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**Afri Modiste Slays
with Prom Line**

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FRENCH QUARTER FEST TURNS 35

The Soul of New Orleans

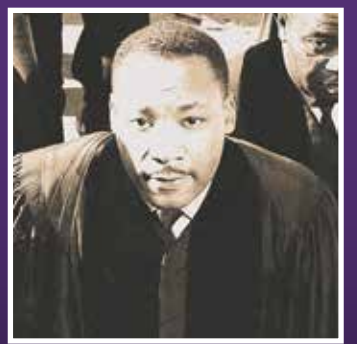
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French Quarter Fest Turns 35

The Crescent City Hosts Largest Free Festival in America Apr. 12-15



One of the best jam bands in the land, Big Sam Funky Nation.

By Edwin Buggage
Data News Weekly Editor

The French Quarter Fest Bigger than Ever It is again that time of year. In a City where there are countless festivals and celebrations; the French Quarter Festival kicks off the spring with four days of food, fun and music. French Quarter Festivals, Inc. (FQFI) annually produces three festivals: French Quarter Festival, Satchmo SummerFest, and Christmas New Orleans Style. FQFI is a 501c (3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote the Vieux Carré and the City of New Orleans through high quality special events and activities that showcase the culture and heritage of this

unique City, contribute to the economic well-being of the community, and instill increased pride in the people of New Orleans.

This year marks the 35th Anniversary where in the beginning of spring the French Quarter is filled with locals and tourist alike enjoying the Quarters. The Festival has grown considerably since 1984 when it was first produced as a way to bring local residents back to the Quarters. In its over three decades of existence it has come to rival much larger festivals and is known as the largest free festival in the U.S. averaging between 500,000 and 750,000 people annually. Also, according to a study conducted by the University of New Orleans (UNO) Hospitality Research Center, in 2017 French

Quarter Festival generated a total economic impact of \$190 million dollars to the local economy; and it also generated a total of 15.8 million dollars in tax revenue for state and local governments. Additionally, it also employs more than 1700 local musicians during the Festival weekend.

Four Days of Music, Food and Fun

During these days music is everywhere, with more than 20 stages throughout the French Quarter celebrating local music and representing every genre from traditional and contemporary jazz to R&B, New Orleans funk, brass bands, folk, gospel, Latin, Zydeco, classical, cabaret, and international.

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Jazz Legend Ellis Marsalis.



Love Evolution returns to the stage after a fan favorite performance at the 2017 French Quarter Fest.



The incredible vocals of Charmaine Neville will be on full display.



Drummer and Bandleader Jamal Batiste is excited about this year's French Quarter Festival and promises a high-energy and exciting set.



Grammy Award Winning Rebirth Brass Band.

But what is a festival without food. New Orleans great restaurants also serve food and beverages in Jackson Square, the Louisiana State Museum's Old U.S. Mint, JAX Brewery, and Woldenberg Riverfront Park during French Quarter Festival weekend; with vendors of all types serving the best in local cuisine.

Celebrating the French Quarter and the Culture and Heritage of New Orleans and its People

New Orleans is a City that continues to be a cultural jewel. In addition to the French Quarter Fest and other festivals the City is also celebrating its 300th Anniversary. "It is a great event I love playing for the people not just this year, but every year is special to me," says Phil Frazier, co-founder of the Grammy Award Winning Rebirth Brass Band.

This year performers includes; Grammy Award Winning Rebirth Brass Band, the legendary Ellis Marsalis, the amazing vocalist Charmaine Neville, Big Sam Funky Nation, John Boutte, James

Andrews, Bill Summers, Partners-in-Crime, the Stooges Brass Band, Nayo Jones, JuJu Child, Zohar Israel and Free Spirit Afro Caribbean Showcase, Monk Boudreaux and the Golden Eagles, Corey Henry and the Tremé Funktet, Stephanie Jordan, Love Evolution, Bill Summers, Chocolate Milk, Bo Dollis and the Wild Magnolias, Rockin' Dopsie and the Zydeco Twisters, Cyril Neville and Swamp Funk and many more.

"I have played the French Quarter Festival before as a sideman and with my own band, but I am truly excited this year to be part of as it celebrates its 35th year and the City celebrates its 300th Anniversary," says drummer Jamal Batiste. "My set is going to be lit, turned up, high energy and great fun. I want everyone to come out and enjoy the fest every day and be sure to catch my set on Friday."

Love Evolution was the highlight of the new artists featured on the Tropical Isle Stage at the 2017 French Quarter Festival. Love a Evolution delivered a high energy multicultural musical celebration that drew a crowd of dancing sing-

ing attendees. Featuring Black Masking culture bearers, a drumline, and local youth the 2017 performance lit up the festival. Looking forward to the 2018 FQF expect a bodacious cultural New Orleans experience.

This year the French Quarter Fest turns 35 and the City is celebrating its 300th Anniversary; it is truly a special time for the City as festival season kicks off.

