Breast Cancer Awareness Month
How the Disease Affects Black Women

Newsmaker
Michael Brown’s Mother Speaks at Xavier

Fashion
5 Tips to Grow Natural Hair
Ronald Davis  
Data News Weekly Contributor

Over 240,000 American women in 2016 would be diagnosed with breast cancer according to the Susan G. Komen Foundation, the world’s largest non-profit source of funding for breast cancer research, African-American women are nearly 40 percent more likely to die from breast cancer than their Caucasian counterparts. About 124 African-American women per 100,000 will be diagnosed with breast cancer in the U.S. and 132 in Louisiana, according to the National Cancer Institute.

The killer is not their race, explained Dr. Corey Hébert, a well-known Physician, Journalist, and Educator in New Orleans. One of the main reasons that African-Americans die more from cancer is because of financial and economic reasons, Hébert said.

“If you don’t have money, you don’t go to the doctor. If you don’t have money you don’t eat well. If you don’t..."
have money, you’re worried, so you escape with alcohol and drugs,” Hébert said.

Money socially determines access to healthcare, and because African-American’s statistically hold less wealth than their Caucasian counterparts, they do not have access to adequate healthcare.

“Money socially determines access to healthcare, and because African-American’s statistically hold less wealth than their Caucasian counterparts, they do not have access to adequate healthcare.”

“Forbes top [100] richest White people have more wealth than all Black people in America combined,” said Hébert, who believes that African-Americans lack of wealth in the country is a one of the most prevalent reasons that they cannot access healthcare.

Angela Edwards, a fifth grade English Teacher at McDonogh No. 32 Literacy Charter School, was diagnosed with breast cancer in January 2015 after she found a lump on her left breast in October 2014 and scheduled herself for a mammogram.

Edwards opted to have a double mastectomy in order to remove two lymph nodes with cancer masses and reduce the risk of the cancer spreading throughout her body. In addition to surgery, Edwards had eight rounds of chemotherapy as well as two months of radiation therapy. It took Edwards nearly a year to get the medical help that she needed to combat her breast cancer because she had to schedule her appointments around her job.

Edwards said that money was a big issue when trying to fight her cancer. While her insurance covered a large portion of her expenses, she said her “bills are still piling up.” She also said that dealing with the repercussions of chemotherapy was a struggle for her.

“It’s not as horrible as some [survivor’s experiences],” said Edwards hesitantly admitting to therapy. When I walk from my room to the bathroom, it feels like I ran around the block 10 times.” She said she experiences flu-like achings symptoms, but cheerfully referring to her pain as an inconvenience. “I just play on it and keep going.”

Aggressive Strain for Black Women

Even worse for African-American women is that they are more susceptible to developing a more aggressive type of cancer. “African-American women are more likely than Caucasian women to get triple negative breast cancer, as are women who are pre-menopausal,” said Dr. Christopher Williams, an Assistant Professor in the College of Pharmacy at Xavier University of Louisiana.

With this strain of breast cancer, the cancer does not show three receptors that are used in hormone therapy to combat the cancer, making it much harder to treat and much deadlier. According to modern research, Williams said it is not yet known why African-Americans develop triple negative breast cancer at a higher rate, but Hébert believes that it is in part due to America’s history with avoiding medical help.

“Black people die more from almost everything and the reason why is because we don’t go to the doctor,” Hébert said. “We don’t have early detection, we’re scared because historically, Black people have been persecuted by the medical staff at times. So we are very distrustful, so by the time we get to the doctor, it’s usually too late.”
College students and New Orle-leans residents filled the University Center Ballroom at Xavier University of Louisiana for the Annual Black Lives Matter Symposium. The two-day symposium was hosted by the Institute for Black Catholic Studies on Oct. 21-22, 2016. The symposium focused on urban education and racial disparities with National Speakers like Lezley McSpadden, the mother of Michael Brown, and local Education Advocates like Dr. Calvin Mackie, the Founder of STEM NOLA.

“There are two important days of your life, when you are born and when you find out why,” McSpadden told the audience. “Every young Black man and woman will know why they were put on this earth,” she said of her son, Michael Brown, and his death, which galvanized the Black Lives Matter Movement.

She urged the audience to join both the Black Lives Matter and Hands Up United Movement which both formed after her son’s tragic death when office Darren Wilson shot and killed him on Aug. 9, 2014, even though he was unarmed.

