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New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

18 People Running for Mayor?

This Is What You Need to Know About This Election

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David Peters
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Quest For City Hall



Michael Bagneris



Desiree Charbonnet



LaToya Cantrell

Edwin Buggage
Features Writer

As we begin election season Data News Weekly has launched the first in a series of Political Editions called “Quest For City Hall.” These issues will editorialize and identify qualified candidates in the races for vari-

ous elected offices. Also, we will speak to community leaders to help identify some of their main concerns and expectations as it relates to the future of our City as we stay true to our over 50-year mission and commitment at Data News Weekly as the People’s Paper. As qualifying began the City saw many of our citi-

zens ranging from incumbents; political veterans and newcomers to politics throw their hats into the ring for multiple municipal races as we kick off the political season leading to the October 14, 2017 primary and run-off election on November 18, 2017.

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

List of Races for October 14th 2017 Election

MAYOR

- Thomas Albert
- Charles Anderson
- Michael Bagneris
- LaToya Cantrell
- Desiree Charbonnet
- Edward Collins Sr.
- Brandon Dorrington
- Troy Henry
- Frank Scurlock
- Johnese Smith
- Tommie Vassel
- Edward Bruski
- Hashim Walters
- Patrick Van Hooerbeek
- Manny Chevrolet Bruno
- Byron Cole
- Matthew Hill
- Derrick O'Brien Martin

COUNCIL AT-LARGE

- Eldon Delloyd "EL" Anderson (Div. 1)
- Kenneth Cutno (Div. 1)
- Helena Moreno (Div. 1)
- Joe Bouie (Div. 1)
- Jason Williams (Div. 2)
- David Baird (Div. 2)
- Gregory Nowak (Div. 2)
- Jason Coleman (Div. 2)
- Aaron "Ace" Christopher (Div. 2)

DISTRICT A (open due to Susan Guidry being term-limited)

- Joe Giarusso II
- Tilman Hardy
- Aylin Maklansky

- Daniel "Dan" Ring
- Drew Ward
- Aylin Malansky
- Toyia Washington-Kendrick

DISTRICT B (open due to LaToya Cantrell running for mayor)

- Jay H. Banks
- Seth Bloom
- Catherine Love
- Timothy David Ray
- Andre "Action Andre" Strumer
- Eugene Ben-Oluwole

DISTRICT C

- Kristin Gisleson Palmer (former Dist. C councilwoman; didn't seek re-election in 2014)
- Nadine Ramsey (incumbent)

DISTRICT D

- Belden "Noonie Man" Batiste
- Jared C. Brossett (incumbent)
- T. "Thad" Cossabone
- Joel Jackson

DISTRICT E

- Ernest "Freddie" Charbonnet
- Alicia Plummer Clivens
- James Gray (incumbent)
- Dawn Hebert
- Cyndi Nguyen

CORONER

- Dwight McKenna
- Jeffery Rouse (incumbent)

CRIMINAL SHERIFF

- Fredrick "Freddy" Brooks
- Marlin Gusman (incumbent)

CLERK OF CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

- Arthur Morrell (incumbent)
- Frederick Brooks

CLERK OF CIVIL DISTRICT COURT:

- Dale Atkins (incumbent)
Unopposed

ASSESSOR:

- Anthony Brown
- Errol Williams (incumbent)

CIVIL DISTRICT COURT, DIVISION J:

- Omar Mason
- D. Nicole Sheppard

- Ed Morris
- Morris Reed

4TH Circuit Court of Appeal Division B

- Tiffany Chase
- Tracey Flemings-Davillier

The election is planned for Oct. 14, 2017 and a runoff election if needed will take place Nov. 18, 2017. We at Data News Weekly ask you to get involved in the shaping of our community; please get out and vote and let your voices be heard.

The Race for Mayor of New Orleans

As we near the end of eight years of Mitch Landrieu as Mayor, we see 18 candidates vying for the City's highest office with four major candidates emerging to occupy the highest elected office in New Orleans from the large field of candidates to qualify the presumed frontrunners are as follows:

Michael Bagneris: A political veteran from the first African-American Mayor Ernest Dutch Morial and former longtime Civil District Judge Michael Bagneris is making his second run for mayor, having placed second in the last mayoral election against incumbent Mitch Landrieu.

LaToya Cantrell: Beginning her career in public service as community leader in her neighborhood of Broadmoor; today she is City Councilwoman representing District B who is choosing to forgo a reelection bid to run for Mayor of New Orleans.

Desiree Charbonnet: Making her run to become the first female Mayor of New Orleans would be another first for Charbonnet, who as Recorder of Mortgages, was the first woman elected to hold this post. Most recently, she's been a judge on the Municipal Court Bench and recently resigned to run for the City's highest office.

Troy Henry: This is his second run for mayor; where he first ran in 2010 he was defeated in a run-off by present Mayor Mitch Landrieu. Henry is a businessman who is a partner in the Sterling Farms chain of convenience stores and owner of several gas stations in addition to other business ventures.

18 Candidates Seeks the City's Highest Office and Promises to Address a Range of Issues that Concerns Voters.

In the final tally 18 candidates qualified for the race for Mayor of New Orleans. This is the largest

field the City's seen since 2006 when embattled incumbent Ray Nagin ran against 22 opponents with only four candidates receiving more than 10,000 votes. In a runoff, he won against then Lt. Governor and current Mayor Mitch Landrieu.

As we look at this race through an historical lens, we see many of the problems today that's been plaguing the City for many years. Crime, safety, economic and racial inequality and blight. In addition to quality of life issues, political corruption, lack of affordable housing and the preservation of culture and institutions particularly those of African-Americans under assault by those who do not appreciate nor understand their relevance and importance.

The Next Mayor and the Future of New Orleans

The next mayor must be someone who is a visionary who can get things done. And the public must not be swayed by simply rhetoric or feel that by simply electing someone of a certain race or gender is a step forward. We must begin to look at a victory from more than simply a symbolic standpoint, but of substance. Investigating and researching those who offer themselves up for service and determine who is best qualified to serve us the citizens and not special interest or in a worst-case scenario themselves.

The City post Katrina is changing in many ways and the next Mayor must be one who can be a bridge builder bringing people together. And while it is a step in the right direction, taking down monuments is not enough, when you look at the wide divide as it relates to racial equity in the City. We at Data News Weekly feels that this is an important election that will determine the direction of the City and who we will be moving forward. So, in our role as the "People's Paper" we will

provide information that will help our citizens in making informed choices when choosing our elected official moving forward.