"Every day is a celebration in the City; our lives are about family, food, friends and music. Our history continues to live on in this City not just in the festivals that showcase it, but in the everyday life of the people," says trumpeter, singer and all-around entertainer James Andrews, who has been an ambassador for New Orleans and the music for several decades. "I love playing the French Quarter Festival and celebrating my City that was here before America was America and is the best thing to ever happen to the country because we have given the world the gift of jazz and a culture that people from around the world come to experience and enjoy."



Phenomenal Trumpeter, Singer and all around Entertainer James Andrews.

No Criminal Charges for Officers Involved in the Shooting Death of Alton Sterling: Everything We Know

By Michele McCalope
Data News Weekly Guest
Contributor / The Drum
Newspaper

BATON ROUGE—Following a 10-month investigation into the extrajudicial killing of Alton Sterling, Louisiana's Attorney General Jeff Landry announced that his office would not pursue criminal charges against the officers involved.

Sterling, a 37-year-old Black man, was shot six times by a White Baton Rouge police officer on July 5, 2016, in front of a Triple S convenience store. The officers, Howie Lake II and Blane Salamoni were responding to a call about a man with a gun, who was assaulting someone. Sterling had been selling CDs in front of the store with permission from the owner.

Officials said Salamoni shot Sterling, while Lake, his partner, looked on.

"After careful thought and review of the evidence, the Louisiana Department of Justice will not proceed with prosecution of Officers Lake or Salamoni," Landry said. "This decision was not taken lightly."

Landry said his office thoroughly investigated the case, even re-interviewing witnesses in the case. He said the evidence just didn't warrant pursuing criminal charges.

"We must analyze the evidence and draw a conclusion, but we're always mindful of the family," Landry said. "I know the Sterling family is hurting."

The Attorney General's office received the case in May 2017, after the U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana determined during its own investigation that there was not enough evidence to pursue criminal charges or civil rights violations.

Family members, community leaders, and the Sterling family's attorneys said that they weren't surprised by the latest findings.

"We didn't get any justice," said Quinetta McMillon, the mother of Alton Sterling's son, Cameron. "The system failed us. We're all out of tears. We all knew what it was going to be. We may not get justice



Sandra Sterling, Alton Sterling's aunt, speaks to reporters following the announcement that the officers involved in the shooting death of Alton Sterling would not be charged. Sandra Sterling has suffered two strokes since the incident. (Michele McCalope/The Drum)



Quinetta McMillon, the mother of Alton Sterling's son Cameron, speaks to reporters following the announcement that the officers involved in the shooting death of Alton Sterling would not be charged. (Michele McCalope/The Drum)

down on this earth, but when God comes...as a family, we just got to stay strong."

Community activist Gary Chambers was more direct.

"It was total B.S.," Chambers

said.

Sandra Sterling, Alton Sterling's aunt, said that, putting "Blane Sala-

moni back on the street, you're putting a murderer back on the street."

Sandra Sterling has suffered two strokes since the incident.

"Shame on you Blane Salamoni," she said. "You took an oath to protect and serve, not protect and kill."

Sterling's attorneys are filing a civil suit and have called for the firing of both officers, who have remained on paid leave since the incident. Together, the officers have been paid more than \$130,000 in salary while on leave.

"We're putting the city of Baton Rouge, the mayor and the metro council on notice," said attorney Michael Adams. "We're disappointed, but this fight is not over. We have filed a civil suit and justice will be served. The officers will have to talk to us and explain their actions. Baton Rouge will have to hear the truth about what happened. We plan to put it all out there in the light of day."

Meanwhile, Baton Rouge Police Chief Murphy Paul said a disciplinary hearing has been scheduled for the officers, this week, so police can determine if any policies or procedures were violated.

The officers will have a chance to tell their side of the story to the chief and his three deputies. The hearing will not be open to the public.

"We're asking the community for a little more patience and to keep our community in your prayers, so we can begin the healing process," Paul said.

Paul also said all videos, audio, and 911 calls regarding the incident will be released after the disciplinary hearings for the officers conclude.

Mayor Sharon Weston Broome, who has already said publicly that she wants the officers fired, said during the press conference that she still feels that way.

"Our focus for our community, city and parish is to have justice and equity not just for some, but for everyone," Broome said.

The Drum is a member publication of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and the Louisiana Black Publishers Association.

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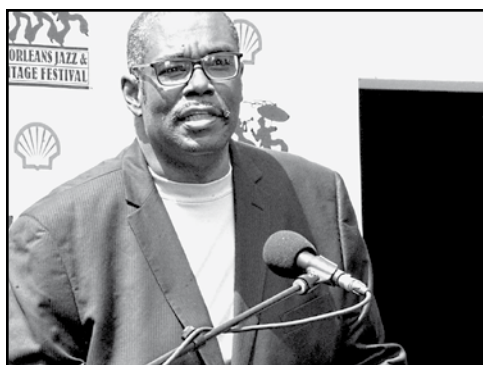
Count Down to the 2018 NOLA Jazz Fest

Record crowds are expected for this year's exciting lineup

Photos by Kichea S. Burt
Data News Weekly
Contributor

The New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation hosted its press conference for the 2018 New Orleans Jazz Fest which will run April 27-29 and May 3-6 at the Fair Grounds Race Course on Gentilly Boulevard.

