

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

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Zone
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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

Who Will Be Mayor?



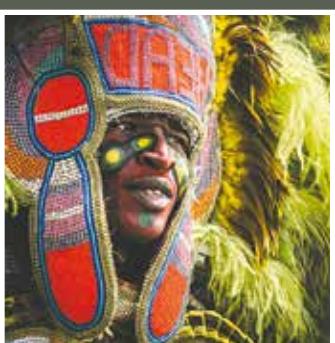
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On Election Day 2017 Who Will Be New Orleans First Woman Mayor?



Desriee Charbonnet



LaToya Cantrell

Data News Staff Report**New Orleans Will Elect First Woman Mayor**

The day has finally come where we will decide who will become the First Woman Mayor of New Orleans. It is a contest between LaToya Cantrell and Desriee

Charbonnet. At Data News Weekly we are encouraging everyone to get out and vote and be part of history. In the spirit of being "The People's Paper" we are presenting both candidates and a brief look at their platforms, so you can make an informed decision when going to the polls.

Desriee Charbonnet

Charbonnet has been an elected official for two decades; making history as being the first woman elected to both posts. She was the first woman elected to serve as Recorder of Mortgages for the Parish of Orleans, where she served for 10 years. Charbonnet was

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also the first woman elected to the bench of Municipal Court in New Orleans, and the first selected as Chief Judge. She is now on a quest to achieve another first as the First Woman Mayor of New Orleans.

On her campaign website it states the vision of Charbonnet, "Public service, when it's done well, is a calling and a craft. Desiree Charbonnet has a vision, a plan for building a future for all the people of New Orleans, where no one is left out or held back, where we're the first to try new ideas and new approaches to old, difficult problems."

Her platform includes addressing the issues of affordable housing, economic development with a focus on workforce training and supporting local businesses. If elected she says she will also address inequality and take on the crime problem taking a more holistic approach. Recruiting more officers is one of her goals but believes the social problems that cause crime need to be addressed; paying a living wage, addressing inequality, better education for all, repairing broken families and helping people with mental health challenges. This is something she says she has been successful in doing as a judge as one of the first in the country to try alternatives to incarceration and says she will continue to be an advocate for as Mayor of New Orleans.

LaToya Cantrell

Cantrell has been a longtime activist and community leader before being elected to the New Orleans City Council representing District B in 2012. If elected Mayor Cantrell says she will fight to make the City safer for all its residents, create better-paying jobs, prioritize neighborhoods left out post-Katrina, restore affordability and fight for a more equitable New Orleans. Her platform includes addressing issues surrounding seniors, affordable housing, the plight of African American Men, crime and public safety, drainage and infrastructure, the economy, women's rights, LGBTQ, Youth and Family, criminal justice reform, youth engagement and health and wellness.

A statement released to Data News Weekly from her campaign outlining her vision for New Orleans says, "For years, LaToya has been a leader: bringing back the Broadmoor neighborhood after Hurricane Katrina. Touting her



work on the council they say, "She protected our hospitality workers with the smoke free ordinance, developed affordable housing, created the "Welcoming Cities" legislation for the immigrant community and other marginalized residents and spearheaded the low-barrier homeless shelter."

They also stated, "Building off her slogan, 'Nothing Stops a Bullet Like a Job,' LaToya has a plan for improving our people's lives with better paying jobs, affordable housing including first time homebuyer programs, a stronger and more resilient drainage system and a more effective NOPD with community policing."

Get Out and Vote

We have provided these brief summaries of both candidates so that you the voters can be informed. We suggest that you go to both of their websites desireecharbonnet.com and latoyacantrell.com, to find out more about their positions on the issues that concern you most.

History in the Making

We are on the cusp of history electing the First Woman Mayor and as we approach our 300th Anniversary, so please get out and VOTE and have a hand in shaping the future of our City.

**ELECTION
DAY IS
NOVEMBER
18, 2018**

Writer Reflects on Shared Experiences of Racism for People of Color

By Deja Dennis
Data News Contributor

"When people say they don't see color, that is self-delusion," read Author David Mura during a poetry reading on Nov. 9th at 7 p.m. at Xavier University. Mura, who is a Japanese-American Poet, Novelist, Playwright, Critic, and Performance Artist from Chicago, Ill., shared excerpts from his 2014 book *The Last Incantations: Poems*, to Xavier students. His upcoming book in 2018 is titled *A Stranger's Journey: Race, Identity and Narrative Craft in Writing* where he takes a step back to take a look at experiences of race as a shared journey for people of color.

Mura became a writer by accident. He thought he would go to Law School like his father wanted, but he was exposed to poetry in college when he enrolled in a class

that studied major British poets. He began reading other famous poems and crafting his own. He found himself writing a lot about race and identity. Flunking his LSAT exam, the test to get in to Law School, was his first act of rebellion.