The Power of the Ballot

Finally, we would like to remind the voters that you are the employer and those who are elected are the employees and their job is

to serve the interest of the people; so, ask hard questions, get involved and realize that the ballot is a powerful tool to help shape our future. Remember, it is you who control the outcome of the elections either by participating or non-participating and that elections have consequence that could impact you. With election season beginning we ask

you to get informed, and get involved in shaping the agenda of our City by electing officials that will be accountable to all the people of the City regardless of race, income or zip code. This can lead to the collective steps forward that can help a great City become greater, not just for a few but for all of the citizens of the Crescent City.



NAREB 2017 COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING DAY
NEW ORLEANS, LA

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West Nile Virus Found in Local Mosquitoes in Orleans Parish

What You Need to Do to Keep Safe

Data News Staff Edited Report

West Nile Virus Found in Local Mosquitoes in Orleans Parish

What You Need to Do to Keep Safe

Data News Staff Edited Report

Last week, the New Orleans Mosquito, Termite and Rodent Control Board detected the West Nile Virus in Mosquitos in Orleans Parish. As of now, NOMTCB has not reported any persons contracting the West Nile Virus or Zika Virus in New Orleans. The West Nile Virus is most dangerous to those over 65 or with immune system concerns.

Right now, the NOMTCB recommends using EPA-approved mosquito repellent, and reducing moist environments as much as possible.

NOMTCB recommended these safety tips to protect yourself from

mosquito bites.

Protecting Yourself

- The CDC recommends using repellents containing EPA-registered active ingredients including DEET, picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon-eucalyptus.

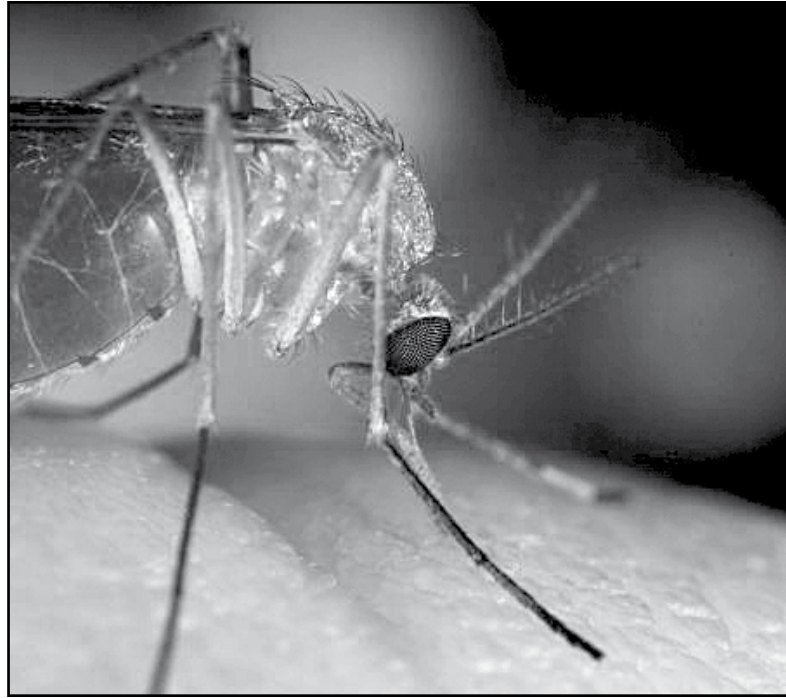
- When using repellent, always follow the recommendations on the product label.

- Reduce mosquito exposure by limiting outdoor activities between dusk and dawn.

- Use air-conditioning and make sure window and door screens are in good repair to prevent mosquitoes from getting inside.

- If outside for long periods of time, wear long-sleeved shirts and pants.

For additional information regarding West Nile Virus, visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's website: <http://www.cdc.gov>.



If you run into severe Mosquito issues, contact 311 or mosquitocontrol@nola.gov.

- Eliminate standing water around your home, where mosquitoes breed.

- Remove trash and clutter, dispose of discarded tires and containers that can hold water. Turn over wading pools, buckets, trash cans, children's toys or anything that could collect water.

- Change water weekly in containers that cannot be removed, such as pet dishes or bird baths. Scrub the side of the containers each day to remove the eggs that have been deposited.

- Rain barrels and other water collection devices must be screened and collected water should be used within one week.

- Aerate ornamental pools, fountains and sugar kettles or stock them with fish.

- Report illegal dumping, water leaks and unattended swimming pools and by calling 311.

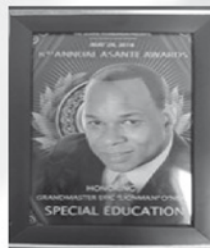
- Call 311 or email mosquitocontrol@nola.gov to report mosquito problems.

gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/qa/prevention.htm.

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New Orleans Community Wealth Building Day to Boost Homeownership For Black Residents

Eric Craig Multimedia Editor

The National Association of Real Estate Brokers will hold its 70th Anniversary Convention in New Orleans this July. This year, the Association will host a free community wealth building workshop on the process of home buying, held at SUNO at 6400 Press Drive, on Saturday, July 29, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"The Community Wealth Building Day is designed to give consumers accurate and timely information for purchasing real estate," said Courtney Johnson-Rose, NAREB's 3rd Vice President. "There will be several classes available to take for free on that day."

So far, NAREB has done four

other Community Wealth Building Days in four other markets. New Orleans will be the last Community Wealth Building Day planned for 2017.

"The wonderful thing about these markets is that we have a local chapter in these markets," Johnson-Rose said.

Johnson-Rose said that while the Community Wealth Day is only one day, interested parties are welcome to contact the New Orleans Association of Real Estate Brokers for additional information.

There are people are here to service the community. This new event is a door opener. We have a team on the ground that knows that particular market."

Big Chief

David Peters Montana

Washitaw Nation

Glenn Jones
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Timeline:

Present - 2002 Washitaw Nation (MGI)
2002 - 1956 Yellow Pocahontas

David Peters Montana comes from the storied Montana Black Masking Bloodline of New Orleans. The first tribe of the 7th Ward ran by the Montana Brothers Tootie and Edward, the Second Chief of the Yellow Pocahontas Tribe. Together they entrenched the culture of Black Masking downtown and set the tone for being pretty across the City. Sitting down with Chief is a roller coaster that goes up to the history of his family in the congressional library down to his earliest memories in the Lafitte Project as a child watching Indians throw the venetian blinds down the court yards to Orleans and Claiborne. As he watched Famed of old days Performer "Google Eyes" recite his opening act for the Municipal Auditorium. Then, through a loop, beating the drum of the tambourine giving you the soundtrack and illustration of his life story and culture. Chief says he masked a few times

as a child but fell in love with girls and lost his focused. Even though he wasn't sewing he continued his passion for drawing combined with his knowledge as a retired master jeweler from Boudreaux's in 94 when his father passed to continue the legacy.

