


Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"



A Night Out Against Violence

Data Zone Page 6

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

Breast Cancer Awareness Month




How Obamacare Is Saving Lives and Worth Fighting For

Page 2



Fashion Fur Nails?

Page 7

42 Tribes

Gerrard "Bo" Dollis, Jr.



Page 5

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

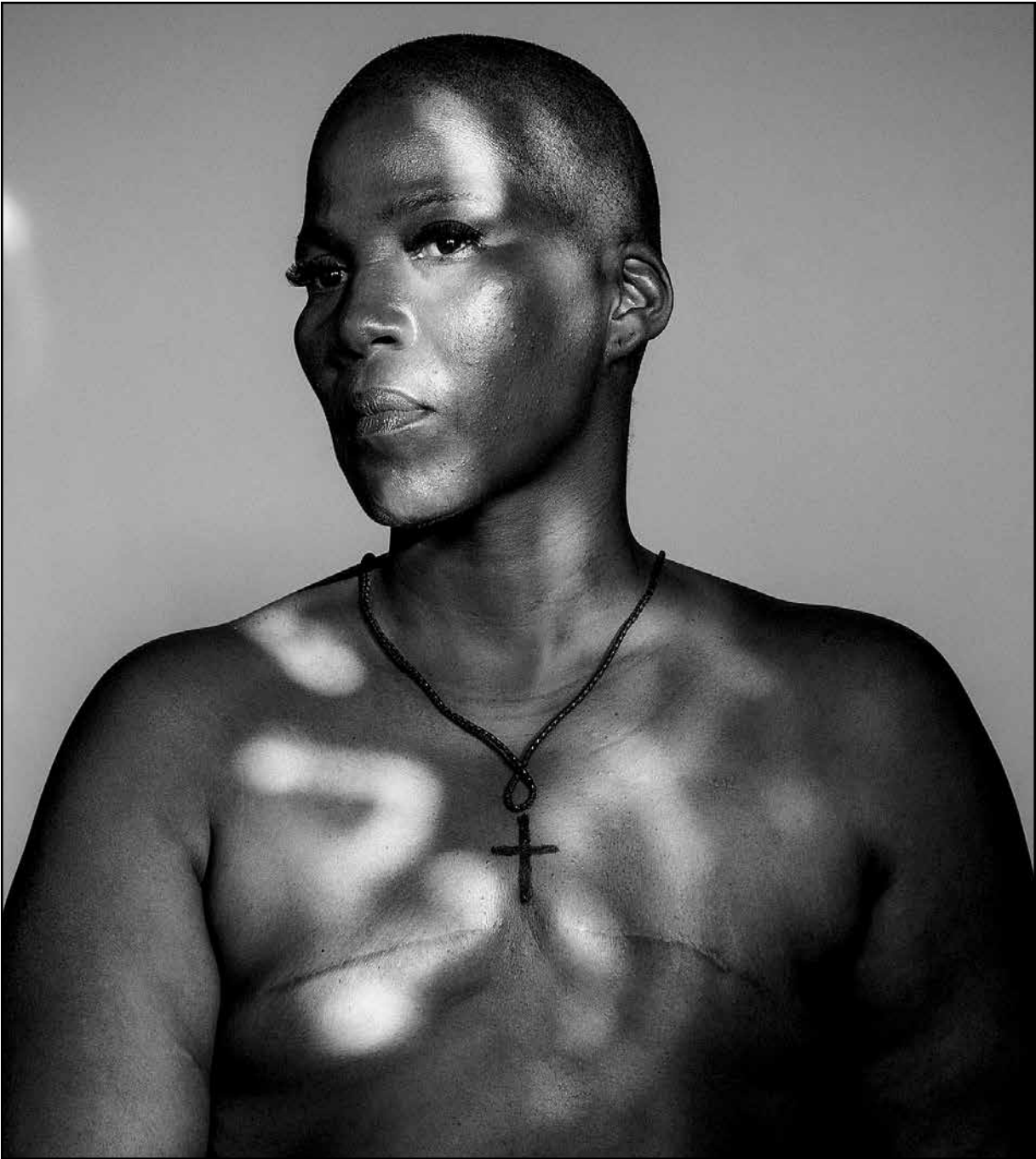
How Obamacare Is Saving Lives and Worth Fighting For

By Janice Brown
Data News Weekly Contributor

Black Women and Breast Cancer
As we end the month of October, that has for over the last three decades been deemed Breast Cancer Awareness Month; where all over you see both men and women wearing pink to bring attention to an illness that the National Institute of Health National Cancer Center estimates in the U.S. there will be 252,000 new cases of female breast cancer diagnosed this year in addition to 40,000 who will die from breast cancer in 2017.
While accounting for only 15 percent of all new cancer diagnosed annually; breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among Black women, where 30,700 new cases diagnosed in 2016. Over the years rates have stabilized among White women but continued to increase in Black women. The continued increase in incidence rates in Black women may in part reflect the rising prevalence of obesity and other risk factors among Black women.