Mura is a Sansei, which is a third generation Japanese-American. Both of his parents were placed in internment camps in the 80s, something that his family is too ashamed to discuss.

"When you go to jail for stealing, you don't steal anymore. What do you do when you go to jail because of your race?" Mura asked the audience. He said that his parents tried to assimilate into White culture because they thought their race was a crime. Mura lived in a predominantly White neighborhood and attended a predominantly White school. He was raised to deny his Japanese culture. When his childhood friend



Author and Poet David Mura, a Japanese-American Poet, Novelist, Playwright, Critic, and Performance Artist from Chicago, Ill., shared excerpts from his 2014 book *The Last Incantations: Poems*, to Xavier students. Photos by Deja Dennis



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WEEK 22

Alphonse "Dowee" Robair 9th Ward Black Hatchet

By: Glenn Jones
Data News Weekly
Contributor

TRIBAL TIMELINE 2017 Hit the Streets

Big Chief grew up with his step father "Wild Man" Richard Ivory Turner of the 9th Ward Warriors, later with 9th Ward Hunters. In 2004 Big Chief and his stepfather with others went with Big Chief Nelson Burk to start the Red Hawk Tribe. Even though he grew up at the knee of Black Maskers (Mardi Gras Indians) he was a late bloomer. Chief started masking, as he said, once he made his own suit, at the age of 30.

Big Chief became a student of the culture, after stints with several tribes to hone in on his craft. From Uptown to Downtown style of bead work, he has perfected his craft. With an impeccable reputation, he received all green lights to bring his own tribe out. No one imagined he would debut with 27 Black Masking Indians strong!

Q) What have been the benefits, as man, in submitting to the process of this culture?

A) Growing up a young Black man in this City of New Orleans, the less time you spend out in the street, the less trouble you can get into, of course. Being in the Black Masking Culture you interact with a lot of children, so you are a role model to them. Being able to talk to them about troubled situations that are going on with them at school or home. Those are the two benefits.

Q) What is your prospective on this culture being spiritual?

A) A lot of us don't like to say its spiritual or it's a religion or whatever, but it's just like when you go to church. The pianist starts playing the organ and the choir starts to sing. It's the same with drums com-



Alphonse "Dowee" Robair: 9th Ward Black Hatchet. Photo by Pableaux Johnson courtesy of The Bitter Southerner.

ing up the street with the old guy with the beer bottle and one of those great singers that this culture; bringing that, you know, spirit, you know!

Q) We know sewing is spiritual, what else does sewing do for you?

A) I tell people its therapeutic for the mind, sewing for 8 hours means you've meditated for 8 hours. sewing gives you patience.

Q) Have you received any support from the City or local businesses for you to mask?

A) None, I have absolutely no help from the City of New Orleans to construct any of the suits that I've made. I've seen my pictures all over, on billboards, on hospital walls, on big poster size pictures in hotels and restaurants. But as far as the City giving me any kind of finances to mask, none.

Q) How hard is it to organize a tribe so large?

A) 27 different personalities, (Chief laughs hard). Very nerve wracking, but I've become a very patient person.

Q) What is the spirit of your tribe?

A) The spirit of 9th Ward Black

Hatchett is more family orientated. We always try to come together on weekends and do different things whether its sitting down sewing together or cook outs we try to keep everything family based.

Q) How do you choose a theme for your suit every year?

A) I pretty much see it before I even start. It normally starts with the color I pick to wear. The color of the feathers. Whatever color feathers I pick to wear the next year. That's what I base my stone pattern on, that's what I base the color of the bead work on. I start with the feathers.

Q) Do you feel your suit has to have a theme or story?

A) We've all been taught that your suit should tell a story; all my suits have not told stories but all of them have meaning. Like another suit I have, I thought a lot about my Wild Man that passed, well he didn't pass he was killed violently. On my apron there was a big ole bird in the sky, like spirit almost. So, a lot of times my suit doesn't tell a story, but they do have meaning. I think, that suit

didn't really tell a story but, it had a lot of special meaning to me because it was based on my Wild Man who passed away.

Q) What is the biggest difference in the culture now?

A) The size of the patches. The aprons have gotten bigger. Everything has gotten bigger. The amount of the sewing, that's the biggest change more sewing.

Q) Over the next Tri-centennial, what do you want Black Hatchet to be known for?

A) I want us to be known by other tribes, as a tribe, that does a lot of brand new bead work every year. Because I honestly believe in order to be an Indian you have to sew. I believe in doing a new suit every year. That's what I want my tribe to be known for. New suits every year, beading their own patches every year and masking every year consecutively.

Q) Chief in next Tri-centennial how do you want to be remembered?