Q) Chief why do you say the spy boy is the heart of the tribe?

a) Spy boys was great; spy boy is the heart of the tribe. With him up front he got to be a powerful individual. He sees everything going and coming, he's gotta be a person that got some strength, because back in the day, they used to fight.



Big Chief David Peters Montana

A lot of people didn't follow the Indians, they watched threw the venetian blinds of the City. We run behind them after they go up the street, not knowing one day you would be part of that. Ya know but it was just that deep in our roots, till I had to go that way.

Q) What style of suit do you sew?

a) I did a suit with no stones, they got expensive. Now I'm beading. Know what they use to say? Dudes downtown don't know how to bead. Shewd don't talk to fast. I make you eat your words. I make ya put ya phone down! There is an old word, a creole word Rumbaasha. It means raggedy.... You will hear a Indian sing no Rumbaasha hear, nah! I like my suit to fit me. I don't like mine too big. I like to get around and come around. Look wild at them. My crown do it all. It bounce right when I move. When it's made right it becomes you.

Q) Chief why did you start the Washitaw Nation Mardi Gras Indians?

a) Washitaw Nation why Washitaw

true native people from many many years ago. The people of the mounds. The mounds that led from Canada down the Mississippi to Monroe LA. These were the indigenous people. They were some of the people that helped the people in slavery. Well they say I out grew my position (with Yellow Pocahontas Tribe), so I pulled my own gang. I'm Big Chief Washitaw Nation, won't bow down, don't know how, I make a caterpillar crawl, slip through wall and when I get him to the top I dare him to fall! In 94 my daddy past December 31, 1994 while he was working on the Sunburst Suit. Which was the ending of him and the beginning of me. I had three months to finish his suit. When I put it on, a feeling came over me and I just started getting ideas for suits. It's funny how things will come over you. That was in 95 and I haven't put the needle down yet.

Q) Can this culture pull our kids back from technology?

a) Kids are interested, because it's

something new to some kids. They want to know what's it's all about. So, I find the children, I got a little nephew he's only 5 or 6 years old now and he started at 3 and he really wanted to do it. He knows how to dance, and he know how to perform with it. He's learning it other kids watch him. They got a couple of little girls (My grand baby) she dances and sing the songs. Kids are interested they like sponges they soak up everything. And if its somethings that's pretty colorful. It's got song it's got dance. It puts them all up in the front (in the spotlight).

Q) Why, was this culture almost lost from 1700's till the first reports of your family masking in the 1850's?

a) They were banded to wear feathers. You couldn't wear feathers if you got caught with them on then. They was supposed been have gotten rid of all the Indians. They pushed them in the reservations. If you was an Indian they (you) didn't say nothing. People didn't say nothing because they didn't want them to know. They didn't know what nationality a lot of us was, if you didn't tell them. They call use Colors, Negros, Blacks, Maroons. They called us all kind of different names. But at the same peek of it all they still didn't respect the Redman. We the Red People, and they weren't White and they show you Buffalo Bill and he brought White Indians. And where they came from. Just like Hollywood have White Indians. Everybody know who we are but us. But I be damn if I don't know who my people are after looking at all that (congressional libraries) of my family history. I know exactly who I am. Maybe that's why I have some of the ways that I have.

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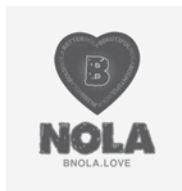
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Style

The Curly Corner

How Weekly Deep Conditioning Makes a Difference in My Hair



Destiny Johnson
Natural Hair Columnist

Prior to going natural, I used to deep condition my hair maybe once every 2 to 3 months or whenever I thought that my hair felt dry. I would only deep condition my hair to repair what I thought was breakage, shedding, or just brittle hair. At one point, I thought that some magic deep conditioner would save my hair from the tremendous amount of

heat damage it had endured from twice a month heat straightening. However, my failed attempts at bringing my hair back to life were finally remedied with just cutting the damaged parts off.

While within my natural hair journey, I began to deep condition on a regular basis. I do my best to dedicate one day a week to doing a full deep conditioning treatment to get my hair back in order. Since I've been doing this, my hair is flourishing and it really makes a difference in how my curls form. When I do not deep condition my hair, my curls still come through but they aren't as defined or soft. I am also prone to more unnecessary frizz and tangles. Using a deep conditioner keeps my hair more nourished and helps my curls to resist the environmental damage it undergoes daily. Since

I wear my hair down often, weekly deep conditioning gives my hair an extra layer of protection.

Deep conditioning your hair takes time out of your day but it is worth it to maintain the health and strength of curly/kinky hair.

The keys to having an amazing deep conditioning treatment are as follows:

1. Always detangle your soaking wet hair thoroughly with a wide-toothed comb prior to applying the product on your hair. Detangle your hair in at least four sections.
2. Try to find a product that works for your hair. I have somewhere between 3C and 4A curls with a lot of volume so Shea Moisture's Strengthen and Grow Treatment Masque is a great

choice for my curls.

3. Deep condition for at least 15 to 30 minutes.
4. You can use an overhead dryer or just leave the product on longer without heat.
5. Apply a leave in conditioner and then a light oil on your ends after deep conditioning to retain moisture long after you've washed the product out. I like to use Cantu Coconut Curling Cream as a leave in conditioner and I apply a bit of Organic Coconut Oil to my ends.
6. Try to maintain a consistent deep conditioning schedule. Your curls depend on it!

Happy Growing!

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ACLA-17208

Delaney's Armoire

The Wild Side of Fashion

Animal Print



Delaney George
Fashion Columnist

Clothing comes in a variety of animal styles from zebra, snake skin, alligator, tiger and even elephant. Although some textures are real, many prints are available in styles that aren't harmful to animals. Here are a few legendary animal print styles that never go out of style.

Cheetah Coat: The cheetah coat has been a fashion show stopper since the 70s. The multi-colored faux fur is usually a long coat with a caramel background and brown spots. The fierce cheetah coat is most commonly seen in winter time, but makes its pattern debut in shoes, accessories, and purses in its off season.