Members of the media, dignitaries, the Mayor and friends of the festival gathered to take in the details, and were treated to a preview of the great music that makes this event the hottest in the nation. Tickets can be purchased and 49th Annual Jazz Festival lineup can be found on the website, www.NOJazzFest.com. Make sure you mark your calendar with your favorites, and visit the site to get your tickets before they are gone.



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Afri Modiste Slays at NOLA Fashion Week

By John Moran
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Afri Modiste serves as a representation of New Orleans, and Renee Johnson is the genius behind the brand. Renee owns and runs Afri Modiste, a business in the heart of Uptown in the Broadmoor neighborhood handcrafting custom couture evening wear. For the 2018 New Orleans Fashion Week, on March 23rd Afri Modiste displayed its lavish and elegant dresses debuting the 2018 Prom Queen Collection.

Within the collection, you notice Renee's ability to create pieces that draw inspiration from her vast experience designing with different fabrics and patterns. Notice the 3D sequence, reverse sequence, jumbo sequence, and 3D floral



Photo: Ron Anthony Photography

fabric. Renee also specializes in fit and flair, trumpet style, exaggerated trains, similar to bridal

wear catered towards current trends.

Afri Modiste, described by

Renee, is her love letter to her hometown, New Orleans. Afri is defined as strong African culture, and modiste is a French word for milliner or dressmaker. Originating from New Orleans East, Renee was born and raised here and draws much of her inspiration from her hometown that includes Spanish, French, and African influence. Renee attended Bauder College, a fashion school in Atlanta, as well as traveled to over 8 countries for first-hand influence and understanding of culture. She has been to London, Paris, Dubai, Egypt, Spain, China, to name a few, giving her first-hand exposure to people and fashion of distant lands. So, every Afri Modiste customer receives a magnificent one of a kind piece.

Gowns range anywhere from \$500 - \$1500. Orders begin in

the fall for Mardi Gras, and when that concludes, prom season lasts until early Summer. Pre-made gowns on the website will range sizes 2-12, anything custom made will have to be determined by booking an appointment, and Renee can be reached at (504) 259-3260.

Afri Modiste was founded in 2017 and can be found on Instagram here: @afriModiste, and a website is soon to follow. Although the business is new, Renee is an experienced business owner. She runs a kid clothing line, Happy Village Kids, inspired by her own glowing children founded in 2014, and has been displayed at New Orleans Fashion Week twice already. That brand's Instagram is @happyvillagekids, and website is www.happyvillagekids.com.

learn more >

BORN TO BE GREAT

By the time she's ready to attend college, the majority of all jobs will require education and training beyond high school. Jobs in healthcare, community services, and STEM will grow the fastest among occupational clusters. To be ready for these jobs of the future, students in grades K-12 need learning experiences that meet them where they are, engage them deeply, let them progress at a pace that meets their individual needs, and helps them master the skills for today and tomorrow.

The Every Student Succeeds Act empowers parents like you to make sure that the opportunity for a great education is the standard for every student. To get involved, visit www.nnpa.org/essa.



ESSA
Every Student Succeeds Act

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Sexy Summer Swimwear



Delaney George
Columnist

As summer approaches, more and more trends arise, and a fashionista may fall behind on what's "in". This summer will be an especially hot one and with these upcoming swim styles you're sure to be the sexiest, coolest, beach babe in town.

The High Waist Bikini: Originally introduced in the 50's, the high-waist cut bathing suit is one of the most form-fitting suits a woman can have. It's high cut waist lines help a woman's hips shape her and direct attention to her figure. The swim bottoms also had a huge impact in the 90's but today, it is a must-have for all sexy ladies looking to give their curves a spotlight.

The thought of long sleeves on a hot day might be unfathomable to most, but a long sleeve swimsuit top is stylish and protective. The sun can be harsh on the skin at times, and a long sleeve swim top can prevent burns from harmful rays. In addition to that, it's stylish and abstract. A bikini and a skin tight long sleeve top screams sex appeal and is sure to show on any one who wears it.

And finally, for future summer styles think patterns, patterns, patterns! Even the duller of bathing suits can be brought to life with a swirl here, or a polka dot there. Patterns and fun multicolored swim sets are sure to be a hit for this summer's swim styles.

For more information on these styles and where to buy email delinke@yahoo.com



Multicolor suits are all the rage, and pops especially on darker complexions.



High waist all white bathing suit bottom makes its way back into today's style by highlighting curves.



Swim Top or Blouse? Long sleeve tops are becoming a normal trend among stylish swimmers.

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

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Remembering Hattie Carroll, King's Legacy and Women of the Movement



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

Hattie Carroll (1911-1963) was a 51-year-old restaurant server who was murdered by a White aristocrat, 24-year-old William Devereux Zantzinger (1939-2009) who struck her with a cane, because she took too long to serve him a drink, during The Spinners' Ball, an event at the old Emerson Hotel in Baltimore. Zantzinger's crime was minimized, and he got a scant six months in jail (not prison) for killing a woman, the mother of at least nine children, who was more than twice his age, and with just a fraction of his power.

