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**Jazz Fest
Soggy But Sweet**


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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

Sheriff Marlin Gusman Moving through Motions



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Leah Chase Wins
James Beard
Award**



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Orleans Parish Sheriff Defends Against Federal Contempt Allegations



This is a typical 60-man tier at the Orleans Justice Center which is a direct supervision facility. Direct supervision means that a deputy is stationed inside the tier with the inmates. Deputies are required to make regular rounds throughout the tier, helping them to address issues and concerns before they become incidents.

By Eric Craig
Data News Weekly Staff Reporter

Someone is taking shots at the Sheriff. Sheriff Marlin Gusman, overseer of the Orleans Parish Prison System, who was being accused of sustaining unsafe environments for inmates.

The plaintiffs who represented the inmates, made a motion to remove Gusman from his position, opting for a replacement to follow federal compliances. Gusman asserts that removal is uncalled for and he is currently working towards compliance, urging the City to increase his offices funding.
In April of 2012, several inmates of the Orleans

Parish Prison filed a Class Action Lawsuit against the Sheriff's Department with the assistance of the Roderick and Solange MacArthur Justice Center. The plaintiffs cited unsafe living conditions and lack of mental health assistance.
In an April 25, 2016 motion the plaintiffs wrote "The Sheriff's non-compliance affects nearly every aspect of

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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	Contributors Eric Craig Edwin Buggage Kichea S. Burt John Slade Harry C. Alford Stacey M. Brown Dr. Patricia Maryland Vincent Sylvain Screenshot/White- House.gov	Art Direction & Production MainorMedia.com Editorial Submissions datanewseditor@bellsouth.net Advertising Inquiries datanewsad@bellsouth.net Distribution On The Run Courier Services
Edwin Buggage Editor		
Calla Victoria Executive Assistant		
June Hazeur Accounting		

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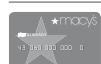
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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



A Federal Judge dismissed the contempt motion against Sheriff Marlin Gusman and called off a Monday hearing about the fire safety issues at OPP.

safety and security for Orleans Parish Prisoners. The level of violence, use of force, and self-harm at the jail is unacceptable."

However, Gusman states that the plaintiffs motion is inaccurate.

"The legal pleadings of the Department of Justice and the plaintiffs are misplaced. Most of those

things in their motions have already happened and have been cured," Gusman said.

"So many other jurisdictions have been given far more time to comply. We've been in this for two years. We've made far more progress, material progress, in this time span," Gusman added.

In April 2016 the plaintiffs motioned for a federal takeover of the prison, noting Gusman's failure to fulfill the federal compliance. Gusman said that a federal takeover is not necessary and he will continue to motion against it.

According to The Advocate, Gusman's Lawyer, Freeman Mat-

thew decried the plaintiffs motion for his removal.

"To place the blame for the present situation on Sheriff Gusman, much less to suggest he should be stripped of virtually all powers and responsibilities of the office to which he was elected by the citizens of New Orleans, is patently wrong," Gusman wrote.

Gusman was initially elected as Sheriff in Orleans Parish in 2004 in a special election and is now fulfilling his third term as Sheriff.

While Gusman has addressed some of the 173 compliance mandated by the federal government, he said that funding was the main inhibitor from reaching full compliance.

"The City of New Orleans is responsible for the funding, and they have not provided us with the necessary funding. We have a funding motion right now, and they're going to have to give up the money," Gusman said.

The lack of funding has hindered Gusman and his office in retaining and hiring staff to meet the needs of the inmates. Gusman also noted that because of a lack of funding, his facilities do not have enough space to house all of the inmates.

In March of 2014, Susan McCampbell, a lead Federal Monitor

of the Orleans Parish Prison's compliance and an expert, was unhappy with the current state of the prison.

"There's insufficient staff to cover the tiers, insufficient trained staff, insufficient supervisors, and inmates are left to themselves to monitor their own activities. And this puts them in grave harm," McCampbell testified in an official document.