Zebra Print: Although black and white are two of the simplest color combos, nothing screams exotic more than a Zebra print dress, skirt, or ensemble. The abstract lines and curves within Zebra print gives off an elegant mystery feel on a

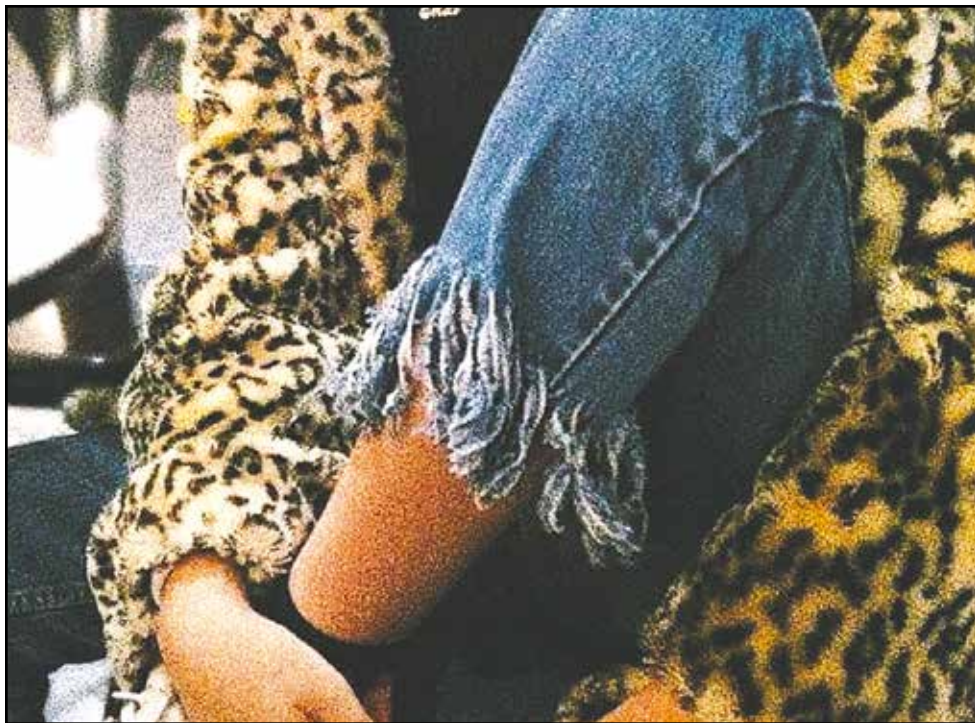
classic touch. Zebra is worn in any season and pairs well with almost anything.

Fox Scarf: You will only see these on the most famous of celebrities. A fox around the neck or shoulders, is one of the highest fashion looks and is hard to pair with the perfect outfit. Some would say one would need to be fashionably advanced to pull this look off, but it is most commonly worn as an outfit accent rather than the entire look.

For more on these animal print styles and looks email Delinkey@yahoo.com



Zebra Dress paired with Red glasses as a pop of color.



Fur Cheetah coat paired with jeans and red vans by @Alexxaamania on Instagram.



Real fox scarf by @ShelbyPdtk on Instagram.

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Black Parents Have to Get into the ESSA Game

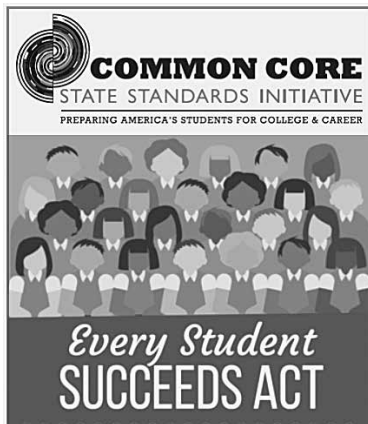


Shawnta S. Barnes
NNPA/ESSA Guest Columnist

Back in May, I traveled to Chicago and saw “Hamilton: An American Musical” about founding father Alexander Hamilton. During Act II, Hamilton’s adversary Aaron Burr was upset, because he was excluded from “the room where it happens.” He wanted to be involved in the important decisions, the policy decisions. Knowing my 18-month Teach Plus Policy Fellowship was coming to an end on June 23 and after reflecting upon my fellow education blogger David McGuire’s piece

“The Silent Black Voice in Education,” I wanted to make sure I took advantage of any opportunity to be in the room where it happens, so I put my name on a list to be part of one of Indiana’s Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) working groups. I was excited to later learn that I was selected as a member of one of the technical working groups.

ESSA is the reauthorization of the 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and replaces No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Each state is tasked with submitting a plan to the U.S. Department of Education detailing how ESSA requirements will be implemented in its schools. Before Indiana’s plan was drafted, the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) took measures to ensure voices from around the state were heard. Community meetings were held across the state in each of Indiana’s congressional districts.



The IDOE created five technical working groups: accountability, assessment, educator effectiveness, school improvement, and student supports. I was part of the student supports group. In May and June, the groups made recommendations for the plan and in July the groups will have the opportunity to read through the section they worked on and provide comments.

On Friday, June 30, the IDOE

released its first draft of the state’s ESSA plan. In addition to the working groups, the public also has the opportunity to provide feedback. After feedback is considered, the plan will be submitted to Governor Holcomb for review. The IDOE plans to submit the final version to the U.S. Department of Education on September 18, 2017.

Towards the end of the song, “The Room Where It Happens” Alexander Hamilton tells Burr:

When you got skin in the game, you stay in the game

But you don’t get a win unless you play in the game

Oh, you get love for it, you get hate for it

You get nothing if you

Wait for it, wait for it, wait

I definitely have skin in the game; I’m a parent and an educator. If you are part of our community, you have skin in the game, because the plan implemented under

ESSA will shape our community’s children, our future leaders. A few have asked, “Why do you even want to get involved? It won’t matter.” One key point I learned during my policy fellowship is when policy is shaped and decisions are made, it takes collaboration and compromise and you won’t get everything you want. If you don’t participate or “play in the game,” you won’t be able to move the needle. You won’t be able to make any change.

Don’t just wait around and see what happens. If you would like to get involved, go to <http://www.doe.in.gov/essa> to read Indiana’s ESSA plan draft.

Learn more about the Every Student Succeeds Act at nnpa.org/essa.

Shawnta Barnes, a Literacy Coach for Indianapolis Public Schools contributed to Indiana’s Every Student Succeeds Act working groups.

War on Opioids Hurts Sickle Cell Disease Patients

Leonard E. Colvin
New Journal and Guide/
NNPA Member

For the thousands of individuals who suffer from the effects of sickle cell anemia, pain is a common part of their lives.

The inherited disease causes red blood cells of mostly people of African descent to deform into a sickle shape. This inhibits the red blood cells from carrying oxygen throughout the body, which can cause severe pain and organic damage.

So, many of those suffering from sickle cell anemia are prescribed a variety of powerful pain killer derivatives.

Their desire to receive relief may be viewed through the biased lens of racism and criminalization as a result of the opioid epidemic, and deter them from receiving care for their pain.

Many of these painkillers are

equal in strength to oxycontin and oxycodone, which many people with sickle cell anemia have been taking since they were children.

They are also the same drugs which are at the center of the nation’s current opioid addiction epidemic which has been causing thousands of individuals addicted to these and other strong painkillers to overdose and die.

Thus, federal and state governments are seeking to pressure doctors to limit their prescriptions of such drugs to patients to curb the deadly trend.