Bob Dylan popularized the murder of Hattie Carroll in a folk song,

"The Lonesome Death of Hattie Carroll." He didn't get all the facts right—Hattie Carroll didn't have ten children as he crooned, and Zantzinger was never indicted for first-degree murder. Still, the haunting ballad was a poignant reminder that a rich, powerful White man with a diamond ring on his finger and a cane in his hand got away with killing a Black woman server. More than that, Zantzinger was treated with kid gloves, allowed to "take a break" from his incarceration to make sure his tobacco crop was planted.

Young Naomi Wadler, the 11-year-old speaker at the March for Our Lives rally did not know about Hattie Carroll. Why would she have? The fifth-grader that attends school in Alexandria, Va., was born in 2007, forty-four years after Hattie Carroll died in 1963. Her plea to consider the Black women who do not make headlines might well have been extended to Hattie Carroll, but Naomi Wadler did not know, and we don't know enough

to juxtapose White privilege with Black women's invisibility.

Without knowing all of the details, Naomi shared that Black women don't often make headlines. She knows that her contemporaries could be targets of guns, of police brutality, and that their (our) plights are often ignored. Ms. Naomi knows, along with so many of her colleagues, that Black women are worth more than the shrug of shoulders that Mr. Zantzinger offered, when he was confronted with Hattie Carroll's murder.

On April 4, we will be reminded that it is the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's assassination. We will remember Dr. King through our prisms, considering him as a prophet, an evangelist, a social justice advocate, and activist, an educator, an economist, a leader and a martyr. We cannot consider him in any silo though, and we must consider him in the context of the women who supported him, who empowered him, and who were sometimes martyred along with him.

Dr. Barbara Reynolds has written about Coretta Scott King and her major contributions to her husband's work. The King biographer Claiborne Carson shared private letters between Martin Luther King, Jr. and his "boo" Coretta, where they clashed and reconciled in exciting prose that illustrated their regard for each other. Did the Kings know that a depraved White man, William Zantzinger, was sentenced to a mere six months for killing a Hattie Carroll on the same day that Dr. King delivered the 'I Have A Dream' speech?

Thanks to Naomi Wadler, we will pay more attention to these Black women like Hattie Carroll, whose stories have been swallowed. Thanks to Dr. King's granddaughter, Yolanda Renee King, and her colleagues in the March For Our Lives, we will consider nonviolence differently. But mostly thanks to the legacy of Hattie Carroll, we will be forced to consider the many ways that women's contributions to the women's movement have been too

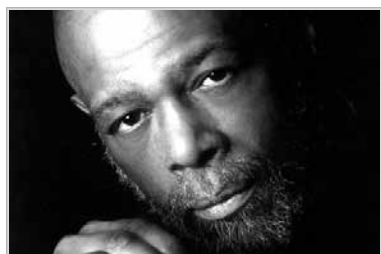
frequently ignored.

Medgar Evers was gunned down in his driveway in Mississippi. Hattie Carroll was caned down in Baltimore's Emerson Hotel for simply doing her job. Without rank ordering death and pain, it is important to note how incidental the deaths of Black women too often are. We don't, said young Naomi Wadler, make the headlines. Our stories are too often untold. Yet, if we commemorate the 50th year after Dr. King's assassination, we must commemorate the women who were slaughtered by racists. Hattie Carroll is one of them. Her tragic story must be woven into our history.

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.juliannealveaux.com. Follow Dr. Malveaux on Twitter @drjlastword.

Spiritually Speaking

Taking It One Day at a Time



James Washington
Guest Columnist

Today is truly a day that the Lord has made and the more complicated the world gets, the simpler the Word of God is to understand. Often, and do I mean often, I get reminded of the power and seductive nature of ego, pride and the need to control. Or, should I say the need to be in control? Letting go and letting God is a simple concept to say and dare I say, an easy concept to understand? Yet why is it so hard to do? We all know people who can quote scripture backwards and forwards,

yet have no faith. We know Christian control freaks who must have the last say and who must be right all the time. I know I sometimes get caught up in constantly trying to rationalize circumstances in order to explain the events of the day, any day, as if by some miracle of intelligence, I am the authority.

It is more often than not, at these times that if I'm blessed and open to receiving the Holy Spirit, that I then get a chance to see the miracles, the nuances, the essence of my life. I am not in control, never have been, never will be and, it's okay. Giving your life to Christ requires a constant vigil against taking credit or assessing blame. When you focus on service in the name of the Lord, you really do get a chance to see things from a different perspective. You see the service I'm referring to is the selfless kind that neither seeks nor expects reward. The mere act speaks for itself. How

much more simple does it have to be? Christ even suggests that God can see into your heart and know your intention. Love God and love your neighbor as you love yourself. It's so simple, it's incredible. It's so simple that if you're not careful, you'll miss it altogether. I know I have.