A) I'd like to be known as a humble Chief. But at the same time, one of the fiercest Chiefs to ever put on a beaded suit, to put patches on. I want them to talk about me the way they talked about Big Chief Suge when he was putting it on! You know boucoup beads, plenty feathers; not a real "hum-bugish" person as far as ra ra ra but very hard to beat.

Q) What do you want the nation to know about your tribe?

A) Not just Black Hatchet and the 9th Ward Tribes, all masking Indians. We sacrifice a lot. We sacrifice a lot of time, a lot of money, I don't want people to think it's all about the money, because the time is way more important than the money. The work that we do, we just want everybody to appreciate it, come down here and enjoy it, and let us do us.

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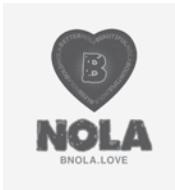
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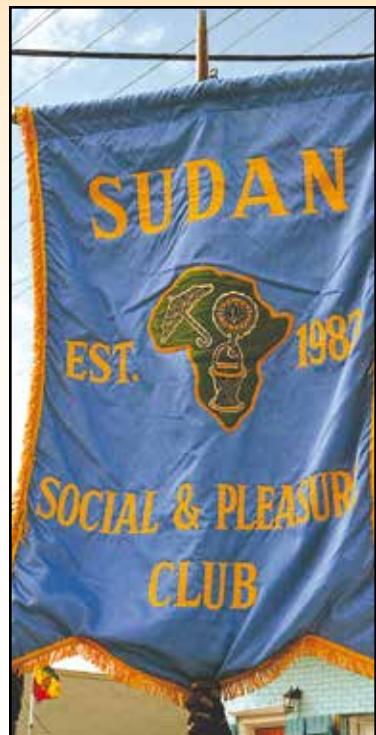


FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO BNOLA.NET

34th Annual Sudan Second Line Parade

Photos by Kichea S. Burt
Data News Weekly
Contributor

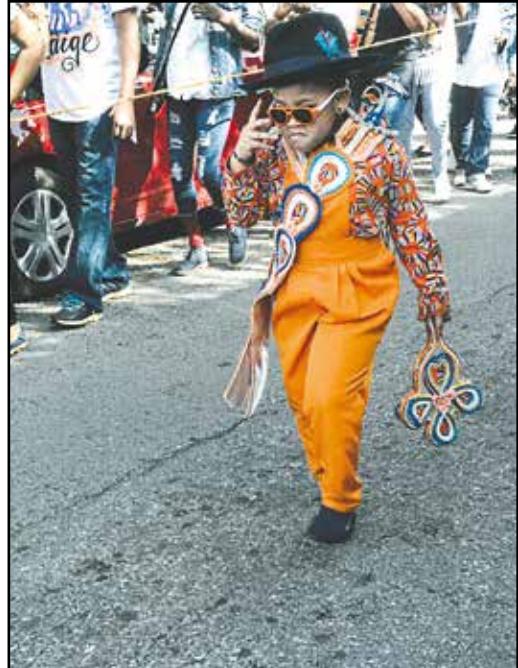
The Sudan Social Aid and Pleasure Club held its 34th Annual Parade on Sunday, November 12th. The parade featured Grand Marshal D Joan Rhodes. A special guest in the parade was US Senator and Ambassador, Carol Moseley Braun (pictured below).



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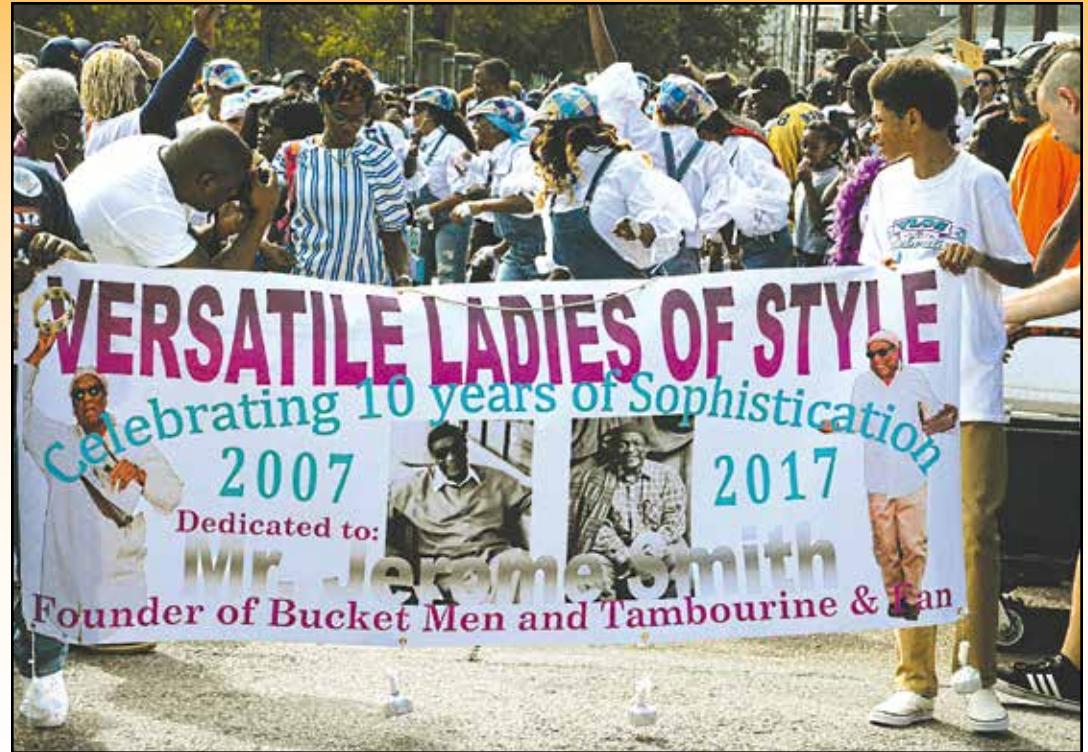
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Data Zone, Continued on page 7.