As the country heads to vote for a new president on Nov. 8, 2016, McSpadden said she has endorsed the Democratic Nominee Hillary Clinton. She recalled that when her son was killed, Clinton publicly and personally expressed concern about the events surrounding her son’s death. As Clinton campaigned, McSpadden said the former Secretary of State made Criminal Justice Reform a big part of her stump speeches. McSpadden said she hopes that the truth about her son’s death as well as how the State of Missouri handled the case will one day be revealed.

“We all have the question on what else can we do. We should let educators teach our kids that this is not how things are supposed to be in regards to racial disparities,” McSpadden said.

Mackie told the audience he could not imagine the pain and hurt that McSpadden goes through every day after losing a son to police brutality. He applauded McSpad...
This year the school marked its Third Anniversary of KIPP Through College, a program to help KIPP graduates to finish college. KIPP Through College works to decrease the dropout rate for KIPP students now in college, and assists KIPP alumni to stay on track to graduate with bachelor degrees. Counselors also work around the clock to accommodate the needs of students who want to get back into school.

“The college counselors are working to create better college matches,” said Cornelius, Pollard’s advisor, who is the Assistant Director of the KIPP Through College Program. “We are also working with the foundation to perfect our check-ins to account for key indicators of early signs of dropouts,” Cornelius said.

KIPP Renaissance High School, now in its seventh year as a charter school, is a local, open enrollment high school that prepares their high school graduates to successfully complete the journey to, and through, college. KIPP mostly serves students from low-income communities to ensure that they are successful in their career and life goals.

“The goal of [KIPP Through College] is to have students discover and ‘find their why’ in terms of their career and long-term goals,” Cornelius said. “And from that, we want to help them map out the most effective path to reach their goals.”

As part of the program, the school holds various workshops throughout the year that assist families of current students that may have difficulty completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, as many students are the first generation in their households to attend college. The school also holds a three-day orientation every summer called Fresh X for recent graduates, that gives students a glimpse of what to expect when they attend their chosen school in the fall. The events support the programs mission to assist students to make a seamless transition from high school to college.

KIPP Mentor Program Supports Student Success through College Graduation

Nigel Palmer
Data News Weekly
Contributor

This year in its seventh year as a charter school, is a local, open enrollment high school that prepares their high school graduates to successfully complete the journey to, and through, college. KIPP mostly serves students from low-income communities to ensure that they are successful in their career and life goals.

“The goal of [KIPP Through College] is to have students discover and ‘find their why’ in terms of their career and long-term goals,” Cornelius said. “And from that, we want to help them map out the most effective path to reach their goals.”

As part of the program, the school holds various workshops throughout the year that assist families of current students that may have difficulty completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, as many students are the first generation in their households to attend college. The school also holds a three-day orientation every summer called Fresh X for recent graduates, that gives students a glimpse of what to expect when they attend their chosen school in the fall. The events support the programs mission to assist students to make a seamless transition from high school to college.

This year marks the third anniversary of KIPP Through College in New Orleans.

Lil’ Dizzy’s Honored with Community Excellence Award

Wayne Baquet, Sr., accompanied by members of Cumulus Media and Councilwoman Nadine Ramsey’s office.

Eric Craig
Multimedia Editor

After forty years in business, this man has contributed to the development of his community in New Orleans. Wayne Baquet, Sr., who recently celebrated 40 years in the restaurant business, was honored with the Community Excellence Award on Friday, Oct. 21, 2016, by Cumulus Media.

Baquet is 69-years-old, and has worked in the restaurant business for the last 40 years. He is a second generation business owner in his family. Baquet currently runs Lil’ Dizzy’s, located at 1500 Esplanade Avenue.

“The most exciting part is keeping people happy and making sure they’re really pleased with our cuisine,” Baquet said.

“Fried chicken, gumbo, bread pudding” were his only words when asking what makes Lil’ Dizzy’s unique.

The restaurant owner contributes much of his success to his family.

“All of us in the family made this happen together,” Baquet said.

Wayne Baquet, Jr., was supportive of his dad’s recent honor by Cumulus Media. Wayne Baquet, Sr., has been a role model for the community, Baquet, Jr., added.

Most of all, his father reminds him that this is a family operation. “This is a family business and our family has worked and contributed to our business. We’re a part of the community and we give back,” Baquet, Jr. said.
20th Annual Susan G. Komen Race for Cure in New Orleans

Team Tasha pulls together to defeat Breast Cancer

Photos by Glenn Summers
Data News Weekly Contributor

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and New Orleans isn’t afraid to go pink.