Surviving Breast Cancer
The overall 5-year relative survival rate for breast cancer diagnosed in 2005-2011 was 80% for Black women compared to 91% for White women. This difference can be attributed to both later stage at detection and poorer stage-specific survival among Black women. Only about half (52%) of breast cancers in Black women are diagnosed at a local stage, compared to 63% in White women.
All women can help reduce their risk of breast cancer by avoiding weight gain and obesity (for postmenopausal breast cancer), engaging in regular physical activity, and minimizing alcohol intake. In addition, recent research indicates that long-term, heavy smoking may also increase breast cancer risk, particularly among women who start smoking before their first pregnancy.

Cover Story, Continued on page 3.



In an article in the New York Times from August 2016, Paulette Leaphart of New Orleans discussed the choice she made after undergoing a double mastectomy to treat her cancer. Due to complications and cost, reconstructive surgery wasn't an option for her. Losing Obamacare, would only further complicate the painful decisions women have to make. Leaphart, walked topless from Biloxi, Miss., to Washington, D.C., in 2016 to raise awareness about the financial struggles of cancer patients. (Photo Credit Béatrice de Géa for The New York Times)

INSIDE DATA	
Cover Story	2
State & Local News . . .	4
42 Tribes	5
Data Zone	6
Fashion	7
Commentary.	8
Trailblazer	9
National News	10

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

The Future of Obamacare and its Impact on Treating Breast Cancer

Under the present administration of President Donald Trump, we are witnessing attempts to overturn the Affordable Care Act (ACA) also known as Obamacare. If they are successful this may have a dramatic impact on women health services. Especially, in the area of services for breast cancer that was very expensive before then President Obama signed the ACA into law in 2010.

With Obamacare, mammograms are fully covered by health insurance. According to a recent study, eliminating cost-sharing for mammograms has significantly improved compliance with recommended screening guidelines among all socio-economic groups. Since Obamacare with more access to testing even among poorer and less educated women who historically have had low rates of screening it has improved early detection and treatment of breast cancer.

Obamacare also provides free genetic counseling and Breast Cancer Gene Testing (BRCA) for those who qualify. These tests are essential and help identify gene mutations that put women at high risk for breast and ovarian cancer. Without these subsidies, these services would be unaffordable and out of the reach of many women, where early detection may help prolong their lives.

Early Diagnoses Saves Money and Lives

The benefits of women receiving mammograms and genetic testing is essential in helping women who are diagnosed with breast cancer receive the best possible care from the start. It also provides important opportunities for conver-



sations between health care practitioners and patients on ways to reduce breast cancer risks; something that was not always the case before Obamacare.

Prior to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), there were caps on how much an insurance plan would spend on a person's health care over their lifetime. And when one gets diagnosed with Breast cancer it can create a hardship for patients and their families because treatments are extremely expensive and these limits on lifetime coverage can lead to either bankruptcy brought about by the huge bills they'd have to cover themselves or forgoing the treatment they need because it was unaffordable. Since the inception of Obamacare, it's changed that

by banning lifetime limits on coverage; this applies to all health insurance plans, not only those purchased on the public exchange. If lifetime limits were to be reinstated, they could again devastate individuals and their families.

Humane Approach to Medical Treatment in America

One of the most crucial provisions breast cancer patients gained with Obamacare is that insurance companies could no

longer deny coverage or charge patients more because of them having a pre-existing condition. Before Obamacare, insurers could refuse to pay for treatments related to pre-existing conditions, deny coverage altogether or charge a higher price for that coverage. In a nation that is part of the developed and modern world to deny services that could prolong someone's life is inhumane.

As President Trump and with both houses of Congress controlled by Republicans, the future of Obamacare is uncertain. But if it is repealed there may be impacts that pose an imminent threat to the health of women across the nation. Those who are concerned about having a healthcare system that is effective, efficient and compassionate and true to the statement "Do no harm" in the Hippocratic Oath that all doctors take. It is Obamacare that's has brought us a step closer to this by providing every woman access to the medical care they need. And is something worth fighting for, because many of the changes have saved the lives of many and helped in the fight against breast cancer.