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

Data Zone, Continued from page 6.



TECHNOLOGY UPDATE



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Clerk of Civil District Court and
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As part of our commitment to improving professional service and operational efficiencies, we are excited to announce continued enhancements to our E-Filing system!

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E-FILING INFORMATION

- Prior to E-Filing activation, new users (either attorneys or their designee) are REQUIRED to attend the Clerk of Court's Remote Access with E-Filing Training, as **FILING FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE**.
- The E-Filing Training course qualifies for 2.00 CLE hours for attorneys and paralegals. Contact Lisa Griffin at (504) 407-0042 or lgriffin@orleanscdc.com to schedule for December 2017 or January 2018.

SYSTEM ENHANCEMENTS

- Users now have the ability to upload cover sheets separately from pleadings and attachments.
- Now, users will receive an email with a link to download and print the filed-stamped copy upon completion of the Clerk's Office review.

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The Black Church and the Future of Obamacare

Why Black Faith Leaders Must Lead the Fight for Healthcare Access



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

First of all, despite the Trump Administration's efforts to kill ("repeal and replace") the Affordable Care Act, it is still the law of the land, and because of the federal mandate everyone is required to have some form of health insurance. However, since "45" and his team have declared it all but dead, they have shortened the enrollment period from three months to a mere six weeks, from November 1-December 15, 2017. Additionally, the United States Department of Health and Human Services has drastically cut the budget for outreach. This time last year, there were television and radio announcements, billboards on buses, and other reminders that people should enroll for healthcare, if they didn't already have healthcare through their jobs.

The Trump Administration hopes that, without outreach, people will not enroll for healthcare, so

that they can then crow that people "don't want" healthcare. Some faith leaders, however, have pledged to use their pulpits to remind their congregations to get enrolled for healthcare. Rev. Dr. Barbara Williams Skinner, the first Executive Director of the Congressional Black Caucus and an activist who melds faith with public policy, who is also a spiritual advisor to many Black leaders, has developed a toolkit for communities of faith to help them do the work that our government won't: encouraging people to sign-up for affordable healthcare.

You can follow the faith leaders' conversations about open enrollment and healthcare on social media using the hashtags #SOULSTOENROLL or #SOULS2ENROLL, and by liking the Facebook page, Facebook.com/FaithinPublicLife, where you can find the toolkit adopted from the government page, GetAmericaCovered.org; instructions for the weekend campaign that will begin November 12, suggestions for faith leaders; a sample bulletin announcement; a PSA; and social media tips. In other words, the faith community is being encouraged to treat healthcare enrollment like any other grassroots organizing campaign and get involved in it.

Back in the day, before social

media, we used to talk about "the drum," how we shared information in the Black community; many of our radio stations, or public broadcast programs, and newspapers were our drums. Now, faith leaders are taking the drum viral to ensure that people who don't get the word, because of lack of government outreach, will get it through churches and through the Internet.

We will rely on these methods of communicating more and more, as this administration attempts to contract, not expand, the information people need to get essential healthcare (and other services). The toolkit and other resources are proof that our community has the ability to out organize the evil that is seeping out of Washington. "Woke" members of Congress are working with Rev. Skinner and others to get the word out. Congressman Jim Clyburn (D-S.C.) had his PSA up before the enrollment period opened on November 1, and some members of Congress have PSAs posted on their webpages; but everyone won't log on to a congressional website to get access to the PSA. That's where the churches and community organizations come into play.

Once upon a time, we were great at mobilizing. Without any Internet, 250,000 people managed to get to

Washington, D.C. for the March on Washington on August 28, 1963. Mimicking that effort, and using both word of mouth and the Internet, more than a million women made it to Washington D.C. for the post-inaugural Women's March. Now we have the opportunity to rally millions to participate in the benefits of the Affordable Care Act.

