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New Orleans

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New Orleans Post-Katrina

A Hub for Non-Native Creatives



Nesby Phips rocks a crowd along with his band, The Grid, at Blue Nile on Frenchmen. (Photo Credit: Samjah Iman)

By Samjah Iman
Data News Weekly Contributor

Abandoned houses, tenantless fields, neglected businesses, and the look of timeworn agony etched on some of the native’s faces are just a few indications that Hurricane Katrina left more than a small mark on this

City. Many of the people here wear the remnants of the hurricane like a badge of honor – it’s their war story; for others, it was a nightmare that forever changed the trajectory of their lives. While some New Orleanians occasionally ponder on the horror caused by the travesty 13 years ago, one young man reflects on The Big Easy’s newfound notoriety, as a result of Katrina, that

has caused an influx of non-native creatives to flock this way.

New Orleans bred rapper, producer, and visual artist Nesby Phips is no stranger to the creative community here in New Orleans. Having traveled all over the US performing his music, he holds strong to the old adage, “there is no place like home.” “New Orleans is

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where creativity is fluid and unrestricted.” boasts Phips.

Since Hurricane Katrina, there has been a major inpouring of non-native artists to this City (I’m one of them). Celebrities like Solange Knowles, who fled to the city in 2013, often brag about the je ne sais quoi New Orleans possesses. The Don’t Touch My Hair Singer was quoted in a 2016 Vogue ar-

city got out. Not that people weren’t visiting here at first, but between that, the internet, the popularity of the city and certain well-known artist tapping into the city.... the word just got out. But it’s been alluring, some people are just now catching on. Like Playwright Tennessee Williams who moved here from Mississippi said, “America has only three cities: New York, San Francisco,

Look at a Mardi Gras Indian costume. We are colorful people. We are peacocks. People are drawn and attracted to it and some creatives come down here to emulate that. Some artist come down here and pick up on the New Orleans aesthetics and add it to their art work. I’ve seen artists who are not from here but moved here, then go out of town to perform and build

friends by chanting, “where y’at, where y’at, where y’at lil daddy!” That’s how they simply spoke to each other.... sounded like they were rallying troops. There’s a rhythm to everything here. There’s a rhythm, there’s a taste, there’s a rous to everything we do. There’s a core ingredient to everything we do. It’s not flavorless here.

culture. Down here, it’s just raw and its people. We go off of vibes more. There’s not a lot of money down here so we don’t have time to be pretentious. It’s organic down here and more pure. That’s the beautiful thing about it being a newly tapped in source. We got a long time before we run out of what we have. Everything about New York has been commercialized. We are just now having major commercial success that you can identify on a pop culture level. Everything just happens here naturally. It was just a raw place where beautiful stuff happens, and no one is there to bottle it up and sell it off. It doesn’t have that sleaziness to it.....though it’s coming. Commercialism is inevitable. It’s like when they found the first oil rig, they kept digging everywhere for them. New Orleans is just another creative oil rig that they are going to hit.

Who are some of your favorite New Orleans-born creatives?

Definitely Aaron Neville.....he has a cold, sweet voice. Mahalia Jackson for sure. No one sounds like her. I enjoy Frank Ocean as a songwriter. Jay Electronica is one of the greatest emcees and personalities to come out of New Orleans. He’s nothing short of a legend. Artist Ceaux Young.... he has a brilliant style of painting, and he’s a multi-talented individual. Lil Wayne is one of the best rapper/writers of all time. Currency has a crazy pen. Patrick Melon is one of the best photographers out there. Not only does he have a style, he has a specific subject he sticks to which is Black New Orleans. Artist B-Mike of Studio BE has made an imprint on culture, and he did it off of sheer drive.

What in New Orleans sparks your creativity?

I get inspired just by waking up and going outside. Getting out the house and brushing up against the other things that are around like hearing and being at the second-line or going to hear a horn. You got other cities where you can’t see live music seven days a week for free. Down here we have several options of it. It’s just in the air here. I’m a part of it. Everything has its own little twist on it here and that plus me being a creative already influences me. When you leave out your door in New Orleans, you see that everything has a rhyme, riddle, sway, and step to it. And that’s just what it is.

Check out Nesby Phips’ projects on all music streaming apps and stay tuned for his upcoming live album Therapy. @nesbyphips



Nesby Phips in New Orleans t-shirt. “There’s a core ingredient to everything we do in New Orleans. There’s a rhythm, there’s a taste, there’s a rous to everything we do. It’s not flavorless here.” (Photo Credit: Diwang Valdez)

ticle saying, “I really, really love it there [New Orleans]. It is also one of those things you can’t put into words, you can’t really put your finger on what is so magical about it.” According to Phips, the magic was in this city before Hurricane Katrina. It’s just that people from other places are just now starting to recognize the beauty in what New Orleanians simply refer to as living.