Now on this day, or any day that God has made, let's take this simple concept and apply it to a very complex world. Behavior should have purpose. We know they have consequences. Intent should always be uppermost in your mind. Now, let's look back over your yesterday. See how easy it was from the time you got up, until the time you laid down, to succumb to jealousy, pettiness, cruelty, envy and the like? It takes work to be humble, loving, giving and a source of truth all day, every day. It takes willpower and you know the will I'm talking about.

I believe the calling of every Christian is to try. It's the effort that God expects. It's the intent He wants. If you're first seeking the kingdom of heaven, then that quest should have some direct bearing on what you do today, how you perform, what you say and certainly whom you hang out with. I'm fortunate to have known people I believe were truly angels walking. I really do believe there are saints among us and we ignore them all the time because we're too busy pursuing the world, rather than pursuing God. However, from these living breathing angels, I've learned that the battle is not over until you know you've already won. The quest is not over until you are born, born again, die and ultimately live forever."

There's a line in the movie "Glad-

iator" that says, "What we do in life...echoes in eternity." It's kind of nice to know that Jesus already took care of that eternity thing. All I have to do is get through this life thing. If truth be told, I think I've got the easy part. It may not make sense on the surface, but when you stop and think about it, it really is simple. See me. See God. I can do this. I've just got to let go, one day at a time, one hour at a time, one person at a time. Try it, just once, try it.

May God bless and keep you, always.

James Washington is a father, husband, Christian and writer. James is also the owner and publisher of the multimedia company The Dallas Weekly. You can follow James on Twitter at @JAWS_215.

Ask Dr. Kevin

Stigma in Sickle Cell Disease

How It Impacts ED Care

By Dr. Kevin Williams
Chief Medical Officer, Pfizer
Rare Disease Unit

The “Ask Dr. Kevin” series is brought to you by Pfizer Rare Disease in collaboration with the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) to increase understanding of sickle cell disease.

The opioid crisis in the United States is at an all-time high, impacting thousands of Americans every day.

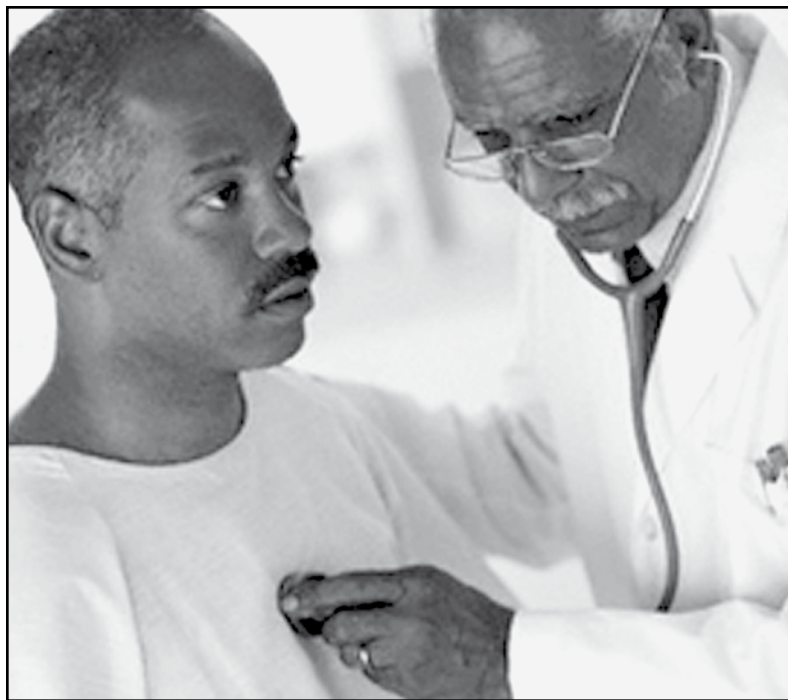
What may surprise you is the impact this crisis has on people with medical conditions that cause severe pain, particularly when they receive treatment in the emergency department (ED).

In light of the current opioid crisis, ED staff have become much more vigilant in monitoring suspected drug abuse. This can have particular implications for people with sickle cell disease (SCD), whose top reason for visiting the ED is to seek relief from the debilitating pain crises associated with their disease.

Unfortunately, ED staff may doubt the legitimacy of the high level of pain relief needed by someone with SCD, and this suspicion has contributed to the stigma that SCD patients are “drug-seeking.” When I was in medical school more than 30 years ago, ED staff treated SCD patients as drug seekers, and opioid abuse wasn’t even considered a crisis then. In light of the current opioid crisis, this stigma has become magnified.

SCD is a lifelong disorder most common in people of African descent and causes red blood cells to form sickled shapes. People with SCD often experience frequent acute pain episodes, called vaso-occlusive crisis (VOC). Currently, treatment for VOCs is limited and primarily involves administration of fluids and pain management, which often includes treatment with high levels of opioid pain medications.

As a result of the stigma related to drug-seeking, the patient is delayed in receiving the adequate and timely pain relief they so desperately needed. In fact, a study published in the “Clinical Journal of Pain” found that people with SCD wait an average of 30 minutes longer in the ED for pain medication when compared to people with other extremely painful conditions, like kidney stones.