According to Judy Anderson, the executive director of the Sickle Cell Anemia Association of Hampton Roads, a growing number of people who are suffering from sickle cell anemia may be severely impacted by the government’s effort to curb opioid addiction.

Sickle Cell Anemia Association of Hampton Roads is the leading advocacy group in southeastern



Judy Anderson is the Executive Director of the Sickle Cell Anemia Association of Hampton Roads, the leading advocacy group in Southeastern Virginia for people suffering from the disease. (The New Journal and Guide)

Virginia for people suffering from the disease.

During a recent interview on the issue, Anderson told the Guide that doctors are being ordered to screen and review the prescriptions of people with sickle cell anemia, to determine the necessity of their use of the strong pain killers.

“These people are not addicted to these drugs,” said Anderson. “They are dependent on them because of the pain they are experiencing throughout their lives.”

“One lady who called the office Monday, July 10th, told me she took her last pain pill the previous Friday,” said Anderson. “Her doctor is reviewing her case and has not written her a new prescription.”

Anderson continued: “Unable to get her pain meds, I am sure she will end up in a hospital, because she went to the emergency room to have her pain treated.”

Anderson said that the woman is bedridden and has other ailments along with sickle cell anemia.

Recently, Anderson has devoted

more attention to helping people like this woman and others who may be caught up in the government’s effort to curb opiate addiction, by curbing the number of pain killer prescriptions doctors can administer.

Anderson said that doctors have been telling sickle cell anemia patients to buy 880 milligrams Tylenol or other over-the-counter pain killers to thwart their discomfort.

“But that is just like taking a baby aspirin,” she said. “It’s a band aid. It does nothing for these people.”

Anderson mentioned one man who was recently released from a state prison. He had no physician to contact upon returning to his community. He is one of the individuals her agency has been working with to help him get through this crisis.

Despite Anderson’s efforts, the emergency room may be his only option for treatment. Further, even physicians in the emergency room,

Opioids, Continued
on page 11.

trailblazer

Ameer Baraka

The Rose that Grew From Concrete

by: Edwin Buggage

Ameer Baraka, is an Author, Activist, Actor and Educator. Many know of him as the guy who's appeared in countless films and television shows including HBO's 'Treme', Fox TV, America's Horror Story, Blackboard Wars on Oprah Winfrey's OWN and many others, but behind the glory is a story of inspiration proving that anyone can turn their lives around and with hard work and determination anything is possible. Baraka, whose name means blessed prince, grew up in the Calliope Housing Projects, where oftentimes dreams died before they are birthed.

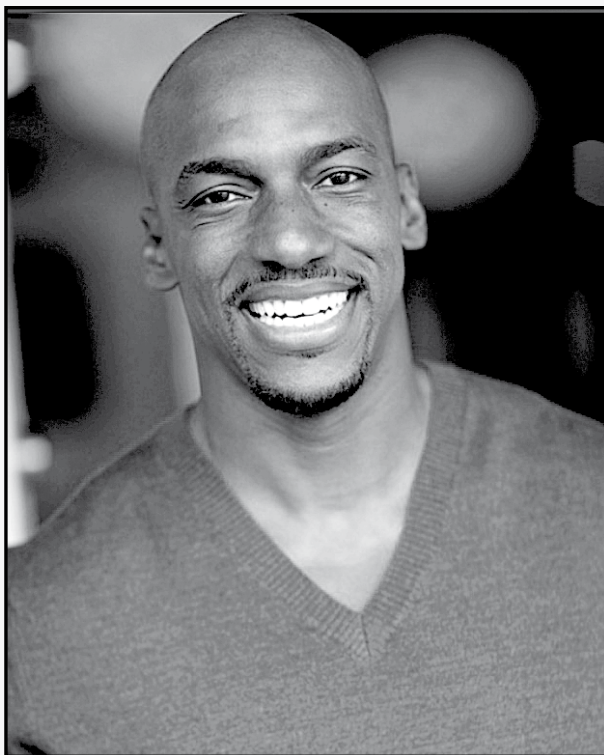
Early in life he found himself living in a broken home feeling alone and misunderstood. This led to him being a troubled youth being arrested multiple times soon finding himself incarcerated facing a six decades long prison sentence as a young adult, completely illiterate, dyslexic, and totally ill equipped for anything but the bleakest of futures behind bars. In this moment, he took control of his life and changing its direction forever.

Speaking of this moment and how these experiences shaped the person he is today; one who is dedicated to giving back he says, "Many of the experiences I had forced me to change. I saw my life was going nowhere so I decided my life needed to go in a new direction. I was a youth who was void of understanding, knowledge

and wisdom and did not have the necessary tools to succeed and because of that I didn't think I could do anything different, so I made a lot of mistakes. Now I am using all this for good to fill the void in others' lives and helping them become their best selves because I feel it is your experiences that can either destroy you or compel you into greatness."

Baraka has become the face of Dyslexia, recently testifying before Congress. Also, he has been part of a movement to remove the stigma as part of a campaign, Dyslexia Is Sexy (DIS), as he is called the Sexy Dyslexic, bringing attention and working to get people diagnosed early. "Growing up I was dyslexic and didn't know what it was, my mother didn't know and my brothers and sister did extremely well in school. I failed miserably; I hated school. But to tease and whip children is not the answer, get them tested and then get them the one on one help they need. Because people can go through life not knowing they have dyslexia; I found out while I was in prison, I was 23 years old, when I was tested and was reading on a 3rd grade level."

Today Baraka is an example of triumph over tragedy and an example of the power of learning to read and how it empowered him. Now it's his mission to help kids like himself reach their full potential. "I realized that reading is a very powerful tool,



you are able to pick up a book, if you have never been to certain places around the world it can take you there. It was my inability to read that made me want to go into the street life. My mother was a young parent and she called me stupid and dumb and my brothers and sisters did as well so I acted out. It took me four years to receive my GED, that was the greatest time in my life that I'd finally obtained something that was rewarding and it was a high that cocaine couldn't give me or heroin. Today accomplishments get me high and I realized I had to teach others to read. It is a known fact that 70% of people who are incarcerated have reading disabilities. I am bringing awareness and

police departments around the country his novel curriculum for better policing in cities, with a particular focus on communities of color. "Myself and Peter Scharf with our combined experience are a hell of a tag team. My goal is for police officers to better understand African-American; because sometimes they encounter people they do not understand and are in many instances afraid of and I am trying to bridge that gap."

He is the author of the book "The Life I Chose - The Streets Lied To Me," is being used by police departments across the country as a practical manual on better policing and better police-community relations. Also, it is being ordered by school principals across the country to inspire young people that they can overcome obstacles and aspire to reach higher.