I sat down with Nesby Phips seeking answers on what he believes attracts us non-native creatives to his city, and why he thinks people are choosing New Orleans over any other major city.

Exactly when do you think the post-Katrina creative influx to New Orleans started happening?

I think it started happening in the last four to five years. In the beginning it was a brave thing to come to this city after the hurricane because there wasn’t life here. But recently, the word is getting out about the city. The allure about the

and New Orleans. Everywhere else is Cleveland.”

So, what do you think attracts creatives to this city?

Some people come down here looking for that sauce that we have, hoping it rubs off on them. The word also got out about the opportunity for creative people to come down here and live cheaper. For what a struggling artist in LA is paying for a one bedroom there, they can get a two-bedroom comfortably in an historic area like right off Frenchmen. And they can just sit in the street and play their guitar.

There’s also a proverbial dialect on your creativity when you’re from here.... just like West Coast rappers have a certain way they pronounce words; a New Orleans horn player has a certain way he plays his horn. The same thing for a painter here, we paint in bold colors. It’s colorful in our architecture.

Art is all around here. That’s how we see things here, colorfully.

themselves as a New Orleans artist. Because when one says that they are from here, it means something to the world.

Another reason people are attracted to this city is because after the hurricane, a lot of us were dispersed to different parts of the world. And when you go to other states talking how we talk, dragging your words like we do, cooking how we cook - you get everybody’s attention. And now they want to know what it’s like in our City.

So, people come here and get inspired and moved by New Orleans’ creative people and culture. And this is a way of life here. So, is it safe to say New Orleanians are creatives by default?

What people are referencing as creatives, it’s just us being expressive. The average Joe has a beat in him here. The average Joe got a song in him. The average Joe has a chant in him. The way we talk is very melodic and has a cadence with the whooooooaaaaaaa. That’s a note. My daddy used to greet his

Do you think the allure of the city was there for creatives before Katrina?

Yes, but the world didn’t know about it. It was a hidden city. We weren’t apart of mainstream culture until after Katrina. Katrina put our name in the lexicon. It was in everybody’s mouth. We had our success with rap groups like Cash Money and No Limit before Katrina, and people knew what our street rap sounded like, but they didn’t know about the streetcars or the other history we have or the other talents we had like singer-songwriter Frank Ocean. If it wasn’t for Katrina, Frank Ocean would have probably not gone to California and jumpstarted his career.

Why would some creatives choose New Orleans over New York City?

There’s a lot of variables. New York is a metropolis. It’s Wall Street, garment district, diamond district, etc. There’s so many layers of commercialism laced into their

A Celebration of True Beauty

Greater St. Stephen Ministries & Cumulus Radio

"Greater Glam 2018" Community Event

By Edwin Buggage
Photos by Glenn Summers

Greater Glam and the True Definition of Beauty

For several decades Greater St. Stephen Ministries has been a place where spirits are fed on a consistent basis. The focus of this groundbreaking church has always been how to do God's work both inside the church and also making an impact in the entire community.

Dr. Debra B. Morton, who today leads the church as its First Woman Pastor is a visionary leader, author and entrepreneur who serves with her husband, Bishop Paul S. Morton, Sr. continues a tradition of a thriving ministry of more than 7000 members. In addition to its combined community of outreach through television, radio and social media their audience is more than 15,000 people weekly who are fed messages of faith, hope and inspiration.

This was on full display on Saturday August 25, 2018 when Pastor Debra B. Morton, partnered with Cumulus Radio and Tracee Dundas, who is best known as being the Creative Director and Founder of New Orleans Fashion Week producing an event called, "Greater Glam: A Day of Empowerment, Beauty and Fashion Honoring Amazing Women."

The Greater Glam Experience is more than an event that focuses on beauty. It is a community project with a focus to provide a creative cultural vehicle that raise funds that are donated to education scholarships and women business development grants.

"It has always been Important that we reach outside of the walls of the church. To impact people and connect, giving them the tools to tap into their greatness and embrace their true beauty," remarks Dr. Debra Morton, Pastor of Greater St. Stephen Ministries.



At the Greater Glam event, New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell received The Special Career Achievement Award as Greater St. Stephen Pastor Debra B. Morton (far right) observes along with other honorees onstage.

Working Outside of the Church Walls

Being a community advocate is something Greater St. Stephen is known for. They are among one of several churches in the City that are beacons of light and shining example of what the life of Christ represented. Speaking of the partnership with Cumulus and Dundas, Morton says it was a great fit that worked with what the church already does; working to uplift and empower women in the community.

"It is Women's month at our church and when Terry Davis from CUMULUS Radio approached me about putting on this event and mentioned Tracee, who I love what she does with beauty and fashion," states Pastor Morton with passion ringing in her voice. "This aligns perfectly with celebrating women of excellence and this is something I have been doing for 30 years; hosting events that empower women. I am proud to say this event as well as others we have had over the years that a lot of church women come from all over to be with us."