Gusman said that the information McCampbell used in her testimony is outdated, not taking into account the subpar building that has been closed, and OPP's updated policies.

"We will continue to make progress and we are going to defeat this motion," Gusman said.

Last Friday, the lawyers said they are pleased with responses from Gusman and City officials that indicate efforts are underway to deal with the problems in a satisfactory manner.

On Monday, May 2nd, a Federal Judge dismissed the contempt motion against Sheriff Gusman and called off a Monday hearing about the fire safety issues at OPP.

U.S. District Judge Lance Africk set a May 16 meeting with attorneys to discuss the issues. Data News Weekly will keep you updated on developments regarding this issue.

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Gretchen Bradford

Preserving the Historical Legacy of Pontchartrain Park

by: Edwin Buggage

This month's Trailblazer is Gretchen Bradford, a native of New Orleans and resident of Pontchartrain Park. Over the years she's worn many hats in an effort to bring back this historic community after Hurricane Katrina in her multiple roles as a Community Leader, Organizer, Humanitarian and Businesswoman. Presently, she is currently the President of Pontchartrain Park Neighborhood Association, Board Member of Better Choice Foundation Charter Schools, Chairperson of the Gentilly Festival and Commissioner on the Gentilly Development District.

"I grew up in Pontchartrain Park, my family's been living here since 1958, it was a beautiful neighborhood, it was like living in our own little City, I had a beautiful childhood here. People looked out for each other, it is a neighborhood where families are connected, we grew up with a lot of hope instilled in us," she says reflecting on her upbringing in Pontchartrain Park.

Built during the dark days of segregation, it became a cultural jewel and source of pride for African-Americans. It was a place where Blacks could buy these newly built homes, in addition to the community having a golf course, baseball field where Negro League games were played and a four-year college, Southern University

at New Orleans (SUNO). This community as was most of New Orleans was ravaged by the water and decimated, leaving in its wake an uncertain future following Hurricane Katrina. At this point Gretchen began her advocacy work alongside actor Wendell Pierce, who also grew up in Pontchartrain Park and both were instrumental in the recovery effort and its revitalization.

"The Bring Back New Orleans Commission proposed making our neighborhood into green space and this was something that we planned to fight. Wendell had a national voice and spoke about our plight and the will of the people who wanted our community rebuilt. In our community we had 97 percent home ownership before the storm, with many elderly residents. We were one big happy family of 1200 homes. It was a hard time, that's all we could dream about, we had a memory of a beautiful life and all that's been washed away. All we could think of is, we wanted this back. We became passionate about bringing everything back in the neighborhood."

In her work she's advocated for the rebuilding of homes, the restoration of NORDC Wesley Barrow Stadium, which was sponsored by Major League Baseball, the revitalization of the Basketball Courts, which was sponsored by the New Orleans Hornets,



the rebuilding of the playground along with family picnic area tables, and the restoration of the Joseph Bartholomew Golf Course. She organizes and leads monthly meetings to address the needs of the community to local elected leaders.

"We wanted to make sure we have a voice in our community. We were instrumental in all the plans to rebuild different jewels of our neighborhood; the stadium, golf course and playground." Continuing she says of their collective will to rebuild, "At one time I had neighbors live with me when they were trying to rebuild their houses. We were just helping each other out. It is a lot of love in our community and I just wanted to have those memories there for my kids."

She divides her time working on several boards to help in the rebuilding of her community. Speaking of her work she says, "The Gentilly Develop-

ment Board, I am on that board because I am concerned about business and economic growth in the Gentilly area. Prior to the storm we did not have to go to another city to shop, now we have to go to Metairie, it is better now but we would like to shop in our own neighborhood. I felt I could have a voice in what they bring to our community economically."