In his life one that's seen its shares of ups and downs, Baraka has overcome nearly every setback one can face in America, e.g. poverty, a history that includes time behind bars, drug abuse, and illiteracy until adult-

hood, dyslexia, and an absentee father. While these are roadblocks he feels they do not make, bettering oneself impossible. Conversely, his message is that having good social values, a sense of self-worth, pursuing personal excellence, having integrity, can be proper pathways out of the proverbial 'hood and onward towards upward mobility.

The late Tupac Shakur wrote a poem entitled "The Rose that Grew From Concrete" that speaks of how determination and ambition can drive a person to the pathway of success, defeating any hurdles and the challenges that come in the way, Baraka is the embodiment of these traits. "If you want to be in the street life there are two places you will wind up, in prison or the graveyard. What I say today if you want to be successful, surround yourself with positive people and eventually you can accomplish all your goals. If this guy who couldn't read changed his life, has been in 30 films, written a book and been on talk shows can do it you can too."

JMJ
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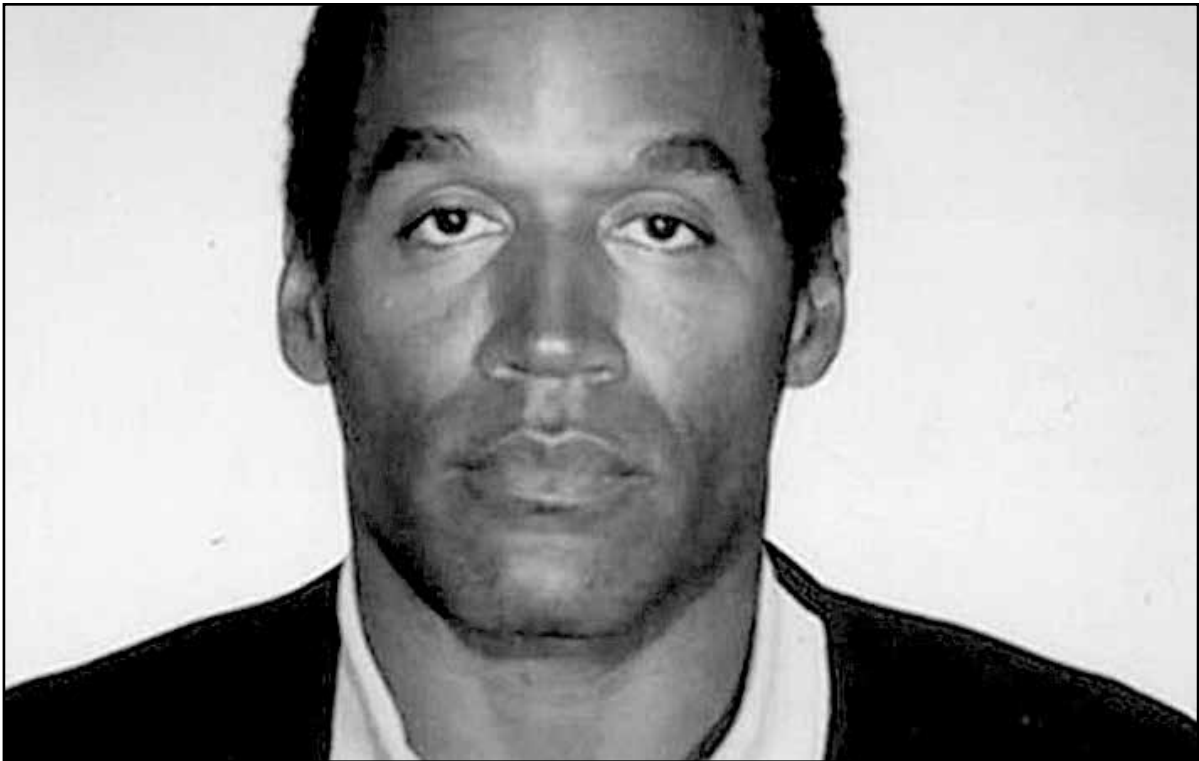


Football Legend O.J. Simpson Granted Parole in Nevada

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

O.J. Simpson will be a free man on October 1.
On Thursday, July 20th, a Nevada parole board unanimously voted to grant the fallen gridiron star parole on his 2008 conviction on armed robbery and kidnapping charges.

“Thank you,” Simpson, 70, said, dropping his head in relief.
Although, many media outlets noted how much slimmer Simpson appeared compared to 2014 when the Daily Mail dubiously reported that he tipped the scales at 300 pounds, prison records indicated that, by 2016, he weighed 235 pounds.
Simpson wore prison issued



Football Legend O.J. Simpson is set to be released from prison on October 1. (Wikimedia Commons)

**PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE
ENTERGY NEW ORLEANS, INC.
REGARDING
NEW ORLEANS POWER STATION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ENTERGY NEW ORLEANS, INC. (“ENO”) WILL HOST PUBLIC MEETINGS IN ALL FIVE (5) DISTRICTS REPRESENTED BY THE NEW ORLEANS CITY COUNCIL TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND ANSWER QUESTIONS SURROUNDING ENO’S JULY 6, 2017 SUPPLEMENTAL AND AMENDING APPLICATION TO BUILD THE NEW ORLEANS POWER STATION (“NOPS”). ENO’S SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION PROPOSES TWO ALTERNATIVES FOR THE GENERATION TECHNOLOGY FOR NOPS: (1) A 226 MEGAWATT COMBUSTION TURBINE (“CT”) UNIT, OR (2) A 128 MEGAWATT SET OF SEVEN WÄRTSILÄ 18V50SG RECIPROCATING INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINES (“RICE”). BUILDING A LOCAL RESOURCE LIKE NOPS WILL ENHANCE ENO’S ABILITY TO PROVIDE RELIABLE POWER TO THE CITY DURING THE TIMES OF GREATEST NEED. IN THIS PUBLIC MEETING, ENO WILL ADDRESS VARIOUS TOPICS RELATED TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF NOPS, INCLUDING:

WHAT IS A CT UNIT? WHAT IS A RICE GENERATOR?
WHY DOES NEW ORLEANS NEED NOPS?
WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF NOPS?
WHAT IS THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NOPS?
WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE LARGER UNIT?
HOW DOES NOPS FIT INTO THE INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN?
WHAT IS THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF NOPS?
WHAT ABOUT RENEWABLE RESOURCES OR ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS?

