Elections

By Freddie Allen
NNPA Senior Washington
Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – As voters prepare to cast ballots in the first federal general election since the United States Supreme Court shredded a key provision of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA) with the Shelby County v. Holder decision, civil rights groups are gearing up to make sure those voters can still cast ballots.

Under Section 5 of the VRA, states and jurisdictions with egregious histories of racial voting discrimination were prohibited from changing any voting laws without “pre-clearing” the changes with the Department of Justice. Section 4 of the VRA determined the pre-clearance formula and which states, most of them in the South, were covered.

During a press briefing with reporters, Penda Hair, co-director for the Advancement Project, a multi-racial civil rights group, said that protecting voters from discrimination under Section 5 was a really effective practice and it stopped states from moving the ball all the time as they attempted to block poor and Black voters away from the ballot box.

Hair said that Section 5 resulted in many objections over the years, but it also trained the states to do things right because they knew if they submitted some questionable voting law change that they would be rejected.

In last summer’s Shelby County v. Holder decision, even though the Supreme Court acknowledged that racial discrimination in voting still existed, it ruled that the formula (Section 4) that was used to determine which states were covered was unconstitutional, effectively ending protection for voters under Section 5.

“The Shelby decision seemed to open the floodgates to discriminatory voting practices that the states had been wanting to implement but knew that they could never get them cleared by the Department of Justice,” said Hair. “Even before the ink was dry on the Shelby decision, North Carolina and Texas moved very aggressively to cut back on voting rights.”

Hair said that the Advancement Project, representing the North Carolina’s branch of the National

Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and other individual plaintiffs, sued the state of North Carolina within 20 minutes after Republican Governor Pat McCrory signed the voting rights bill.

“We call it the ‘monster bill’ because it is more comprehensive in its evilness than most of the other laws,” said Hair. “It went after everything.”

The North Carolina voting law cut same-day registration during early voting, ended pre-registration for 16 and 17 year-olds, restricted straight ticket voting and out-of-precinct voting, and installed a strict voter ID provision, that will negatively impact the poor and Black voters in the state.

Since the Shelby v. Holder decision, the Department of Justice has filed lawsuits in Texas and North Carolina challenging the states’ new voting laws. The Justice Department also sued Texas over 2011 redistricting plans that diluted the voting power of minorities in the Lone Star State.

Rev. William Barber, the president of the NAACP’s North Carolina branch and the leader of the Moral Monday Movement, said that when African Americans started winning seats in the state legislature, conservative lawmakers led by Rep. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.), the speaker of the House, perverted the intent of the Voting Rights Act and “committed to stack, pack and bleach African American voters” using redistricting plans that shifted 52 percent of the Black voters into 27 out of 120 House districts and 49 percent of African Americans into 19 out of 50 Senate districts, “creating a brand new Apartheid-type voting patterns” that prevented Blacks and progressive Whites from forming fusion coalitions to elect the candidates of their choice.

Even though Black voter turnout reached historic levels in North Carolina in 2012, Barber said that conservatives were still able to win a super-majority, partly due to how the voting map was drawn.

Barber said that what happened in N.C. is full proof of why the state needs a Section 4 fix, adding that an updated Section 4 must cover all states that were previously covered.

Barber said that more than 42 percent of Blacks use same-day registration during early voting and

that an even higher percentage use out-of-precinct voting.

Barber expressed concerns that people are going to show up to the wrong precincts to vote, while others will assume that they can still do same-day registration, because they’ve been doing it for three election cycles.

“What this general assembly did is take away from citizens an extension and expansion of the franchise of the voting that they had already experienced and expect,” said Barber.

Johanna Berkson, executive director of OurTime.org, a nonprofit group that empowers and mobilizes young people to address voting reform, college affordability, equal rights, and job opportunities, said that 45 percent of eligible voters, 18-29 years-old, showed up at the polls in 2012, but only 22 percent voted in 2010.

“[We’re not] kidding ourselves,” said Berkson. “We know that the midterms are really tough to get young Americans out to vote.”

The group will spend the last days before the midterm elections focusing on “pledge to vote” efforts and connecting with registered voters 18-29 years-old, because registered voters are more likely to cast ballots.