Dr. Kevin Williams, the chief medical officer for Rare Disease at Pfizer, says that there is no evidence to support the notion that SCD patients have any more likelihood of being addicted to pain medication compared to anyone else.

Greater understanding of SCD and the pain experienced by people who suffer from the disease is urgently needed to help ensure that stigma and misunderstanding do not stand in the way of receiving adequate and timely medical treatment.

I’m here to answer the most common questions about pain related to SCD in the hope that this information will increase understanding and address some of these misperceptions.

Are SCD pain episodes really that severe?

Yes, they most certainly are. These episodes are characterized by excruciating, debilitating pain. The pain often occurs without any warning—then may worsen over time or escalate suddenly. Nearly all people living with SCD experience these pain crises at some point, but the frequency is variable and unpredictable. Some people with SCD experience six or more pain crises a year.

Why do SCD patients receive pain medicine at such high doses?

Early and aggressive pain management is a priority when treating a SCD patient who is experiencing pain episodes, as multiple studies have demonstrated that more frequent severe episodes of VOC are associated with death.

It’s important to understand that

with opioids eventually learn which opioids and dose are best to relieve or minimize their pain. Many times, this can appear suspicious to health care providers and lead to delayed or inefficient treatment.

Are SCD patients addicted to pain medication?

Unfortunately, this is a common misperception about the disease—not just by ED staff, but by many people in general.

It’s important to highlight the difference between tolerance and dependence. An SCD patient may develop tolerance to opioids due to repeated opioid treatments and thus require higher doses, but this does not mean that they are dependent on—or addicted to—opioids.

In fact, there is no evidence to support the notion that SCD patients have any more likelihood of being addicted to pain medication compared to anyone else. A study in the journal “Pain Medicine” found that in 2013, out of the 16,225 people who died of an opioid overdose, 99.94 percent did NOT have SCD. Thus, the approximately 100,000 individuals living with SCD are making limited contribution to

the opioid epidemic.

How can primary care providers help to improve the ED experience for SCD patients?

Primary care providers and people with SCD need to work together to ensure there is a pain management plan in place that will help coordinate care to support long-term pain management.

Along with your primary care provider, the use of prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMP) can easily assist in discovering a patient’s prescription history to help combat the misperception that drug abuse is taking place. Creating individualized pain plans could help result in less frequent admissions, less waiting time in the ER, and shorter length of hospital stays.

Can you share tips on how people with SCD can better manage the ED experience?

First and foremost, finding ways that help to reduce and/or manage

Health, Continued on page 10.



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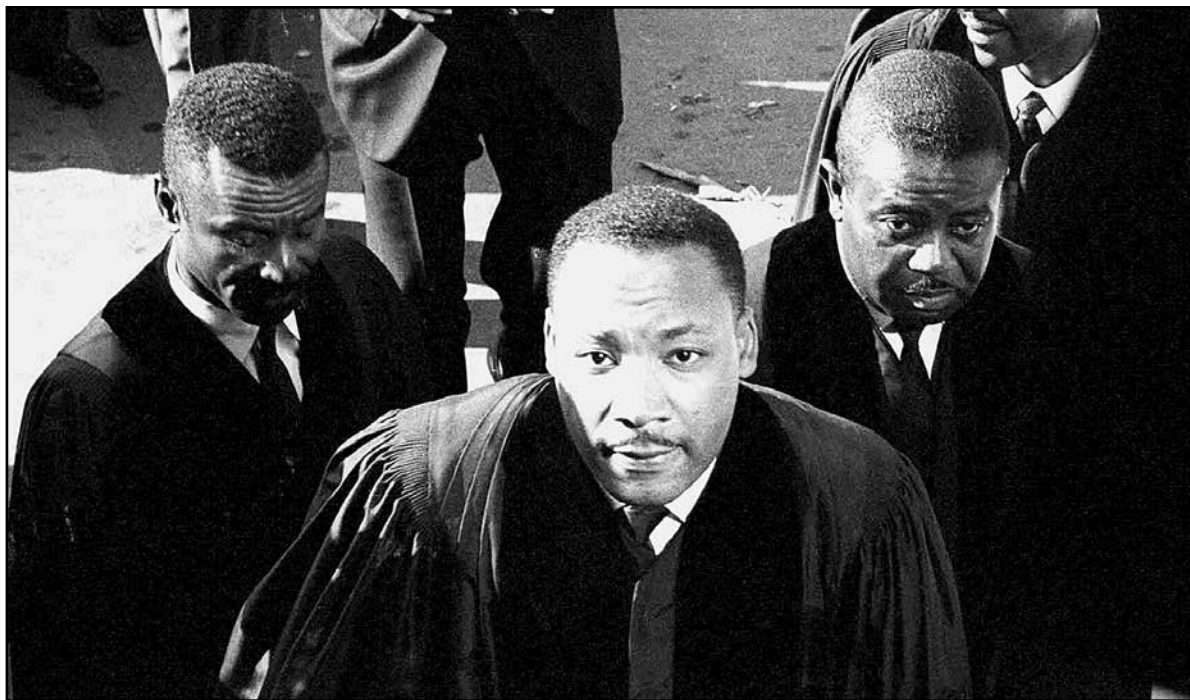


Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

By Dr. Gary Scott Smith
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Fifty years ago, on April 4, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was killed when he stepped from his second-floor hotel room at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee, to speak to Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) colleagues standing in the parking lot below. An assassin's bullet ended the life of the 39-year-old activist who had helped advance the cause of African-American rights more in 14 years than it had progressed in the previous 350 years.