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THESE MEETINGS. THE PUBLIC MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS FROM 6 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.:

DATE	COUNCIL DISTRICT	LOCATION	ADDRESS
MONDAY, JULY 31, 2017	DISTRICT E	EAST NEW ORLEANS REGIONAL LIBRARY	5641 READ BLVD. NEW ORLEANS, LA 70127
MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2017	DISTRICT C (WEST BANK)	ALGIERS REGIONAL LIBRARY	3014 HOLIDAY DR. NEW ORLEANS, LA 70131
TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2017	DISTRICT C (EAST BANK)	THE GEORGE AND JOYCE WEIN JAZZ & HERITAGE CENTER	1225 N. RAMPART ST. NEW ORLEANS, LA 70116
MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2017	DISTRICT A	MID-CITY LIBRARY	4140 CANAL ST. NEW ORLEANS, LA 70119
TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2017	DISTRICT B	ROSA F. KELLER LIBRARY & COMMUNITY CENTER	4300 SO. BROAD ST. NEW ORLEANS, LA 70125
MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2017	DISTRICT D	CORPUS CHRISTI – EPIPHANY COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER	2022 ST. BERNARD AVENUE NEW ORLEANS, LA 70119
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2017	DISTRICT E	ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS CHURCH	3501 NORTH MIRO ST. NEW ORLEANS, LA 70117
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2017	DISTRICT E	SANCHEZ MULTI-SERVICE CENTER – NORDC	1616 CAFFIN AVE. NEW ORLEANS, LA 70117

blue pants and a blue top and told the four-member board that he had missed as many as 36 of his children’s birthdays while incarcerated.
He said that he started and led Baptist ceremonies in prison and has “basically spent a conflict-free life.”
When the board asked about his participation in the armed robbery that took place in a Las Vegas hotel room, Simpson said he was unaware that any of the men were carrying guns.
During the hearing that lasted more than an hour, Commissioner Tony Corda asked Simpson, “What were you thinking?”
Simpson said he was simply trying to retrieve items that belonged to him, including personal photos of his children, ex-wife and mother.
“I’ve done my time,” he said. “I’d just like to get back to my family and friends. I’m sorry it happened. I’ve said, ‘I’m sorry to Nevada.’ I thought I was glad to get my stuff back, but it wasn’t worth it.”
Board members held up thousands of letters they said were both in support and against Simpson’s parole. They said they would not consider any letters that asked them to take into account the brutal 1994 slayings of Simpson’s ex-wife, Nicole Brown, and her friend, Ronald Goldman.
Simpson was famously acquitted of the murders of Brown and Goldman, but a civil court jury found

him responsible for their deaths and ordered the football legend to pay more than \$33 million to the Brown and Goldman families.
According to an article published in The New York Times in February 1997, the criminal court jury and the civil court jury basically heard the same case, with a few key differences.
“The criminal case was tried by a predominantly Black jury, and conviction required a finding that Mr. Simpson committed the June 12, 1994, slayings beyond any reasonable doubt,” The New York Times article said. “The civil case was tried before a predominantly White jury, and a verdict required only 9 of 12 votes, with the basic legal standard being that in all probability Mr. Simpson committed the slayings.”
MarketWatch.com reported that Simpson collected between \$400,000 and \$600,000 from his National Football League pension while he was incarcerated.
“He made over \$400,000 if he started taking his pension at age 55, and over \$600,000 if he started taking it at 65,” the MarketWatch.com article said, which was based on ESPN’s analysis.
Simpson isn’t required to use his pension funds to pay the Browns or the Goldmans, because NLF pensions are protected by state law, according to MarketWatch.com.
Arnelle Simpson, Simpson’s old-

est child, was one of two people to testify at the hearing for Simpson. No one spoke in opposition of his parole.
Arnelle Simpson fought back tears, as she described her father as being her rock.
“We just want him to come home, so we can move forward for us, quietly,” she said.
One of Simpson’s robbery victims, Bruce Fromong, also spoke, telling the board he felt Simpson’s 33-year prison term was too long and the nearly nine years he’d already served exceeded justice for the crime committed.
He said he and Simpson had been friends for more than 20 years and, at one point, turned to Simpson to reiterate his support of the one-time Heisman Trophy winner.
“O.J., if you called to tell me that you were getting out tomorrow, Juice, I’d be here to pick you up,” Fromong said. “I mean that, man.”
The board took about 30-minutes before rendering its decision that was televised live on several news outlets and on ESPN.
Simpson’s attorney said, with the permission of probation, he’ll return to Florida and lead a quiet life.
The MarketWatch.com article said that, “If Simpson lives in Florida when he’s released—he lived there before his arrest—he also wouldn’t be forced to sell his house to pay off the civil suit, because of the state’s homestead exemption.”

NAACP Names Derrick Johnson as Interim President

Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Columnist

The NAACP has named Derrick Johnson, the Vice Chairman of their Board of Directors, the organization's Interim President.

The unanimous decision was made by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors during the Association's 108th Annual Convention in Baltimore. The NAACP is the largest and oldest civil rights organization in the U.S. The executive committee of the board is comprised of 14 people.

On May 19, the NAACP board announced that the contract of Cornell William Brooks, the outgoing president, would not be renewed. Brooks' contract ended on June 30. Brooks began his tenure as NAACP President in May of 2014.

"I am thrilled to announce that my friend and colleague Derrick Johnson has been appointed to interim president and CEO. I could not think of a better, more battle-tested or more qualified individual to guide the NAACP through this transition period," said Leon Russell, the chairman of the board of the NAACP.



Derrick Johnson formerly served as Vice Chairman of the NAACP National Board of Directors as well as State President for the Mississippi State Conference NAACP. (NAACP)

"Derrick's longtime service with the Association will allow him to take decisive action to deal with daily challenges. He will also serve as the primary spokesman for the NAACP. I have every confidence in Derrick and will support him in this new endeavor every step of the way."

In a statement released on July 22, Johnson said that it is truly an honor and a privilege to be named the interim president and CEO of

an organization that he's served for decades.

"There's a lot of work that needs to be done and we won't waste any time getting to it. We are facing unprecedented threats to our democracy and we will not be sidelined while our rights are being eroded every day," said Johnson. "We remain steadfast and immovable, and stand ready on the front lines of the fight for justice."

The NAACP is about to embark

on a nationwide listening tour to hear advice on what their focus should be moving forward. NAACP leadership has acknowledged that younger civil rights organizations are getting more traction and attention in a world of social media and faster communications.

The first stop on the NAACP listening tour is Detroit on August 24. The second stop will be San Antonio, Texas in September. The organization's leadership will "visit a total of seven major cities across the country over the next few months," according to a press release about the tour.

Johnson will serve as interim president and CEO until a new president is named. Johnson formerly served as vice chairman of the NAACP National Board of Directors as well as state president for the Mississippi State Conference NAACP.