Speaking of Gentilly Fest she says, "It started about nine years ago and the idea started when we found out the firehouses did not have sofas to sit on,

and the police district did not have copy paper and we wanted to make sure our first responders were able to function and take care of us. We decided to do a festival to raise money to help them and the first year was a real success."

Gretchen believes that

family is important and has strong Christian values and beliefs. She is a member of Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Baptist Church, where she serves as Director of the Volunteer Ministry. She has one son named Joseph and is the daughter of the late Harold and Marian Bradford and is one of seven children.

"I have strong Christian beliefs that is the foundation of why I am working to rebuild my community. I believe Pontchartrain Park is worth preserving where African-Americans owned our own homes in the 50's. We were self-sufficient and we want to continue that tradition. We are strong and resilient standing strong in our beliefs and we are united. We are bouncing back and we are passionate about what we believe in and we love our community and it is a great place to live and visit and I feel passionate about rebuilding our community and preserving our history."

JMJ
Joseph M. Jones
Continuing Education Fund



Shoot Ya Best Shot!

2016 Jazz Fest Ends Soggy, but Still Sweet!

Photos by Kichea S. Burt
Data News Weekly Contributor

The last weekend of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival was plagued by torrential rains which lead to flooding of the Fair Grounds Racecourse, and an early end to a Saturday that was scheduled to include headliners Stevie Wonder, Beck and Snoop Dogg. However, this is New Orleans, and we don't let a little rain stop us! In case you missed the show, here are highlights of the musicians and audience members who braved the rain to shed some heat on the Crescent City during 2016 Jazz Fest.



Jon Batiste



Jessie McBride Big Band



JD Hill & Deacon John



Nayo Jones



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McDonnough 35 Gospel Choir



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Running Like the Wind



Pictured above are the First Place Kings Grant Park's ten year old 4 x 100 meter relay team members Jeremiah Hall, Bryson Osborne II, Nolan Jefferson, and anchor King Taylor.



Bryson Osborn II

Data Staff Report

On April 2, 2016 Jefferson Parish Park and Recreation held its Parish Wide track meet. Kings Grant Park's ten year old 4 x 100 meter relay team consisted of Jeremiah Hall, Bryson Osborne II, Nolan Jefferson, and anchor King Taylor. They defeated all comers and won First Place with a perfectly executed race. The relay team has been together for a couple of years and now they seem to be executing on all cylinders.

Bryson Osborn II, also finished second in the 200 meter dash. Last year Bryson also represented New Orleans in the 400 meter dash in Des Moines, Iowa at the National AAU Meet. Bryson is a fifth grader and attends Lusher Charter School. Bryson and his fellow teammates plan to attend LSU where each says they plan to run track and play football.

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Yes, Virginia, This Is Not Your Father's News Media



John Slade
Data News Weekly
Guest Columnist

I remember in the seventies when I was in college studying journalism and film, I would look to newspapers and national television broadcasts as the gold standard of modern journalistic endeavor. The Washington Post just brought down Richard M. Nixon and the New York Times published the Pentagon Papers detailing the in-

ner workings of the Vietnam War. Indeed, those were heady days. It was the age of Walter Cronkite of CBS, Max Robinson of ABC and the heyday of the McNeil Lehrer report with Charlayne Hunter-Gault, one of the first regular Black female correspondents on a national news broadcast, on PBS.

I reflect the past in journalism while pondering what those journalists would think about the subpar standards of today. I think they would upchuck at what currently passes for presidential coverage. We have Donald Trump, who has somehow convinced major cable TV networks to let him have his way or he'll walk away with all of his money neatly tucked away. Les Moonves, the Executive Chairman

and CEO of the CBS television network have openly traded quality coverage for the quantity dollars that Trump campaign and his competitors are spending with his network. Quoted in the Hollywood Reporter, Moonves says, "It may not be good for America, but it is damn good for CBS." There's more from Mr. Moonves, "I've never seen anything like this, and this is going to be a very good year for us. Sorry. It's a terrible thing to say. But, bring it on Donald! Keep going".