YOUR SON'S HAIRCUT ACCIDENTALLY TURNED INTO A BUZZ CUT

Do you:

- (A) Loan out Dad's toupée.
- (B) Get creative with glue.
- (C) Try to make sweatbands a "thing" again.

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Entergy New Orleans Donates \$50,000 to Delgado Community College

Donation to Fund Kick Off of Certified Line Worker Training Program

On Monday, October 23rd, Entergy New Orleans, Inc. officials presented a \$50,000 check to Delgado Community College to support the start of the Certified Line Worker Training Program, which was developed through a partnership between the Louisiana Energy Workforce Consortium (LEWC) and the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS).

Recognizing the upcoming need for skilled, trained line workers in the near future, electric utility companies, utility contractors and community and technical colleges from across Louisiana have come together to form the LEWC. Graduates of the 26-week evening studies program at Delgado Community College will obtain National Center for Construction Education and Research certification, be qualified for employment as a line helper and



receive job-placement assistance. LEWC members were instrumental in developing the program's curriculum and designing the training facilities.

"This is a great example of the

type of cooperation needed between industry and our educational system to develop the workforce of tomorrow," said Charles Rice, president and CEO of Entergy New Orleans. "We're pleased to support

this program and look forward to helping its graduates start rewarding careers in a job that is, in many ways, the backbone of the electric utility industry. We're also glad to continue our support of Delgado's

workforce development initiatives."

"The workforce of the Greater New Orleans region continues to be upwardly mobile thanks to job training partnerships like this one between Delgado Community College and Entergy New Orleans," said Joan Davis, chancellor of Delgado Community College. "We thank our partners at Entergy for their support, and we look forward to the day when this program's graduates are helping keep us comfortable, safe and productive inside all of our homes and businesses."

Delgado Community College and Fletcher Technical Community College will be the first Louisiana colleges to offer the Certified Line Worker Training Program beginning in January 2018. More information on the program is available at http://www.dcc.edu/academics/workforce/line_worker.aspx or by calling 504-671-6706.

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NOLA Partnership for Public Safety & Peace Community Discussion - Nov 1



**NOLA Partnership for
Public Safety
& Peace**

tices, current technology-based techniques, and the re-creation of a public safety and peace partnership for our city. Presented by the NOLA Partnership for Public Safety & Peace, the community discussion is titled: How the Faith and Business Communities Can Save New Orleans.

Panelists for the discussion will include: Archbishop Gregory Aymond, Marc Morial, President and CEO of the National Urban League, Former U.S. Attorney Kenneth Polite, and John Casbon, Founder of The New Orleans Police Foundation.

The Isaiah Institute of New Orleans and the Alexis de Tocqueville Project of the University of New Orleans are hosting a special gathering of faith and business leaders to discuss public safety best prac-

The event will take place on Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at the University of New Orleans, University Center, Ballroom 203. Doors will open 5:30 p.m., with the program beginning at 6:00 p.m.. The event is open to the public.

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Big Chief Gerard "Bo Dollis Jr." The Wild Magnolia Tribe

By: Glenn Jones
Data News Weekly
Contributor

TRIBAL TIMELINE

1940's – 1958 Big Chief Joe Le Baker
1959 – 2015 Big Chief Theodore Emile "Bo" Dollis Sr.
2016 – Present Big Chief Gerard "Bo Dollis Jr."

Past and present-day history in the making is the essence of the Black Masking Culture 42 Tribes Big Chief of the Week Series. Big Chief Gerard Bo Dollis Jr. embodies that from his lineage on both sides of his parents for three generations back in different disciplines of the New Orleans culture. Big Chief's grandfather on his mother's side Big Queen Laurita Barras Dollis was a founding member of Olympia Brass Band and his dad became Chief of the Wild Magnolias Tribe at the age of fifteen in 1959. After sneaking and masking with the White Eagles at thirteen and being surrounded by his father and grandfather and the Black Masking Culture, it's obvious to see why Big Chief Bo Dollis Jr. is the essence of this culture and why 42 tribes' series is needed to document the journey of this royal family and rich New Orleans culture.

Big Chief has been trained to be a musician and Big Chief in this culture since 7th grade traveling with his father Bo Sr. to perform in Japan. After pleading with his mother and meeting her requirements of making the Honor Roll (twice) and keeping a clean room and still not getting permission, one-day Bo Jr. decided to follow in his father footsteps by making his own suit without permission from his mother. On top of all that, Bo Jr. cut up his mother's ornamented purse that was a gift from her father Harold Dejean from his overseas travels. When Bo Sr. caught wind of this he stepped in and said he would take Bo Jr. to the bead shop. This



Big Chief Gerard "Bo Dollis Jr." The Wild Magnolia Tribe

unforgettable episode initiated the 30+ year career of Bo Jr. in Black Masking. Big Chief has spent his career refining the tribe by being military minded, instilling the history and traditions handed down to him; pushing the music into the next millennium with songs like "Cha Wah" and "Hell out the Way". The work ethic imparted to him by his parents and this culture shines through.