There are consequences to not enrolling. If you don't enroll by December 15, you may have to wait a whole year before getting access to affordable healthcare and the subsidies available under the ACA, and you may have to pay a fine for not enrolling. Some states (California, Washington, Minnesota, Colorado, Massachusetts and Washington, D.C.) will allow enrollment until January, but most will close enrollment on December 15. Even with a longer enrollment period, the best thing to do to ensure that the people who need health insurance get it is to encourage them to enroll early.

Helping people enroll for ACA benefits is not only a public service, it is also an act of resistance to "45's" pernicious attempts to undermine President Obama's signature piece of legislation. To be sure, the ACA is not perfect, but it is responsible for expanding the base of people who can get af-

fordable health insurance.

This example of "Faith in Action" may be a template for other ways to use the church to organize resistance. The novelist Dr. Daniel Black (author of "Perfect Peace: A Novel") recently gave a talk in which he described our churches as the backbone of the Black community. Disagree with your pastor, or with the sermon if you will, he said, but still get to church for the sense of community that can only be found there. While the Black church is less impactful than it was in 1963, when most of us could be reached through church announcements, it is still a place where we gather and share information. If you don't usually go to church on November 12, when the #SOULS2ENROLL weekend campaign kicks off, consider making your way there to check this campaign out. If you do go to church, encourage your pastor to participate.

Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author, and Founder of Economic Education. Her latest book "Are We Better Off: Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available via amazon.com. For booking, wholesale inquiries, or for more info, visit www.julianneMalveaux.com. Follow Dr. Malveaux on Twitter @drjlastword.

Is the FBI's New Focus on "Black Identity Extremists" the New COINTELPRO?



**Rep. Cedric L. Richmond
(D-LA-02)**
Chairman, Congressional Black Caucus

If you've been to a Black Lives Matter rally or tweeted the related hashtag recently, then the FBI might consider you a "Black Identity Extremist," at least according to a report published by

one of the nation's top law enforcement agencies.

In October, an internal FBI report titled "Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target Law Enforcement Officers," was leaked to the public—raising concerns of activists, civil rights groups, and policy makers, including myself and other members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

The report concludes, based on a limited total number of incidents, that:

"...it is very likely Black Identity Extremist (BIE) perceptions of police brutality against African Americans spurred an increase in premeditated, retaliatory lethal

violence against law enforcement and will very likely serve as justification for such violence. The FBI assess[es] it is very likely this increase began following the 9 August 2014 shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and the subsequent Grand Jury November 2014 declination to indict the police officers involved."

These unsubstantiated conclusions are troubling, especially in the context of the FBI's history of targeting African American activists and leaders, including Martin Luther King, Jr., and members of the Congressional Black Caucus. But what is more troubling is the FBI's creation of the term "Black Identity

Extremist" and the definition of it.

According to the report, Black Identity Extremists are individuals who, "in response to perceived racism and injustice," commit violent acts in the name of those beliefs, and, in some cases, desire a "separate Black homeland...social institutions, communities, or governing organizations within the United States."

The report continues: "The mere advocacy of political or social positions, political activism, use of strong rhetoric, or generalized philosophic embrace of violent tactics 'may not' (emphasis mine) constitute extremism, and may be constitutionally protected."

I think the words "may not" leave people who organize under the Black Lives Matter movement and other well-meaning African American activist groups vulnerable to the type of monitoring and manipulation that the FBI engaged in as part of COINTELPRO, a counter intelligence program that unfairly and, in some cases, unlawfully destroyed movements, careers, relationships, and lives.

I'm also concerned about the FBI's definition of "extremism." The question becomes: What does the FBI consider extreme? The report never provides an answer to

Commentary, Continued on page 9.

Book Festival Reconnects Children to Joy of Reading

By Leonard Lewis, IV
Data News Weekly
Contributor

In a City known for its music and art festivals, the New Orleans Book Festival sought to set itself apart to stress the importance of kids' reading at a young age. Major book industry publishers, including Scholastic, hosted activities for small children at the festival held at Big Lake at City Park on Nov. 11, 2017 and organized by First Lady of the City Cheryl Landrieu. Festival organizers turned reading into fun with games like hide-and-book seek, where local children ran in search for books planted around the festival. Once they found them, they were able to keep their new literacy treasures.

"I think it's great to get books in as many hands as possible and I think it's great that reading is made fun for kids and parents in a festival environment," said Courtney Kearney, the President of Friends of the New Orleans Public Library.

One of the biggest outcomes that New Orleans First Lady Cheryl Landrieu told the crowd was that



The New Orleans Book Festival took place at Big Lake in City Park on Nov. 11, 2017. Photo by Leonard Lewis, IV

she wanted to see was for families to come out and have free fun. Residents said they felt that there are not enough family orientated events in the City, particularly when it comes to major festivals.