Meanwhile, far removed from the first class section of America, we have the same presidential candidate promising to pay the legal fees if they get into trouble roughing up protesters. Recently, in Janesville, Wisconsin two Don-

ald Trump rally goers have allegedly sexually assaulted and pepper sprayed a 15 year old female anti Trump protester. There is a video that allegedly shows the complete incident. Why isn't this video, or others, constantly re-racked on the cable network shows? Like the Republican Party, they don't want Trump to get angry and deny them access to his monetary benefits of his campaign.

This is why the press is put in pens, actual pens like zoo animals, and not allowed to talk to people at these rallies. This is also the reason that TV networks are ordered by the candidate not to show reaction shots of the crowd? And they actually listen to him. Quite astounding.

There was a time, back in the

good ole days, when the news on television was paid for by entertainment sales. The Beverly Hillbillies was paid for by Walter Cronkite; now the news is our daily entertainment and paid for by Trump. As a journalist and as human, I am ashamed. The networks of today would not only let the Vietnam War go on, but also support it and allow President Nixon to bluff his way through Watergate. I shudder to think how long the civil rights rebellion would've taken if segregationist officials in the south could tell the news TV reporters which way to point their cameras.

John Slade, political cartoonist and satirist is the daily radio host of "Showtime In The Afternoon" on WBOK1230am and is the host of "Political Cartoons By John Slade" on Ch76.

The Battle for Paisley Park is Going to be One Big Mess



Harry C. Alford
NNPA News Wire Columnist

Perhaps one of the greatest entertainers of all time suddenly left us on April 21, 2016. Kay and I were on a plane heading to Los Angeles when it came across the screen. I was in shock and it wasn't but a few minutes before tears came into my eyes. It was so sad as this guy was supposed to live many more years. But nothing in life is guaranteed. Memories started to float in my head. This skinny, light-skinned, processed hair wearing guy singing falsetto and wearing nothing on stage but a diaper and high heeled shoes. Once you got over the shocking sight you would realize that his music was unique and the whole world was instantly loving it.

Kay's brother, Chuck, would start working his tours with his close friend Billy Sparks. Remember the nightclub owner in the movie "Purple Rain." That was Billy and he played the role so naturally. Soon the stories of Prince were being relayed to us on a first hand basis. Chuck would be hired and fired again and again. Prince was temperamental and made quick decisions that would be sometimes taken back. All in all, we got great performance tickets.

It became clear to everyone in the music business – Prince was a genius. He left this earth with thousands of unreleased songs in "the vault." That will become one of the many "crystal balls" that will come into play while family members try to figure out just how much money and value he has left. Since his death over 4 million albums have been sold. On the same day as his death 239,000 albums were sold and over 1.034 million song downloads were tracked by Nielsen. His estate is growing larger and larger by the day.

How do we total it? It is a mov-

ing target and the courts, IRS and countless attorneys will be tussling with this big behemoth for years to come. First off, there doesn't appear to be a will. They are searching but have no idea where one would be. He was so private and secretive.

Prince has one full sibling, his sister, Tyka, who is stepping up to help get a handle on this situation. There are three half siblings that his father had after the divorce of his parents. His mother, likewise, produced three half siblings. Right now, they all seem to be talking to each other and have not "lawyered up." Tyka has employed a reputable attorney and has agreed to Bremer Trust Bank to manage the estate funds. Prince had used them for his financial affairs so that makes something consistent here.

Then there will soon be a bunch of "baby mamas" claiming to have delivered a child of Prince. DNA tests will become an ongoing thing. If one hits that will throw another monkey wrench in the process of dividing up the estate that is at least worth over \$500 million and is growing day to day. His assets

such as his recording studio/man-sion Paisley Park are appreciating assets. The whole compound may become a tourist attraction the same way "Graceland" for the Elvis Presley estate, which delivers millions of dollars to the Presley estate each year.