Q) When did the Wild Magnolia Tribe start?

A) Everybody thinks the name came from the projects but really, it came from Magnolia Street. There was a shoe shine booth where a bunch of guys got together and were like, we need to start a Mardi Gras Indian group. So, that's when they started Wild Magnolias. Ever since then it's been going. So, when my dad got with the Wild Magnolias there were a whole bunch of them and they were all way older than him at fifteen. He knew how to sing, how to make his own Indian suit. So, the older guys voted him to be Big Chief, after that he didn't stop till the day

he passed. From 15 to 72 years old.

Q) What was your first memory of Black Masking Culture?

A) The first year my mom let me follow the Indians, I will never forget, my Dad wore orange that year. He was coming up Jackson Ave., they had a RTA bus behind him. Nobody saw the bus. It was St. Joseph's Night and then the RTA bus cut on its lights. It shinned through the feathers. When you are five, you're short, everything looks humongous to you. I heard I guy say, "Bo" crown on fire! You know at five I hear fire I'm about to cry, my daddy's on fire. (Chief laughs hard) That was one of my greatest memories.

Q) How hard is it to establish your name in this culture with such a famous father?

A) It's still hard, (Chief laughs) as far as my coming up and trying to have my own identity and stuff. I'm not trying to fill his shoes, I'm just trying to make them better that's all.

Q) What is the spirit of your tribe or the spirit you mask with?

A) My spirit is just history. I try to

keep the history of Mardi Gras Indians, where we came from as Indians not just Wild Magnolias. I keep the same route that my dad had. I sing Indian Red just like he sang it. So, I keep the history. It doesn't just have to be with him even with the language. If you mask with Wild Magnolia, you can asked them. There are three pages of Mardi Gras (Black Masking) Indian language that they have to learn. My thing is really history and keeping the culture how it was. There is nothing wrong with it changing but we have a base.

Q) How far across this world has the music of this culture taken you?

A) I've been to Brazil, I've been to Australia and Finland. All that's thanks to my dad.

Q) What is the vision for the future of Wild Magnolias and Big Chief Gerard Bo Dollis Jr.?

A) As far as the music, the highest thing I would want is a Grammy. Indian wise in three hundred years I just want the Wild Magnolia name to still be around.

Q) How big of a roll did your Queen Rita play in your development?

A) Not just my momma (Queen Rita) but all queens are the back bone of the gang. A lot of times, I can get hot headed and loose that vision, sometimes I might want to be quiet. She will be that person, that will be like "nah, what are you doing? No!" she will put you back on the right track. I've heard people say queens can't mask on a certain day. I'm not going to stop my momma from masking any day. I tell her come on, and I'm right behind her! You would not have a king without a queen, so that just mean you can't have a Chief without a Queen.

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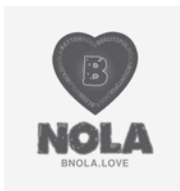
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2017 National Night Out Against Crime Kick-Off Party

Photos by Julius Gibbs
Data News Weekly
Contributor

The National Night Out Against Crime in New Orleans is a community-wide event to raise crime prevention awareness, reduce crime and increase the support of local, state and federal law enforcement. It began over 30 years ago with NOPD Officer Kelly Marrione. On October 17th, the 34th Annual National Night Out Against Crime Kick-off Party, brought together adults, children, Mayor Landrieu, NOPD officers and community partners from all across New Orleans in a unified effort to show that crime and violence are not welcomed here. The Kick-off Party featured a demonstration by the Blue Lion Karate Academy as well as kids and family friendly fun for everyone.



Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events

Fur Nails?

Are You Brave Enough to Try Them?



Delaney George
Columnist

Winter is coming around quicker than expected and this season is sure to bring in some new trends and highlight some of the old. Faux fur hats, heeled boots, and large scarves are coming back into style. But there's a new trend that some folks just can't put their finger on.

Faux fur nails have recently caught the attention of many including mine. However little to none have been brave enough to try it. The process is applying fur to your real or fake nails give off the appearance of fur fingers. Sometimes the fur is glued to the nail and comes in multiple shapes and colors.