King's life and legacy are remarkable. His shrewd strategy of non-violent protest, charismatic personality, electrifying speaking ability and soaring words mobilized the Black community, challenged centuries of oppression, and changed America. Inspired by his faith, the Baptist Minister helped direct the Montgomery Bus Boycott, initiated by Rosa Parks in 1955, helped found and led the SCLC, organized numerous marches and sit-ins and penned five books. His 1963 "Letter from the Birmingham Jail" and "I Have a Dream" Speech delivered to 250,000 people at the National Mall in Washington, D.C. in August 1963 detailed the plight of America's Blacks and helped reduce racial discrimination. His sermon "I've Been to the Mountaintop", preached at the Masonic Temple in Memphis, the headquarters of the Church of God in Christ, the night before his death, ranks with John Winthrop's "A Model of Christian Charity" and Jonathan Edwards' "Sinners in the



Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Hands of an Angry God" as among America's most famous.

King had initially planned to speak at Williston Senior High School in Wilmington, North Carolina, on April 4 to support Reginald Hawkins, a dentist and civil rights advocate, who was the first African-American gubernatorial candidate in the state's history. King then planned to stump in other North Carolina cities on Hawkins' behalf. Instead, King decided to stay in Memphis to support the strike of predominantly Black sanitation workers who were protesting their low wages and deplorable working conditions. There he declared in his April 3 Sermon, perhaps having a premonition of his death, and paraphrasing Moses, "[God has] allowed me to go up to the mountain.

And I've looked over. And I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you."

On April 5, about 200 Black Williston students peacefully marched to the downtown New Hanover County Courthouse to hold a prayer service in memory of Dr. King. Another group of students went to nearby New Hanover High School to demand that the White school's American flag be lowered to half-mast. Enraged by Kings, murder, Blacks throughout the nation rioted. Violence erupted in more than 100 cities, killing 40 people and causing extensive property damage.

President Lyndon Johnson proclaimed a national day of mourning on April 7. In response to King's death, many schools, museums,

public libraries and businesses closed, and the Academy Awards Ceremony scheduled for April 8 and numerous sporting events were postponed. On April 8, King's widow, Coretta Scott King, her three oldest children, movie stars, religious leaders and thousands of other Americans marched in Memphis to honor the slain activist and support the sanitation workers.

King's funeral service, held the next day at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta where King and his father served as ministers, was attended by many prominent politicians, and civil rights leaders, including Vice President Hubert Humphrey, Robert Kennedy, Richard Nixon and Ralph Bunche. Benjamin Mays, the President of Morehouse College in Atlanta,

from which King had graduated, gave the eulogy, declaring that King "would probably say" that "there was no greater cause to die for than fighting to get a just wage for garbage collectors." After the service, more than 100,000 mourners followed two mules as they pulled King's coffin on an old farm wagon through the streets of Atlanta.

Dr. King's accomplishments are well-known. King's inspiring books, mesmerizing speeches, creative leadership of the SCLC and direction of the Civil Rights Movement won him the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize (the youngest recipient to that date). His work also helped pass the landmark Civil Rights of 1964 that prohibited racial segregation in employment, schools and public accommodations and mandated that voter-registration requirements be applied equally to all races.

What is less remembered about Dr. King is that his Christian convictions inspired his civil rights activism. The Baptist pastor's faith played the pivotal role in his fervent quest for political and social change. "Before I was a civil rights leader," King declared in a sermon, "I was a preacher of the Gospel. This was my first calling" and it "remains my greatest commitment. Everything I do in civil rights I do because I consider it a part of my ministry."

As we remember Dr. King's life and contributions and continue to combat racism, poverty and violence, may we pray that truth and love prevail.

Health, Continued from page 9.

pain, such as stress reduction, plenty of fluids, and exercise, before it becomes an emergency is extremely important. If that doesn't work, here are a few tips:

- Do not delay your visit to the ED when you begin to experience a pain crisis
- Create a "pain plan" with your primary care provider, and either carry a validated copy with you at all times or have easy access to an electronic version
- Carry a document with you at all times that summarizes previous emergency department stays
- Work together with your hema-

tologist and your primary care provider, to ensure your pain management plan is right for you

Additionally, caregivers of SCD patients can also play an important role in improving the ED experience by:

- Recognizing the onset of a pain crisis and encouraging the patient to visit the ED
- Accompanying the patient to the ED and ensuring that all useful documents are brought along
- Providing support and distraction from the pain