His catalogue will be almost priceless – especially with the thousands of songs they have yet to release. This will be the key to all interested parties. Let me make this clear: the most interested and consistent party will be the Internal Revenue Service. The federal estate tax will clock about 40 percent of all perceived value and the state of Minnesota will come in and snatch another 16 percent. Yes, the government will be a very active "partner" claiming value and assessing taxes every step along the way of settling the estate of Prince Rogers Nelson. There will be many skirmishes in the courts as different parties will have different assessments.

Prince was very philanthropic, but he kept his donations a very big secret. Will those entities, who have been quietly and consistently

receiving funding start speaking out and claiming a piece of the future growth? Who will have the authority to declare the price on "name and image?" Michael Jackson's estate has much activity between Michael's mother and the IRS. Sometimes they are "miles" apart on each assessment. Keep in mind, Michael had a very thorough will, but debate still lives in the matter of his estate.

Get ready. The saga of the Prince estate will become historic. Maybe as they drill holes into the stored vault in his recording studio an authentic will may come to light. I doubt it. It was just Prince's style to be mysterious and cause a little "Controversy" as documented in one of his first hits.

I envision Prince going before St. Peter and shouting, "Baby, you're much too fast."

Harry Alford is the president, CEO and co-founder of the National Black Chamber of Commerce® (NBCC). For more information about the NBCC, visit <http://www.nationalbcc.org> or e-mail Harry at halford@nationalbcc.org.

Leah Chase wins Lifetime Achievement Award

By Eric Craig
Data News Weekly Staff
Reporter

For some people, chasing after success never stops. Leah Chase, the ninety-three-year-old New Orleans chef, noted for her original cuisines at her Restaurant Dooky Chase's, is the first African American to receive the Lifetime Achievement award from the James Beard Foundation. The award comes after Chase's 93rd birthday, and 75th Anniversary of the opening of Dooky Chase in January 2016.

This year's award ceremony took place in Chicago, IL, at the Lyric Opera House on Monday, May 2, 2016. Chase was announced as a nominee for the Lifetime Achievement award in March.

According to the James Beard Foundation, the award is given to an individual that has a positive and long-lasting impact on how people eat, cook and think about food in the United States.

Chase was surprised when she heard that she had won the Lifetime Achievement award.

"I cannot believe this is true. It's unbelievable to me that I got this award. All I do is make a living, and for that I was recognized," Chase said.



Leah Chase (pictured above) is the first African American to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the James Beard Foundation at the Lyric Opera House in Chicago, IL. The James Beard Foundation is the most prestigious organization recognizing excellence in the culinary arts professions.

The James Beard Foundation is an organization that started in 1986 dedicated to educate on and encourage the diverse culinary heritage and traditions. According to their website, the foundation was made in honor of James Beard, who was

noted for his innovative success of cocktail food cookbooks.

Chase noted that it was a greater achievement to be the first African-American to win this award. However, Chase said she did not do it alone.

"When I take this award, I take it in the name of many people that have helped me down the road. Many people have helped me get where I am today, she said.

"They helped me survive. They taught me things. I always received

awards, recognizing the many people who helped me up. It's a wonderful feeling," Chase added.

Chase hopes that by receiving this award it will encourage other people to achieve things just like her.

"Maybe someone else will get this award if I try to get them up," Chase said.

In addition to the aforementioned award, Chase was inducted into James Beard Foundation's Who's Who of Food & Beverage in America in 2010 and had a gallery at New Orleans's Southern Food and Beverage Museum named in her honor in 2009. Together with her husband, she founded the Dooky Chase Foundation to further the causes she had supported during the civil-rights era.