“If you disagree with tax policy or Medicaid policy or you like Obamacare or don’t like Obamacare, you can vote and make your voice heard,” said Hair. “When they take away your right to vote or when they make your right to vote more difficult to exercise or when they redistrict in such a way that even if you do vote there’s very little chance that you can actually elect a person that will represent your interest, then I really am terrified that the fundamental democracy is at stake and is threatened and that’s what I see happening right now.”

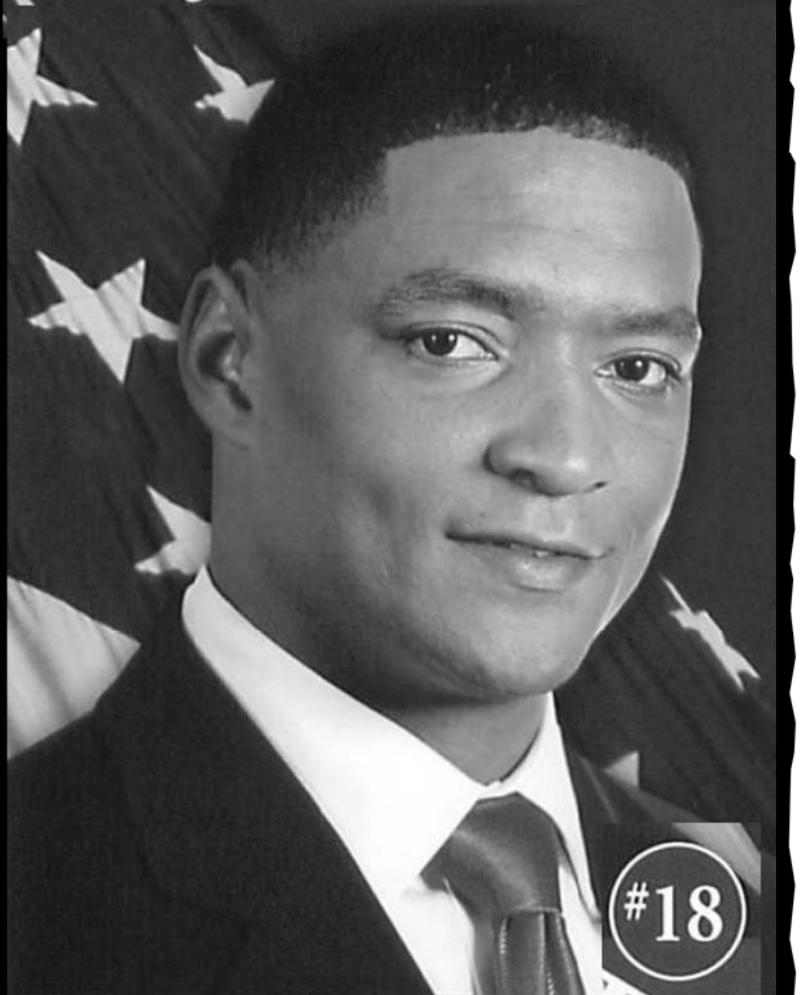
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at stake and is threatened and that’s what I see happening right now.”

Hair continued: “When you see this happening in so many states across the country, where redistricting is being layered with voter

restrictions, then it really thwarts the ability of the majority of the people in this country to govern and that’s the intent: to allow a minority to govern indefinitely. And, that to me, is terrifying.”

*Still Fighting for the
Working Families
of Louisiana!*



Endorsed By:

**LOUISIANA
DEMOCRATS**

- U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu
- New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu
- Jefferson Parish President John Young
- St. John Parish President Natalie Robottom
- St. Charles Parish President V.J. St. Pierre
- St. James Parish President Timmy Roussel
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ELECTION DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2014



Senator Mary Landrieu

Mary stood with seniors by protecting Social Security and Medicare benefits.

Mary fought for passage of the "Violence Against Women Act" and for equal pay for women.

Mary increased the maximum Pell Grant amount allowed for our college students.

Mary saved and secured millions of dollars for Dillard, Xavier, Grambling, and Southern universities.

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!

VOTE
November 4, 2014

Be sure to bring your drivers license or a photo ID.
If you don't have an ID, request a voter affidavit.

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF MARY LANDRIEU

www.marylandrieu.com