On Oct. 22, 2016, The Susan G. Komen New Orleans Race for the Cure celebrated its 20th Anniversary with the Race for the Cure in City Park. Attendees took part in breast cancer survivor celebrations, entertainment and a 5k competitive and casual run/walk. Team Tasha showed up and out in purple to represent and help defeat breast cancer. The Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure series is one of the largest fundraising campaigns for breast cancer awareness. 100 percent of all proceeds go to cure research.
Paris Soul Café Awards 2016

Men of Honor

On Saturday, Oct. 22, 2016, Paris Harris hosted the Annual Paris Soul Café Awards at the Ashe’ Culture Arts Center. The Men of Honor Edition of the program was hosted by WWL-TV’s Sheba Turk and New Orleans Tourism and Marketing Cooperation Vice President, Jeremy Cooker. Eight influential men of New Orleans were honored in this year’s edition of the program. Honorees included: Owner and C.E.O. of Richard Disposal, Alvin Richard; Former Mayor of New Orleans, Sidney Barthelemy; Executive Director of the Louisiana Civil Justice Center, Attorney Jonathan Rhodes; Founder of “Son of a Saint” Non-profit Organization, Bivian Sonny Lee; President and CEO of the New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation, Mark C. Romig; International New Orleans Artist and Philanthropist, Terrance Osborne; Grammy Award Winning Guitarist, Leo Nocentelli and WWL-TV Morning Anchor, Eric Paulsen.

Eric M Craig
Multimedia Editor
A Mockery of Democracy 4

R.I.P for the GOP?: Donald Trump, the Republican Party and the Search for a Great White Hope in Multicultural America

By Edwin Buggage
Editor, Data News Weekly

The GOP and the Politics of Division

Today, as we look at this circus, the sideshow that currently is the Republican Party has its own P.T. Barnum, Donald Trump. Someone that’s taken the Party of Abraham Lincoln that once defended the rights of slaves to be free and was once the home of many Blacks. But, in its most recent incarnation, it’s a small tent filled with small minds and ideas that does not reflect a changing America that is becoming ever more multicultural and inclusive.

As I look at the Republican Party in its present form, it is like getting mail in the days of the stage coach in the age of high speed internet. They are obsolete fossils that are inefficient and out of touch with the modern world. Additionally, the shameful words coming from Trump are dangerous and divisive. This rhetoric of exclusion draped in empty patriotic slogans is not the direction for a political party that began with Abraham Lincoln citing in his First Inaugural Address in 1861 as the country was in the beginning stages of what would become the Civil War. “We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory will swell when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature,” Lincoln said.

The Republican Party and the End of a “White Only” America

If the Republican Party continues to go down this road and ignore the diversity that is modern America it will not hold the White House any time soon and may be on the verge of no longer being a major national political party going the way of the Federalist and the Whigs, both that were once major political parties in America. As I look at the GOP of 2016 I wonder why it seems that they are ignoring what this country is becoming with a shrinking White electorate where in 1948 it was 95% White nationwide; but today nearly 31% of the electorate is non-White. Also it is estimated in the next 25 years’ people of color collectively will surpass the White population and become the majority in the United States. In my mind it would seem incumbent upon the Republican Party to reach out to become more inclusive to a changing electorate.

The Rise of Obama and the Republican Search for a Great White Hope fuels Trumps Rise

When there is a shift in racial relations in America it is also accompanied by racial paranoia or panic. When Blacks gained citizenship and the ballot at the end of slavery, by the end of the 19th Century there was the rise of the KKK and lynching of Blacks. In sports we can look at the first African-American Heavyweight Champion Jack Johnson during a time of racial repression where the mere thought of him having the title infuriated many. This led the American writer Jack London to call for “A Great White Hope,” to win the title and restore the rightful place of the White man in society. Today a century later this type of psychology or more accurately the pathology of historical racism is the primary reason some have demonized Barack Obama, our first African-American President.

And while the Republican leadership from day one attempted to make him a one-term president, he was re-elected and is leaving office with a 57% approval rating. Here is a man who has restored honor to the Oval Office. There has been no Watergate, Iran-Contra, Monica Lewinsky, perjury, impeachment proceedings, or an ill-timed unjust war and eight years of general incompetence as was during the presidency of George W. Bush. During his first run at the White House there were questions of Obama’s ability to lead. Today he is the man who is responsible for leading to the death of Osama Bin Laden, healthcare reform, saving the American auto industry, thus saving many American jobs and fueling economic growth in this country.