Like so many other businesses in New Orleans, Chase's restaurant was affected by Hurricane Katrina, becoming inundated with five feet of water. She persevered, telling nola.com, "There's nothing you can do about it, but accept it. You take a good cry and you keep going." Her restaurant reopened in 2007, thanks in part to a benefit that helped raise \$40,000 for the restaurant. Seven years later, a Times-Picayune judging panel named her fried chicken the city's best, with one judge calling it "damn near perfect."

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Senator Troy Carter Chosen to Participate in National Emerging Leaders Program

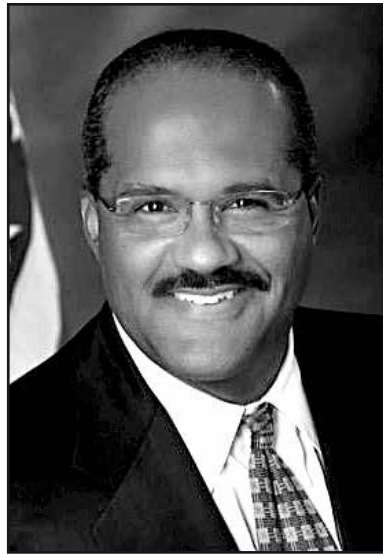
Data News Staff Edited Report

District 7 State Senator Troy Carter (D – New Orleans) will join a select group of legislators from across the country in July to participate in the 2016 Emerging Leaders Program at the University of Virginia. The national program, sponsored by the non-profit, non-partisan State Legislative Leaders Foundation (SLLF) and the University of

Virginia Darden School of Business, is designed to enhance the leadership potential and vision of policymakers judged to be potential future state leaders.

Senate President John Alario nominated Sen. Carter for the leadership program.

"I am honored that President Alario nominated me to represent Louisiana in this national leadership program and am humbled to be chosen to participate," Sen. Carter said. "I look forward to the opportunity to work with a diverse group of men and women from across the United States as we exchange ideas



Troy Carter

and broaden our perspectives with the common goal of improving our communities through public service."

Sen. Carter is serving his first term in the Louisiana State Senate, the latest stop on his 25 year plus journey of public service to the New Orleans area and the state of Louisiana. The former state representative and former

city council member currently serves as vice-chairman of the Senate Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations and is a member of the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs, Judiciary C, and Senate and Governmental Affairs committees. He was also recently elected Chairman of the Senate Democratic Caucus in addition to being elected a delegate to the 2016 Democratic National Convention.

Each year the State Legislative Leaders Foundation (SLLF) receives hundreds of applications to participate in the Emerging Leaders Program with only 50 seats available. Sen. Carter will fill one of those seats. To participate, legislators must be nominated by their peers. One of the primary criteria for selection is a commitment to public service.

The 2016 Emerging Leaders Program is scheduled for July 11 – 14 at the University of Virginia campus in Charlottesville. The SLLF provides scholarships to those chosen for the leadership program to help offset the cost of participation.

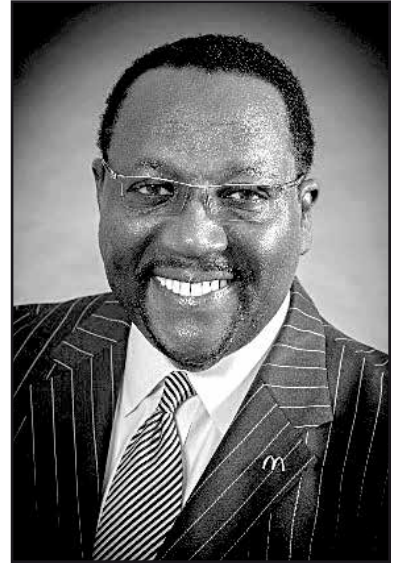
Henry Coaxum to Receive Honorary Doctorate

Vincent Sylvain The New Orleans Agenda

NEW ORLEANS - Henry L. Coaxum, Jr., a New Orleans business executive and civic leader, will receive an honorary doctorate degree from his alma mater, Talladega College, at the college's 141st Commencement Ceremonies on May 8, 2016 in Talladega, Alabama.