The faux fur nails are sure to make a face touch or back scratch warm and cozy this winter season, but is it fashionable enough for any ensemble? Are you bold enough to rock the werewolf hands? Let us know by emailing delinkekey@yahoo.com with your thoughts!



Above: Brown seasonal fur nails by @inurfacemakeup on Instagram. Left: Fur Nail collage by @Glamoureal on Instagram.



Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events

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Loving Your Blackness Could Make You a Target of the FBI



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

While White men are beating Black men on the streets of Charlottesville, Virginia, while a “lone” White wolf is shooting people from the Mandalay Bay Hotel, and while the word “terrorist” is hardly used to describe these men, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), under the leadership of the racist Attorney General Jeff Beauregard Sessions, has thought up a new way to oppress Black people. Despite the fact that there is no evidence of an organized “movement,” the FBI has described Black people that have rallied for racial equality and

criminal justice reform as “Black Identity Extremists,” who pose a domestic terrorist threat to police officers.

Hold up! We have seen domestic terror threats, though there are those of limited intelligence, who cannot fathom them. The man who shot up an Orlando, Florida nightclub was a domestic terrorist. Dylan Roof, who worshipped with the parishioners at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C. then murdered nine of them, was a domestic terrorist so highly regarded by law enforcement, that they bought him a meal from Burger King. The man I will not mention in Las Vegas was a domestic terrorist, but the FBI is manufacturing evidence to focus on African Americans, who embrace our Black identity and social activism.

“Foreign Policy,” the magazine and website that broke the story of this new classification of “woke” Black people, shared the FBI docu-

ment online that links Black identity with extremism and threats to police officers. The document mentions Black Lives Matter, although the connection between Black Lives Matter and anti-police violence has not been established. For the FBI to identify “Black Identity Extremists” (BIE) as domestic terrorists is to declare war on Black people. After all, what does it mean to be a “Black Identity Extremist?” Does it mean we love our Blackness and refuse to back down when we are attacked? Does it mean that we revel in our identity and use every available platform (thank you, Colin Kaepernick) to lift our voices up against injustice? Why is this embrace of Blackness so frightening to melanin-deficient people? They prefer us silent, docile, grateful and acquiescent. They demand no such acquiescence from their melanin-impaired friends, who gleefully walk through civilized streets of places like Charlottesville and parry racist chants like “You will

not replace us, Jews will not replace us!” That’s domestic terrorism, Beauregard. Call it like it is, instead of inventing a Black movement that does not exist.

Andrew Cohen wrote about the FBI report for the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University and said that “there is no “BIE movement,” because it only exists in the barren minds of those within the Trump Administration that want you to believe that there is some sinister, Black force out there bent on attacking police officers. No journalists or academics have discovered and chronicled such a movement or its leaders. No such leaders have come forward to say they are a part of such a movement. No one has killed a cop in the name of such a movement. The only citations to the movement, Foreign Policy tells us, come from “internal law enforcement writings made over the past two months.”

Journalist Sam Fulwood III, writing for the Center for American

Progress Action Fund news site ThinkProgress.com, describes the FBI report as an “ominous siren call coinciding with President Donald Trump’s penchant for stoking racial divisions in the country.” He says that “the administration views criminalizing communities of color as a way to shield police from scrutiny and score points with a base of White voters.”

We’ve walked down this path before. We can start with Marcus Garvey, who dared to dream of Black independence and paid a horrible price for it. Fast forward to the Nation of Islam, the Black Panther Party, and so many others identified as “enemies of the state.” J. Edgar Hoover submitted a five-line request to get Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s phone lines tapped, because he was an alleged Communist. Was Dr. King perceived as a “Black Identity Extremist,” because he preached about economic justice for all “and”

**Commentary, Continued
on page 10.**

Ask Alma

Taking Care of My Elderly Parents is Taking a Toll



Alma Gill
NNPA Newswire Columnist

Dear Alma:

I am a 64 year-old divorced woman who lives with my father. Some years ago, when my marriage fell apart, and Mom was diagnosed with dementia, I moved back home to help my dad with her. I was also working part-time, so I couldn’t afford my own apartment. Two years ago, Dad and I could no longer care for Mom at home, so we put her in a care facility, and I retired. During this time, I have made new friends, three of them live in the state of New Mexico. A

few months ago, I went to visit these friends, and fell in love with New Mexico. The cost of living isn’t as high as it is here, and the laid-back, small city life seems to mesh well with my personality. I feel this is the place I am meant to live the rest of my life. My problem is that Dad is 87, and I’m leery of moving hundreds of miles away, knowing there are some thugs in the neighborhood, who may try to break into the house once they learn Dad is there alone. Although I have a sister, she has never been there for our parents the way I have been. In fact, our parents haven’t seen her in seven years. Some friends and relatives say I should go for it, since I’m divorced and childless, and also reminding me I’m no longer a young woman. Then, there are those who feel I’m being selfish for wanting to make this move and finally live my own life. Am I wrong?