This is only a short list of accomplishments of a man who ran a campaign attempting to and unite and not divide Americans.

Rethinking the Party of Abraham Lincoln in the Age of Donald Trump

Conversely, as I look at the Republican Party, all I see is the politics of old; negative and polarizing rhetoric that does not bring Americans closer together, but driving a wedge between us. I ask what would a presidency by Donald Trump really look like and how will it seal our place in the world with such a narrow thinker as our Commander-in-Chief? We need a leader that understands the Cold War is over and cowboy rhetoric and posturing does not work anymore in a world that requires more diplomacy with our partners in the world. Also we are in a world that is looking less to White men to lead, and that there are others whether it is woman or people of color “the new majority” that are fit to lead.

It is time for the GOP to embrace the fact that this country is changing for the better and to realize the politics of old where White equals right is a move in the wrong direction. It is perhaps time for the GOP to rethink itself less as the “Old Grand Old Party” and look at this moment in history as a “Great Opportunity for Progress.” Those in the Republican Party must realize that it is foolishly to imagine an America that no longer exists. And that as opposed to looking for a “Great White Hope,” should consider looking for a “Great Right Hope,” with policies and rhetoric that can bring people together in the spirit of unity in this nation. It is time for the modern GOP to embrace change and realize that the citizens of today’s America may have come here on different ships but now we are all in the same boat. It is this spirit of working together that must return to the Republican Party; one that is about openness and inclusion of all Americans regardless of their background and if we can achieve this Lady Liberty’s light will shine brighter, civil discourse will return a great nation will become even greater.

What Can the Republican Party Do to Save Itself?

What could be done to save the Republican Party from going the way of the Whigs in the 1850s? For one, it would be the heavy political lift on the ages. Just imagine all the ideological baggage they would have to junk. Yes, I said junk. Should Secretary Clinton win on Nov 8th it would show that maybe this modern America is just too progressive for them. Black president, check. Gay marriage, check. Reproductive rights, check. National health care bill passed, check. Not to mention Black Lives Matter rolling the political landscape and all the other progressive ideas like aforementioned Obamacare which was first suggested by former President Richard Nixon of all people. Plus, even on the right there is loose talk of a minimum wage campaign and Trump as well it’s becoming apparent that the Free Enterprise System is not delivering the goods in enough quantity to maintain a middle-class society today. This last thing the American people and some in other western countries need is a lecture of another Milton Friedman style tutorial on the private industry this, or the private economy that and how it’s perfectly reasonable to let people die in a minimum wage hell with no befits as it is today. Both Trump and Sanders openly questioned some of the assumptions of the ruling economic elites. Can the Republican Party change their bedrock principles? They didn’t like FDR and the New Deal and it wasn’t until Eisenhower in the 1950’s that they made their detente with the new Deal. As it was the case of the GOP have to tuck out of the White House for twenty years between 1933 and 1953.

As for race, well the Republicans had a chance but they blew it. Back in 1980 when George Herbert Walker Bush was still President elect, did you know at that time he...
Doreen’s Jazz Band Plays All Over New Orleans

Doreen Ketchens has played in her trio since 1987.

Doreen Ketchens has performed for four presidents, educating across the country, and playing as a Jazz Fest lineup for over 20 consecutive years. Doreen’s Jazz, a New Orleans Jazz Band of musicians and educators, has established themselves as the Evangelists of New Orleans Music and Culture. Leader of the group and inspiration for their name, Doreen Ketchens started the band in hopes of changing the demographic of female musicians in New Orleans.

“Nobody would hire me, so we started playing on the streets,” Ketchens said. Since 1987 Ketchens and her husband have been playing all over the globe spreading New Orleans melodies and heritage through their knowledge and instruments.

Within the band, members are like family because they are family. Ketchens, also known as “Queen Clarinet,” plays, educates, and tours alongside husband Lawrence Ketchens, the tuba player, and daughter Dorian Ketchens-Dixon, who plays the drums. Together, the gifted trio travel to multiple schools not only educating students on music and culture but giving them a live display through performances.