Coaxum, president of Coaxum Enterprises, Inc., is the owner/operator of three McDonald's restaurants in New Orleans. He serves as chairman of the New Orleans Business Alliance, the city's first-ever public-private partnership for economic development. He also serves as treasurer of the city's Hospital Service District A Commission which oversaw the redevelopment of New Orleans East Hospital.

Coaxum is a graduate of the Talladega Class of 1973. He was recognized with a Regional Outstanding Alumnus Award, presented to him in 2008 at the college's Triennial Reunion held in Atlanta. The Talladega College National Alumni Association selected Coaxum as its 2015



Henry Coaxum

Hall of Honor recipient, presented by the UNCF National Alumni Council. The award was presented during the annual National Alumni Council Leadership Conference Legacy Gala at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans in February 2016.

He is a life member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and a distinguished member of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

Health News

Community Health Centers

Eliminating Black Health Disparities

By Dr. Patricia Maryland Data News Weekly Guest Columnist

One hundred one years ago, Booker T. Washington penned a letter to the editors of America's leading black newspapers. In it, he contended that health, more than any other measure, was the single most important aspect to achieving progress and parity for African-Americans.

In April, we remember Washington's call to action, celebrate the gains that have been made, and renew our shared commitment to the work that remains during National Minority Health Month. And as our families, neighborhoods, churches, schools and businesses band together to tackle the many barriers that still impede minority health,

there are no nobler warriors to be found than those in our community health centers.

Indeed, community health centers (CHCs) serve some of the nation's highest-risk, most medically vulnerable populations, with more than 70 percent of patients living below the federal poverty line. And more than two-thirds of the patients who seek care at CHCs are members of racial or ethnic minorities. In 2014, Hispanic patients made up 34 percent of the health center population, and African-Americans accounted for 23 percent.

That's why when it comes to reducing disparities and truly reclaiming black health, CHCs are our best chance for success and our brightest hope for equity.

Not only do these sites provide vital access points to clinical care,

regardless of a patient's ability to pay, they also address the less visible, but equally important social determinants of health. In a coordinated effort with social service agencies and local nonprofits, CHCs work to alleviate food and housing insecurity, provide education and job training, and connect patients to proactive financial planning services.

In Louisiana, for example, the Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans (DCSNO) – a system of community-based health centers throughout greater New Orleans and part of Ascension, the nation's largest not-for-profit health system – is working to combat the diabetes epidemic at the local level. Its Diabetes Prevention Program is delivering targeted interventions to at-risk individuals, with the goal of

reducing participants' body weight by 7 percent and increasing their physical activity to 150 minutes per week, by providing educational sessions on nutrition, physical activity, managing stress and overcoming barriers to health. DCSNO is also partnering with local organizations to provide vouchers for fresh fruits and vegetables at local farmers' markets.

This supportive and holistic approach provides a promising model to advance minority health. Studies show that CHCs perform especially well when it comes to providing timely preventive services for vulnerable populations and managing chronic illnesses that disproportionately affect minority communities, such as hypertension and diabetes. They also boast a lower average cost per patient, per day

than other physician settings, saving the American healthcare system an estimated \$24 billion a year.

CHCs are so effective because they are deeply rooted in a sense of place. We know that where we live, work and learn matters just as much to our health as our family medical history, and health centers are often situated in the heart of minority neighborhoods. The fact that CHCs are so embedded in the areas they serve – they're even governed by a board of patient-directors – often makes them better positioned to address the unique needs of racial and ethnic minority populations. As providers and public health officials continue to wrestle with the challenge of delivering culturally relevant care, community

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Black Comedians React to Larry Wilmore's White House Correspondents' Dinner Jokes

Obama, Out: The Commander-In-Chief Proves Once Again that He's the Best to Ever Do It



Critics praised President Barack Obama's monologue at the 2016 White House Correspondents' Dinner. (Screenshot/WhiteHouse.gov)

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA News Wire Contributor

President Barack Obama dropped his microphone at the annual White House Correspondents' Dinner, acknowledging what everyone had already concluded: he slayed it!