Sincerely,
New Mexico is Calling Me

Dear New Mexico,

Hello, my darling, thank you for taking the time to email me and to allow me the privilege to weigh-in on your situation. It takes a special person to care for elderly and/or invalid family members. I’m sending a big hug your way.

I want to start by sharing that my mom lived with me and my family for the last two years of her life. She had come to a place where she could no longer live alone. Was my life on hold? Yes, but I wouldn’t take a dime for that time, as I’m sure, neither would you. You’ve already lived through the thick of it, so, there isn’t much more I could share with you about the “role reversal” regarding parental care. It’s hard, it’s thankless and it’s heartbreakingly some of the best times you’ll spend with your parents, unconditionally caring for them as they did for you. It’s an honor for us, but not so much for strong-willed parents.

Their eyes always seem to see you as the child they raised. It doesn’t matter how old you are, how many children you have or how many times you’ve been married. LOL.

I can’t help but think, now that your mom’s gone on to glory, that you should continue to be there for your dad. Don’t abandon him now. Stay, give him the same love and commitment you gave to your mother. Your dad, I take it, doesn’t need as much attention, but that shouldn’t determine your decision. You’re doing it just, because it’s the right thing to do. Is it selfish for you to want a break, to want to relocate and start living your own life? Absolutely not at all, that’s normal and you have every right to feel that way.

You’ve been an attentive, dedicated and loving daughter...don’t stop now. There’s no need to relocate, just yet. Take care of your Dad and, every three months or so, go

visit your friends for a week or two. Sadly, when your dad’s no longer with us—it’ll be time to make your move.

I don’t have either one of my parents anymore, and I regret the extra time I missed spending with them every day, because I was busy, I had a family, I had people to see, places to go, things to do. So, trust me, you’ll never regret putting your life on hold by choosing to honor your mother and father. God is watching and will undoubtedly grant you the desires of your heart. Hold on a little longer, your day is coming. You gave and it will be given back to you in good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over.

Alma Gill’s newsroom experience spans more than 25 years, including various roles at USA Today, Newsday and The Washington Post. Email questions to: alwaysaskalma@gmail.com. Follow her on Facebook at “Ask Alma” and Twitter @almaaskalma.

Alvin "Doc" Williams Ph.D.

It Takes A Village to Raise A Child

by: Edwin Buggage

There is the well-known African Proverb; It Takes a Village to Raise a Child. Alvin "Doc" Williams, eight decades of life embodies these words as he's risen from living in a small town in rural Louisiana where there were limited opportunities, to become an educator who has shaped the minds of young people and encouraging them to dream big. "My will to give back comes from my mother and father, my family and all the people who sacrificed so I could become successful. I come from very humble beginnings. My mom cut sugarcane for a dollar a day. I remember us not having much in terms of material things, but I never felt poor because we were a tight knit community that helped out one another," says Williams of his early life growing up in Plaquemine, Louisiana.

Being rooted in this spirit of communal uplift, Williams learned the value of hard work and the importance of people working together. A testament to this spirit is expressed as he is speaking from his couch, recounting his life's journey, "Two of my brothers put their GI bills together to allow me to go to Southern University in Baton Rouge. Also, when students didn't want to eat they gave me their meal card, also the lady in the lunch room who collected