“People need to understand the root of the culture which is from a strong African influence and we are just giving credit where it’s due. We travel to teach people anywhere from pre-school to elderly not only for them to hear culture but to experience it.” Ketchens said. Doreen’s Jazz prides themselves on letting the world know what New Orleans stands for. All born and raised in the City, Doreen’s Jazz makes it a priority to prove that New Orleans is still as rich in culture as it was prior to Hurricane Katrina.

Jazz can be found playing at the corner of Royal and St. Peter Street every Thursday through Sunday from 11a.m. until 2p.m. For all other inquiries and booking visit www.doreensjazz.com.
Natural Hair has become incredibly popular amongst Black women looking for an alternative to perms and extensions. As a middle school teacher by trade, I know that education is key to success in any area including the health of your hair. Here are 5 tips to help anyone beginning their Natural Hair journey increase their chances of flourishing.

1. Drink Water

Water helps to rid your body of the impurities that could block ultimate growth. So drink it, it’s worth it! I would suggest drinking enough water to feel hydrated and not thirsty during the day. This will vary depending on how active you are.

2. Low Maintenance

Try your absolute hardest NOT to play with, comb or twist your hair throughout the day. However, while you’re natural, you will still have to detangle your hair weekly with a large toothed comb in order to combat unintentional locking and tangling.

3. Sealing Your Ends

Each time I decide to wear my hair down, I seal my ends with oil. I enjoy using Coconut Oil. To do this, separate your hair into medium sized sections and gently massage the oil onto the ends of your hair only. This can prevent split ends and be a barrier between your hair and your clothing as it will rub against it during the day.

4. Clip Your Ends

I do not clip as often as I should but I do a method called “search and destroy” between salon visits. This means that when I see a split end, I clip it off. I want to have the most autonomy over my hair as I can so I search for splits myself.

5. Limit The Heat

I noticed that going from using the flat iron every two weeks to twice a year has made a huge difference in the health of my hair. I wear my hair in its natural curl pattern most of the time and then I straighten it for a special occasion. If you must use heat, make sure you buy a ceramic flat iron that has an adjustable temperature gauge. Also, DO NOT heat the flat iron up beyond 450 degrees. Heat is very hard on your hair and should be used sparingly.

According to Tammy Swindle, the Executive of the Cancer Association of Greater New Orleans, breast cancer is a highly unpredictable type of cancer. While there are certain lifestyle and hereditary elements that can contribute to the cancer’s development, it can develop in anybody at any age. Swindle said the association works with local families struggling with cancer to help them get educated and to help them cover the costs of medical bills.

“Cancer is not the only issue, they may already be behind on their rent, they can’t buy groceries,” Swindle said, and that she welcomes all who are in need to come to get help.
Delaney’s Armoire

Delaney George to Start the New Data Fashion Column

Eric Craig
Multimedia Editor

Starting the first week on November, Data News Weekly will feature a weekly fashion column written by Delaney George.

The 19-year-old New Orleans native has worked in fashion for the last seven years. George’s experience includes runway and print modeling, portrait photography, and creative direction for several design and model photography shoots.

“One of the hardest things about being in fashion, which is actually why I like it, is that thing always change,” George said. “Sometimes fashion just moves at a really fast pace, and that’s what I like about it” she added.

George remains involved in the fashion community, working with several models, designers, and runway coaches. George also does freelance modeling photography in New Orleans.

The new fashion column will spotlight fashion shows, designers and models throughout the New Orleans area. George said her photography and design choice is influenced by the City.

“I’m obsessed with this City in every way, shape and form,” George said.

“When I was four years old my grandfather would take me to the French Quarter, Downtown and other historic areas every day after school. I got to be a tourist in my own City and from a young age I got to see the real beauty of New Orleans,” George added. “New Orleans is all about Jazz music, art and so much more. There is a lot you can get into down here from an artist perspective.”

George’s creative shoots use historic New Orleans homes to capture the City’s essence in the designers art.

“I want to show everybody the beauty I can see. It’s a blessing that I can see it, and that I can share this vision,” George said.

George’s work is viewable on Instagram. To see George’s modeling work, see @Delannii. To see George’s photography, visit @LanesLense.

Delaney George, Data News Weekly’s New Fashion Columnist.
Juliuss Gaines, SINCE 1933. He’s got a curious intellect that can’t be satiated. Now, he and 1 in 6 seniors face the threat of hunger and millions more live in isolation. So pop by, drop off a hot meal and say a warm hello.

Volunteer for Meals on Wheels at AmericaLetsDoLunch.org