For young children growing up with mobile devices, several authors and illustrators avoided using technology. Other authors gave away paper or hardback books. Volunteers at the book festival said

they felt they achieved this year's mission, to see children between the ages of four and 10 walk around open space with books in their hands instead of devices.

The book festival not only sought to reinforce the importance of reading, it was also a kickoff event for New Orleans Tricentennial Celebrations. The Tricentennial Celebrations across the City highlight the 300 years of unique history of New Orleans. Not only did the festival have book vendors for kids, big retailers like Barnes and Nobles participated, and a NOLA 300 stage, featured a live performance by the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra. The festival closed out with a fireworks show.

During the festival, several authors shared why they started writing books. "Writing for me was not that big of a challenge, I try to put things that I have gone through or that I like for example," said actress Quvenzhané Wallis, the teen author of "A Night Out with Mama."

"I try to put personalities of my friends and cousins to make the process much easier for me," said

Wallis, who was one of the youngest authors at the festival. The local star attracted a number of kids and their parents, who gravitated towards her, inspired by her journey to success and how her experience publishing children's books.

"I think the New Orleans Book Festival is important because books save lives, idle minds are the devil's playground," said local author, S.L. Bartholomew, who goes by Stylist B. "Books saved my life, growing up in a rough neighborhood in New Orleans, reading kept me out of trouble Bartholomew said, who is the author of "JR's First Trip to New York!" In writing her children's book, Bartholomew said she wanted to show in the book, different modes of transportation and landmarks in different cities that she could not experience as a child. The New Orleans Book Festival was for just one-day, but organizers said most of the books can be found in the New Orleans Public Libraries around the City.

"New Orleans having events like this, seeing authors of all walks of life, can be a way to inspire them at a young age," Bartholomew said.

Commentary, Continued from page 8.

that question and further complicates the issue on page 4 in talking about the case of Micah Johnson, the African American man who shot 11 police officers in downtown Dallas, Texas, on July 7, 2016:

"Johnson searched and liked social media pages of BIE and Black separatist groups, and had been ousted from a local BIE group for being too radical, according to an open source news article."

I agree that Johnson was an extremist, but here are some questions I have: What group kicked him out? Was it Black Lives Matter, a non-extremist group? Does the FBI consider this group representative of extremism? If so, then its definition of Black Identity Extremists is extreme and ineffective. Also, what does the FBI mean by "perceived racism and injustice" and "perceived past police brutality incidents?" Does the FBI believe racism, injustice, and police brutality don't exist?

Here are some other questions I have: Why is one of the most powerful federal law enforcement or-

ganizations in the nation relying on news articles to figure out whether Johnson was kicked out of a local Black Identity Extremist group? Also, if this is a problem that's on the rise as the FBI indicates, why isn't clear and convincing incident data illustrating this included in the report? Finally, is the FBI devoting as much time on this issue as it is on White extremism? If they are, then they are not spending their time wisely when it comes to domestic extremists.

According to a 2015 report by the Anti-Defamation League, when it comes to extremist movements in the United States:

"...White supremacists are by far the most violent, committing about 83 percent of the extremist-related murders in the United States in the past 10 years and being involved in about 52 percent of the shootouts between extremists and police. White supremacists also regularly engage in a variety of terrorist plots, acts and conspiracies."

White supremacist violence is even more concerning in the context of the 2016 election, the current political climate, and Presi-

dent Trump's decision after white supremacist violence in Charlottesville, Va., to morally equate white supremacists with anti-racist protestors. In regard to the 2016 presidential election specifically, the Southern Poverty Law Center found:

"...in the 34 days after the election, there were 1,094 incidents involving bias and almost 80 percent of them were anti-immigrant (315), anti-Black (221), anti-Muslim (112), swastika (108), White nationalist (47), anti-Semitic (33) or involved the KKK (7). Approximately 37 percent of the 1,094 incidents, directly referenced either then President-elect Donald Trump, his campaign slogans, or his infamous remarks about sexual assault."

A few weeks after the FBI's "Black Identity Extremists" report was leaked, the Congressional Black Caucus met with Facebook about ads that Russian operatives purchased through the social media platform to target the Black Lives Matter movement. During the meeting, the caucus explained to Facebook that their social media platform plays a role in how African

Americans are perceived across the country and around the world. In this case, the perception Facebook played a role in creating was negative and could have had life and death consequences.

The FBI's "Black Identity Extremist" report is an example of how perception becomes reality and affects people's lives on the ground. We don't need Facebook and other social media platforms playing a role in creating negative perceptions of African Americans and we don't need the FBI and other law enforcement organizations buying into these perceptions. In response to a letter from the Congressional Black Caucus, FBI Director Christopher Wray agreed to meet. We hope he walks away from the meeting with this understanding. We also hope he's able to answer our questions.