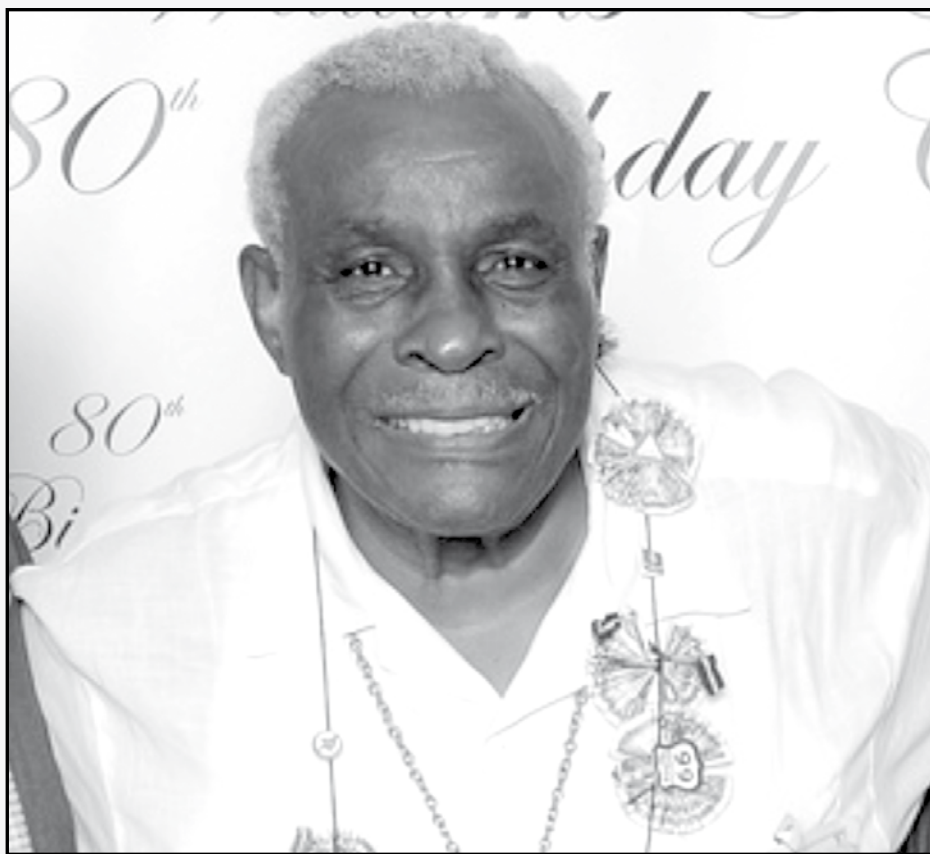


Photo by Omnimoon Photography (c)

tickets sometimes would allowed me to eat for free." While these were hard times for African-Americans, they were unified in moving the race forward. "It was a time where there was still segregation, but we invested in pursuing excellence and we took great pride in someone doing well. And because others gave to me I feel it is my duty to give to others."

Growing up during the dark days of segregation in America, it was instilled in Williams at an early age that education would be his ticket to a better life.

"My parents valued education even though they only went to first and second grade because there were no schools for Blacks where we were from in the early 1900's. As small children they didn't have the formal education but they had the wisdom and understanding to support me and my siblings going to school because they did not have the same opportunities." Affectionately known as "Doc" by many of his former students, he received degrees in Mathematics and Education at Southern University in

retiring he's taught at all levels from elementary to college.

Doc has touched the lives of many and his fingerprints are all over the City as many of his former students are achieving great things. In the classroom he has impacted many lives over the years. "A lot of youngsters have told me personally that I've made a major difference in helping them become successful," he recounts. "Recently, I ran into the Police Chief Michael Harrison, who was one of my students and he said to me 'Thank God for you. If it wouldn't have been for you motivating me as my teacher at McDonough 35 I don't know if I would have become the Chief of Police.' So many of my former students come up to me and say I made a difference in their lives and that makes me feel good that I've been able to impact young people in helping them to strive for excellence."

Outside of the class-

room he gives back in other ways; working through his church, his fraternity Omega Psi Phi (Que-Dog) Chapter and Masonic Chapter he's helped in raising money for scholarships to help college students. "Through many of the organization I am a part of we are committed to giving financial assistance to students providing opportunities by investing in them on their climb to become the future leaders in our community."

For all he's done Williams says none of this would have been possible if his life was not rooted in his spirituality. "I feel God is the source of everything and I've committed my life to him very early and have been able to accomplish a lot in my life because of it. I have been able to live through many stages of my life and as I look back I have lived my purpose and that is to serve God, my family and my community."

JMJ
Joseph M. Jones
Continuing Education Fund



Memphis Mourns the Passing of Tri-State Defender Publisher Bernal Smith II

By Cheryl Mainor
Data News Weekly
Contributor

The entire membership of NNPA, The Black Press of America, mourns the loss of Bernal E. Smith II, Publisher of the Tri-State Defender Newspaper in Memphis, he died Sunday, the paper is reporting on its website.

He was 45 years old. A family spokesperson issued a news release stating that Smith died at his home and was with family members when he was found. The Memphis Association of Black Journalists sent an email of Smith's funeral arrangements Monday evening. The funeral will take place at Mt. Vernon Baptist at 620 Parkrose Road on Friday at noon. The visitation will be held at the same location on Thursday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The Tri-State Defender has been



Bernal Smith II, Publisher of The New Tri-State Defender.

covering the news and issues that are important to African-Americans in the Mid-South since 1951. Smith took over as Publisher in 2010. The Tri-State Defender is a Member of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, and Smith served on the Board of Directors of the Association. According to Smith's LinkedIn profile, he was a graduate of Rhodes College and Union University, and had held board positions with the Greater Memphis Chamber and 100 Black Men of Memphis.