Larry Wilmore didn't do so bad as host, either, at least depending upon who is doing the review and if you're among those willing to dismiss his use of the N-word.

But, leave it to comedians like George Wallace to really sum up the evening – in Wallace's case, probably better than anyone else.

"Please come to my 2:17am show at the Waffle House Correspondents' Dinner," Wallace wrote on Twitter, right after the event ended.

"I'm getting from [Larry Wilmore] what I wanted and didn't get from Chris Rock at the Oscars: Peak truth-telling..." said Erica Williams Simon, a comedian in her own right and a self-described recovering D.C. political strategist and activist.

Comedian Akilah Hughes had even more to say.

"Someone come through with the 'White Feelings about Larry Wilmore' Bingo card," Hughes tweeted as she followed the monologues and skits at the dinner. The comedian was even more impressed with Obama's mic drop.

"Literal mic drop from Mr. President #ObamaOut," Hughes said.

Chris Acuff took note of those who were not laughing at Wilmore's jokes.

"D.C.-based journos, Republicans [and] everyone at CNN," Acuff noted on his Twitter feed.

However, Rev. Al Sharpton called Wilmore's remark in which the comedian saluted Obama by using the term "My N—a," distasteful.

"It was in bad taste," Sharpton said.

Comedian Dick Gregory also said Wilmore could have done without the obscene word. "I wouldn't have done it," Gregory said.

Philip Lewis, an editorial fellow at the Huffington Post, tweeted that pundits should "save your N-word,

think pieces. We don't want them." Lewis then signed his tweet, "Sincerely, the Black community."

Brandon Patterson of Mother Jones, however, had a different take.

"I wish White people were as offended by police brutality and mass incarceration as they are by black people using the N-word," Patterson tweeted.

By dropping the N-word on Obama, Wilmore broke the cardinal rule of cutting-edge humor – he wasn't funny," said Leonard Greene of the New York Daily News.

However, Matt Wilstein wrote in "The Daily Beast" that, "Wilmore proved exactly why he was the perfect choice to host Obama's final White House Correspondents' Dinner. Even if the crowd of journalists in attendance didn't seem to agree."

Wilstein continued: "More than ever before, the president was an impossible act to follow. Not only did Obama deliver a slew of jokes at Donald Trump's expense, but he also presented an elaborate 'Curb

Your Enthusiasm'-style video that included an epic John Boehner cameo.

Wilmore began by welcoming the guests in the house once again to the event, 'or as Fox News will report, two thugs disrupt elegant dinner in D.C.' He introduced himself as 'a Black man who replaced a White man who pretended to be a TV newscaster,' before adding, 'so yeah, in that way Lester Holt and I have a lot in common,' to groans from the crowd at Brian Williams's expense."

He was even more harsh to CNN's Wolf Blitzer, saying, 'Hey, Wolf, I'm ready to project tonight's winner: Anyone who isn't watching 'The Situation Room.'"

Perhaps, no one else captured the historical sentiment of the evening better than former Attorney General Eric Holder after Obama finished his speech in grand style.

"Dropped the mic!! Obama out. POTUS killed at WHCD. You're going to miss my man America," Holder wrote on Twitter. "Consequential – and funny. #POTUS2016"

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The Affordable Care Act continues to provide quality coverage to those who need it most, and community health centers remain a key player in carrying out the promise of healthcare reform. As we observe National Minority Health Month, we're called to celebrate

community health centers for their impressive outcomes and commit to their future success. Investing in these innovative models of care means supporting health strategies that work, are safe and leave no one behind.

Patricia A. Maryland, Dr.PH, is the President of Healthcare Operations and Chief Operating Officer of Ascension Health.

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