Lauren Victoria Burke is the White House Correspondent for NNPA Newswire and a Writer and Political Analyst. Lauren appears on "NewsOne Now" with Roland Martin every Monday. Connect with Lauren by email at LBurke007@gmail.com and on Twitter at @LVBurke.

Opioids, Continued from page 8.

who may assume, because he is a young, Black male, that he is addicted to painkillers and may not treat him effectively.

Anderson said that in April 2016, in the wake of the growing opioid addiction and related deaths due to overdoses, hospital emergency departments in Virginia received guidelines aimed at curbing opioid misuse and addictions.

There were 14 new guidelines issued by the state which directed doctors to avoid prescribing painkillers and to give patients no more than a three-day supply in extreme cases. These guidelines were endorsed by the Virginia Hospital and Health Care Associations and the Virginia College of Emergency Physicians.


According to the Virginia Department of Health, the state saw 822 opioid overdose deaths in the first nine months of 2016, compared with 811 in all of 2015.

"Almost three people a day are dying in Virginia from an opioid overdose, either prescription or illegal," said David E. Brown, director of the state's Department of Health Professions.

For the first time, the regulations apply specific guidelines to Virginia providers, dictating how many opioids can be prescribed depending on the situation and stipulating that other pain treatments should be considered before opioids are prescribed.

Before prescribing opioids, providers must do a thorough physical examination and determine the patient's history. The patient also must be given Naloxone—a life-saving drug that can reverse the effects of an overdose. Read the full story on LADatanews.com

ladatanews.com



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MCDONOGH 35

The National McDonogh 35 High School Alumni Association is reaching out to all graduates as it begins the celebration of the school's Centennial Celebration (1917 to 2017).

If you are a graduate or if you know of someone who graduated from the school, contact the alumni association at mcdonogh35alumni-association@yahoo.com, mcdonogh35alumniassociation.org, or write to McDonogh 35 Alumni Association, P.O. Box 50306, New Orleans, LA 70122, ATT: Alumni Association.

Submit New Orleans school items to Orleans@nola.com. Include contact information.

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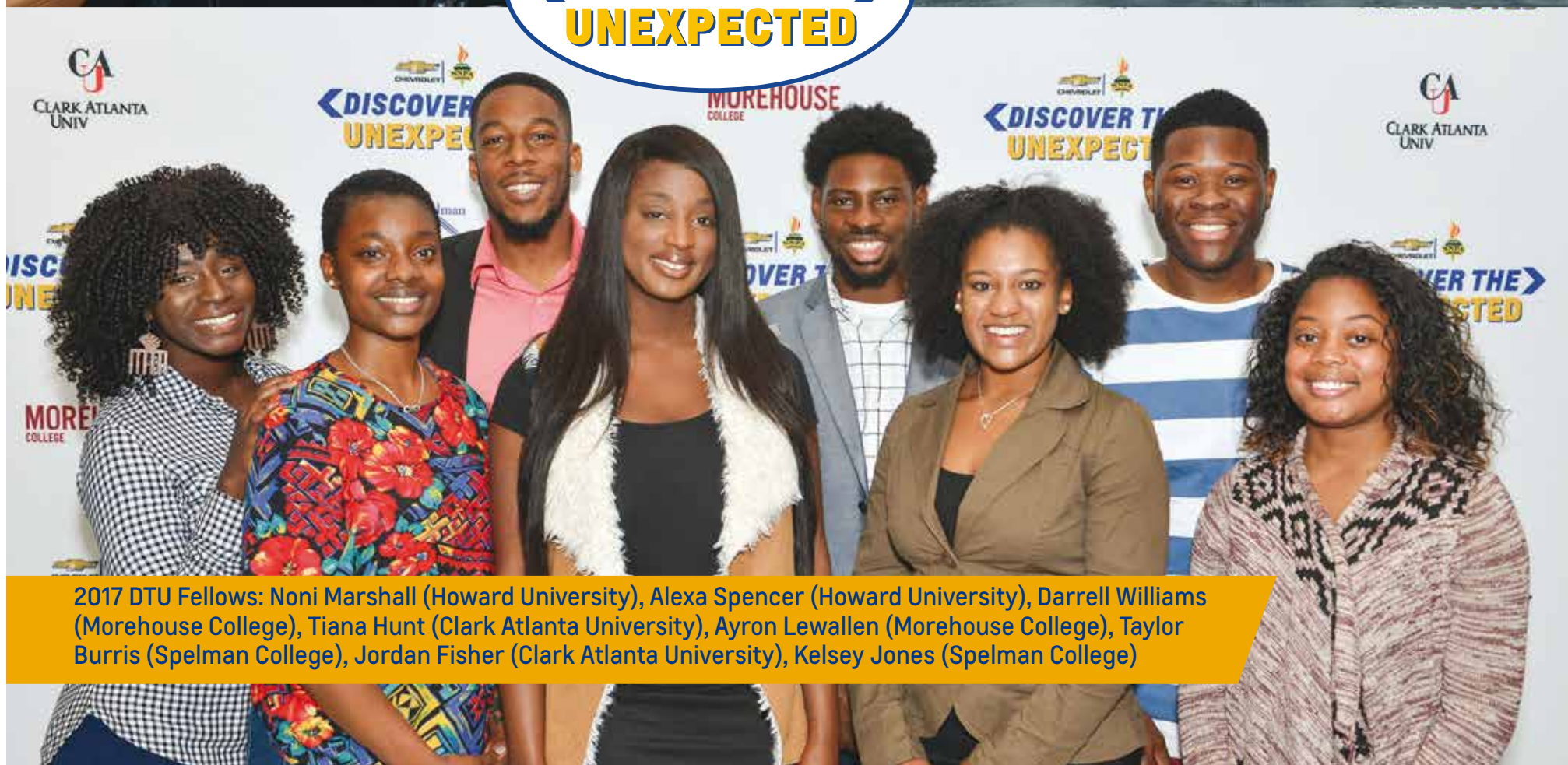
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2017 DTU Fellows: Noni Marshall (Howard University), Alexa Spencer (Howard University), Darrell Williams (Morehouse College), Tiana Hunt (Clark Atlanta University), Ayron Lewallen (Morehouse College), Taylor Burris (Spelman College), Jordan Fisher (Clark Atlanta University), Kelsey Jones (Spelman College)

Our DTU Fellows are busy connecting and collecting amazing stories from the African American community! This year, Discover the Unexpected presented by the all-new 2018 Chevrolet Equinox in partnership with the National Newspaper Publishers Association includes students from Howard University, Spelman College, Morehouse College and Clark Atlanta University. Check out the inspirational stories and exciting videos from our 8 DTU Fellows from Atlanta, Washington D.C., Raleigh and New Orleans.

#discovertheunexpected

DISCOVER MORE OF THEIR STORY AT NNPA.ORG/DTU