The Memphis Association of Black Journalists announced that an honorary scholarship is being founded in Smith's name.

Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland said Smith was "a tireless advocate for economic and social justice in Memphis ... I greatly respected his voice in our city. Our prayers are with his family."

Commentary, Continued from page 8.

for the rights of Black people?

The FBI report said that the "Black Identity Extremist" movement began after a Ferguson, Missouri police officer unnecessarily killed Michael Brown. Andrew Cohen noted that the FBI report listed six cases where so-called BIE perpetrators killed police officers. These cases were so isolated, that if these men had been White, they would have been classified, as Dylan Roof was, as mentally ill or troubled, and handed a Happy Meal from McDonald's. Instead, the FBI figured out another way to demonize Black people.

Meanwhile, according to The Washington Post, 180 Black people have been shot and killed by police, so far, this year. Six instances of BIE folks allegedly (do we know they are BIE, or just crazy) killing police officers is a pattern, but 173 Black folks being shot by police officers is what? Business as usual?

This so-called BIE nonsense is diabolically racist and pathologically creative. It suggests that any Black person, who has issues with so-called law enforcement is suspect. I stand with my people, who choose to protest ignorance, ugliness and nonsense. Those who embrace their Black identity are not terrorists; we are healthily self-confident. We are at risk, as we have always been, when injustice prevails.

Julianne Malveaux is an author, economist and founder of Economic Education. Her latest book, "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy," is available to order at Amazon.com and at www.julianne-malveaux.com. Follow Dr. Malveaux on Twitter @drjlastword.



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Puerto Ricans Suffer Apocalyptic Nightmare After Hurricanes

By Barrington M. Salmon
NNPA Newswire Contributor

It's been nearly a month since two, historic hurricanes savaged Puerto Rico, and despite the utter devastation left after the storms, the island's 3.4 million residents are still waiting for substantive relief from the federal government.

Help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has been slowed, because of glaring lapses in coordination, a lack of guidance of medical and other personnel, as well as what critics and Puerto Rican officials have said was an almost total breakdown in distribution and supply chains. The result has been a huge gap between the burgeoning humanitarian disaster and the urgent life-and-death needs of the shell-shocked populace.

Nearly 85 percent of the island is still in darkness, because the storms destroyed the electrical grid. Governor Ricardo Rosselló estimates that it will cost about \$5 billion to repair the island's power grid that was decimated by Hurricane Maria. Cellphone service towers across the island are slowly being restored; there is a critical shortage of food, medicine and other basic supplies; meanwhile, more than half of the commonwealth's residents are living without potable water.

The official death toll is 48, but



Puerto Ricans suffer apocalyptic nightmare after Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria. Some activists say this is "Trump's Katrina." Maria's estimated damage amounts to \$10,000 for each Puerto Rican. (Photo Credit: Reuters/Carlos Garcia Rawlins)

there are reports that the medical examiner's office in San Juan is holding 350 bodies. There are also fears that, as the authorities reach the most remote parts of the island and as water-borne and other diseases take hold, that the death toll

will inevitably rise.

Beleaguered Puerto Ricans can only buy food, supplies and other materials in what is now a mostly cash-only society. Yet, in the midst of all this need, more than 10,000 shipping containers loaded with

food, medicine and other needed supplies have sat idle at the Port of San Juan and elsewhere, because of red tape, bureaucratic bungling and logistical logjams.

Aurora Flores, a New York-based activist, painted a harrowing picture that is slowly emerging as information seeps out of the soaked island.

"Oh, my God! I have such a combination of feelings. This is outrageous," said Flores, a noted cultural historian and musician. "This is Trump's Katrina. We're in a dire situation. There is no electricity; people are waiting in line eight, nine hours for gasoline, food and other needs. Right now, we need the United States Army trucks and drivers. There's no housing...we need cruise ships to come in."

She assailed the Trump administration for its slow response and castigated Trump for his constant congratulatory comments to first responders, FEMA, and others in his administration.

"He's patting himself on the back. [Trump found time] to put down Black athletes over the weekend and not once did he say anything about Puerto Rico," she said. Puerto Rico needs help right now. You don't do this to other Americans. We need the federal government to come to the rescue. We need compassion and leadership to come together. We've fought for and bled for this country. We're part of America."

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