Congressman Cedric L. Richmond (D-LA-02) is the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. He represents the 2nd District of Louisiana, which includes parts of New Orleans and Baton Rouge. You can follow him on Twitter at @RepRichmond and you can follow the CBC on Twitter at @OfficialCBC.



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Democrats, Black Candidates Win Historic Victories on Election Night

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

The blue wave that swept the country last week wasn't just a victory for Democrats, but a resounding win for African American candidates, who defied the odds—and Trumpism—to make history.

In Charlotte, N.C., voters elected the first female African American mayor in the city's history, choosing Democrat Vi Lyles over Republican Kenny Smith.

In St. Paul, Minn., Melvin Carter became that city's first Black mayor, earning slightly more than 50 percent of the vote in a field that featured 10 candidates and a write-in opponent.

In Virginia, Democrat Justin Fairfax trounced Republican challenger Jill Vogel in the race for lieutenant governor. In January, Fairfax will become only the second African American to hold statewide office in Virginia. Doug Wilder was the first, serving as lieutenant gov-

ernor from 1986-1990, then as governor from 1990-1994.

Fairfax said his and other Democratic victories could "be the match that sparks the wildfire of progressive" change all across the country.

"All across the world. This is a battle for the nation's soul," Fairfax said. "Since I announced my candidacy, this campaign has been about the future, about building a Virginia where all of us have the opportunity to rise."

Most saw victories by Democrats as a referendum on President Donald Trump, whose record low job approval rating has shrunk to 39 percent according to various reports.

Republicans lost races for governor in Virginia, where Ralph Northam easily beat Trump-backed Ed Gillespie, and in New Jersey, where former U.S. Ambassador to Germany Phil Murphy won election as governor, defeating Republican Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno.

Also, in Virginia, attorney gener-



In Charlotte, N.C., voters elected the First Female African-American Mayor in the city's history, choosing Democrat Vi Lyles over Republican Kenny Smith.

The legendary civil rights organization and its approximately 500,000 adult and youth members around the country were on the frontlines committed to raising awareness for political, educational, social and economic equality of minorities in the electoral process, the organization said in a statement posted on its website.

"The NAACP is actively engaged in increasing the African American responsiveness of citizens to be fully engaged in the democratic process," the statement read.

Terry McAuliffe, Virginia's outgoing Democratic governor, told reporters that the election night victories were indeed a springboard for future elections, including the 2020 presidential race.

"This was a spark plug," McAuliffe said. "This is the revitalization of the Democratic Party in America."

Former Vice President Joe Biden said voters clearly sent a message to Trump.

"A resounding defeat tonight for President Trump," Biden tweeted. "Voters across the country rejected the ugly politics we have seen this past year. Instead, they chose candidates who unite and inspire us."

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus also engaged voters. Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.), urged everyone to vote.

"The vote is precious, almost sacred," Lewis said. "It is the most powerful nonviolent tool or instrument in a democratic society [so] use it."

And, if that admonition wasn't enough, the legendary civil rights leader reminded voters why participating is so important.

"I was beaten, left bloody and unconscious so that every American has the right to vote," Lewis said. "Friends of mine gave their lives. Do your part. Vote."



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Must Have Boots of the Season



Delaney George
Data Fashion & Style
Columnist



Traditional Uggs boots paired with blue jeans.

One pair of boots in your closet for the upcoming winter season would be fashionably unacceptable. Winter is not only a time to keep warm, but also a time to show off your styling abilities with more articles of clothing. A faux fur boot or a simple leather boot is no comparison to these 3-winter boot must haves.

Uggs: The well-known all-time girl favorite, Uggs, never go out of style. Apart from the ultimate warmth and comfort they provide, Uggs are as fashionably comfy as they feel. They come in multiple styles from sneaker style or knee high. They are most commonly in the tan brown smooth texture but Uggs also sell leather boots and come in many different colors and textures.

Knee High Boots: By far the sexiest boot around, Knee high boots are great with jeans, skirts, dresses

or even shorts during winter season. Their tall shape whether it's a heel or flat boot ensures warmth and hug the legs at the perfect sexy height. The variation of knee high boots can be anything from leather, see-through, or even glitter which is a very must-have trendy boot this season within celebrity circles.

Ankle Boots: This multi-season boot is perfect for showing off your style. The ankle boot gives you more room for cool stockings and knee-high socks, legwarmers, and



All black Swede Knee High Boots paired with a floral patterned skirt.

even tights. Ankle boots come in edgy combat styles, the very popular and versatile Chelsea boot which is more flat and usually a pull-on or maybe a fancier heeled ankle boot. No matter the season or occasion there is an ankle boot for everyone and every outfit.