- Taking notes on interactions between the patient and ED providers

Dr. Kevin Williams is the Chief Medical Officer for Rare Disease at Pfizer. He pursued medicine after being inspired by his father's work as a general practitioner in his hometown of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Dr. Kevin is passionate about raising awareness and increasing understanding of sickle cell disease in the African American community. You can follow Pfizer on Facebook and Twitter. Find out more information about SCD at, oneSCDvoice.com



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NAACP Sues President Trump over 2020 Census

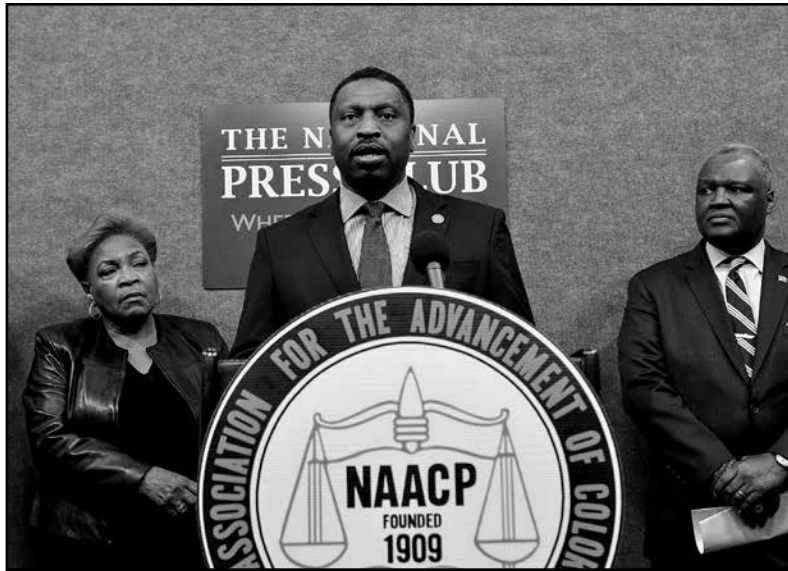
By William J. Ford
NNPA Newswire, The
Washington Informer

The NAACP announced that the group has filed a lawsuit against President Donald Trump, the U.S. Census Bureau and Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, "to combat the imminent threat that the 2020 Census will substantially undercount African Americans and other people of color in communities throughout the United States," a press release about the lawsuit said.

Prince George's County, the NAACP's Prince George's County branch and two county residents (branch President Bob Ross and Elizabeth Johnson), also joined the suit. Prince George's County experienced one of the highest undercounts in the nation at 2.3 percent during the 2010 Census, according to the suit. The figures are based on counties with a population of at least 100,000.

"Such a dramatic undercount will especially dilute the votes of racial and ethnic minorities, deprive their communities of critical federal funds and undervalue their voices and interests in the political arena," the suit alleges.

During a press conference about the lawsuit at the National Press Club in Northwest D.C., Bradford Berry, general counsel of the NAACP said that this lawsuit is



NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson (at podium) talks about the NAACP's lawsuit against President Donald Trump, Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross and the U.S. Census Bureau over management of the 2020 Census, during a recent press conference at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. Elizabeth Johnson, (left) a resident of Prince George's County and Rushern Baker, the county executive for Prince George's County also delivered remarks. (Freddie Allen/AMG/NNPA)

unique, because the plaintiffs seek action before work on the 2020 Census begins.

For instance, the suit claims the federal government has decreased resources and manpower for the 2020 Census and "cancelled crucial, pre-Census field tests and is rushing to digitize the Census without adequate cybersecurity protections, thus undermining public confidence in the privacy of Census data" the press release said.

The lawsuit also states that the Census Bureau doesn't have sufficient staffing; the agency's act-

ing director, Ron Jarmin, was also named as a defendant in the suit.

On Capitol Hill last week, the U.S. House of Representatives approved \$2.8 billion for the bureau, an increase more than double the amount of the Trump administration's request of \$1.1 billion.

"Proposing a bill and passing a bill are two different things," said NAACP President Derrick Johnson. "Once the final bill passes, we would like to evaluate to see if it's sufficient. We simply need the political will to make sure we have an accurate count

for this [upcoming] Census."

Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker III said his jurisdiction has lost about \$200 million in federal money, because of Census undercounts. The Maryland jurisdiction of nearly 900,000 people borders Washington, D.C., with 65 percent of the population African American.

Federal law requires that citizens are counted in a decennial census that not only helps redraw political boundaries, but also for counties and states to receive federal money for improvement of schools, roads and other needs.

Critics have argued that a proposed citizenship question in the 2020 Census will deter legal immigrants from responding and decrease the number of people counted in those communities. The Hispanic population in Prince George's County stands at about 18 percent.

"What's more frightening about this Census count, more than in the past, is the rhetoric from the Trump administration," Baker said after the press conference. "With a growing Latino population in the county, this is a direct assault on those folks participating in the Census. If it's happening here, then it's happening everywhere."

William J. Ford is a staff writer for The Washington Informer. You can follow him on Twitter @jabariwill.

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