Black Wedge tip stiletto heel ankle boot paired with an all black pencil skirt.

All photos by Delaney George

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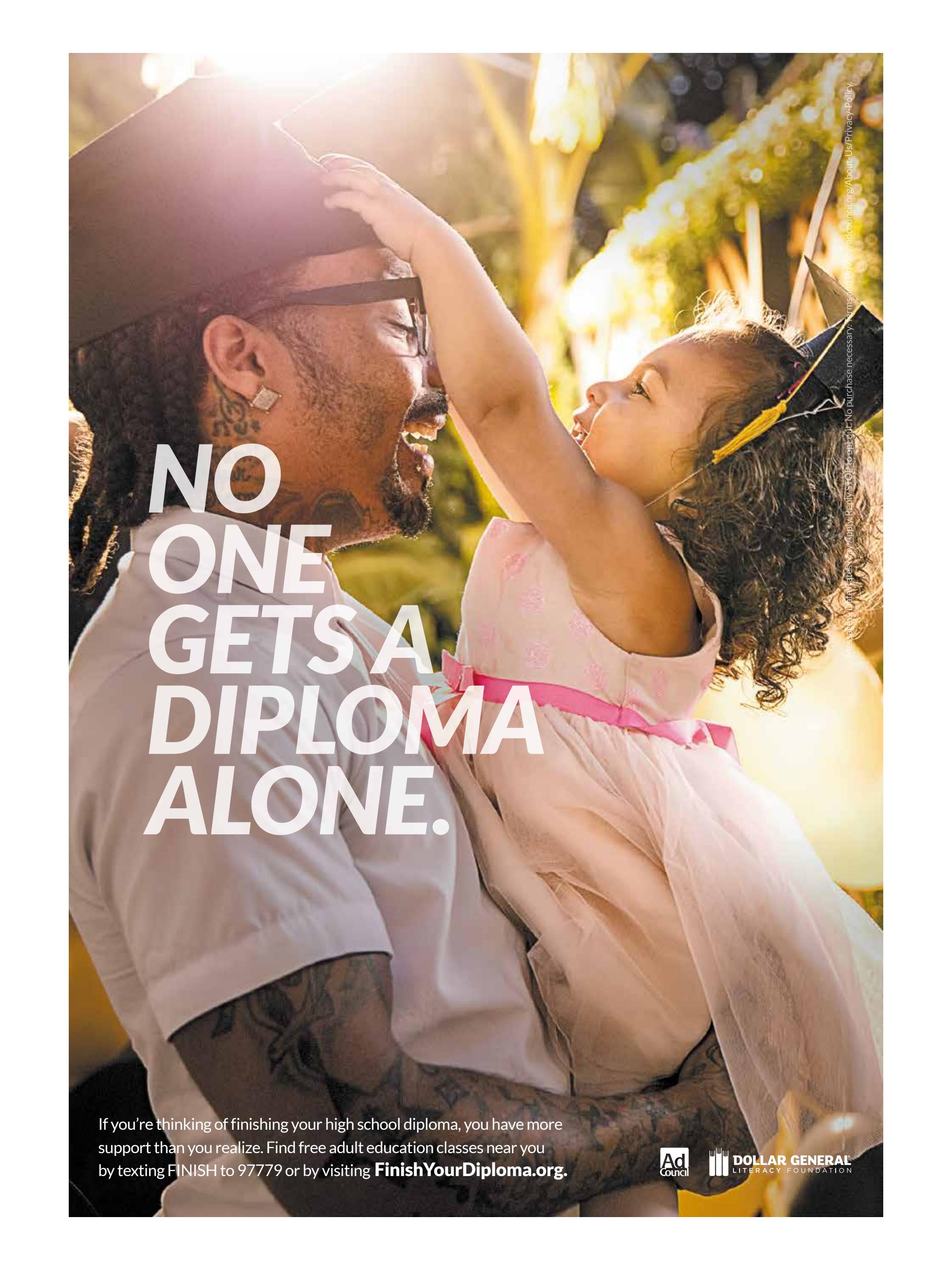
Freelance Writers Wanted

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper, is looking for freelance writers to join our team print and digital team. We want to hear from you if you are a working journalist, or an aspiring journalist who has 2 years or more of newspaper or PR writing experience. We need writers who can cover New Orleans news stories, ranging from local high school sports, community events, City Hall and entertainment. Experience in print is necessary, experience in digital and social media are encouraged.

Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

If you are interested, please email your resume and 3 writing samples to: terrybjones@bellsouth.net and datanewseditor@bellsouth.net.

We can't wait to hear from you!

A close-up photograph of a man and a young girl in graduation gowns. The man, on the left, has a tattooed arm and is holding a diploma. The young girl, on the right, is wearing a pink sash and also holding a diploma. They are both looking upwards and slightly to the right.

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