The turnout at "Greater Glam" consisted of women from all age groups. A fact not lost on Pastor Morton, who highlights that by all measures the event was a success, "I wanted to highlight great women

and those who aspire to greatness that came out to be celebrated and empowered and that was a beautiful thing to see so many Black women of all ages together celebrating and encouraging each other."

Building Community

Terry Davis says the event aligned with the mission of CUMULUS Radio and is part of their commitment to reach out to the community, "The collaborative between the partnership of Greater St. Stephen and Cumulus Radio open the door to this concept. After participating with Greater St. Stephen on other initiatives; I shared an idea, with our Regional VP Patrick Galloway, had regarding outstanding contributions women make every day. I then talked to Dr. Morton about the concept and we blended some ideas and when we met later that week she had a full vision and name for the event and that's how "Greater Glam 2018" developed into a community project designed to empower women through Education, Economic Development, Image and Style."

Beauty and Beyond

The event featured an Empowerment Day Session from 10AM until 2PM and a Fashion Show Experi-

ence from 7PM until 9PM. Tracee Dundas sings the praises of the Greater Glam, saying, "Nothing gives me more pleasure than to be part of an event that embraces and empowers women to feel beautiful both inside and out."

Noting her role, she says, "My role was to curate a fashion show that included the Amazing Women Honorees; giving them an opportunity to be a model on the runway and show their family, friends and community that beauty comes in all ages, shapes and sizes. It was amazing to work with the ladies to do something that may have been out of their comfort zone."

Trailblazing Women Honored

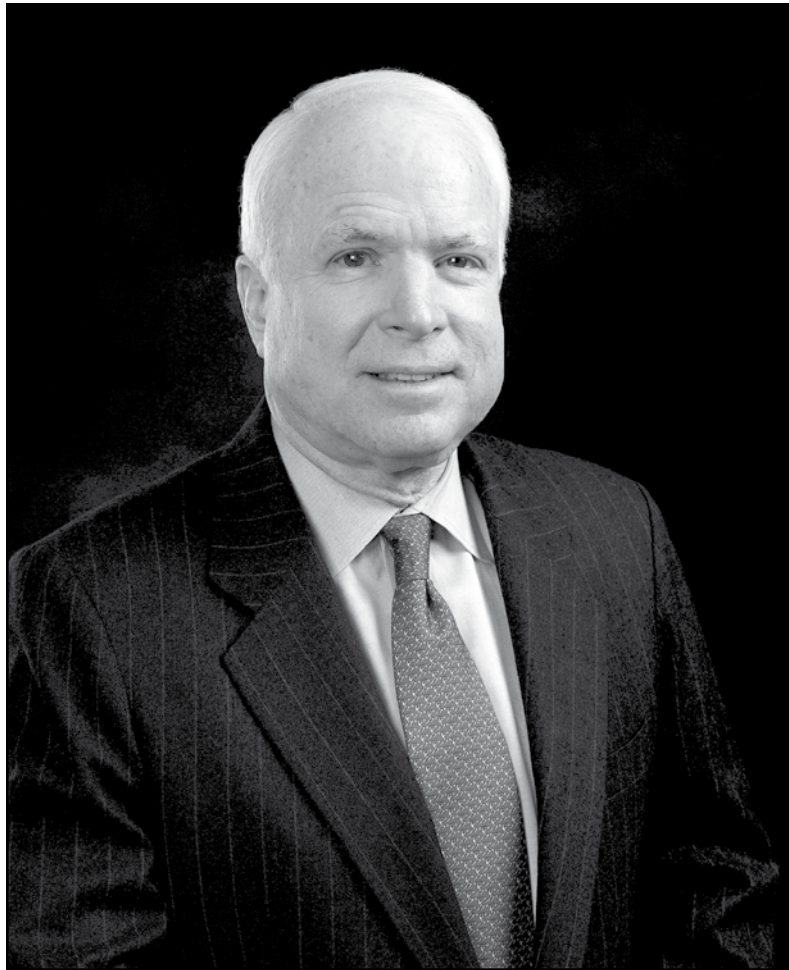
Greater Glam 2018 acknowledged the contributions of many of the amazing women of the City. Mayor LaToya Cantrell was presented a Special Career Achievement Award for making history as the First Woman Mayor of New Orleans. "I am very excited about the movement that is taken place surrounding women. Hat's off to our first woman mayor," says Pastor Morton of the accomplishments of Mayor Cantrell as a community advocate, city councilperson and now

making history as Mayor of the City of New Orleans.

And as we celebrate the accomplishments of today's women we cannot forget the shoulders on which they stand. A point not lost on Morton, as "Greater Glam" also honored the trailblazing achievements of the City's first African-American First Lady Sybil Morial, whose work in Civil Rights and Education made history blazing a trail for many to follow. Remarking on the pioneers and their remarkable contribution Pastor Morton says, "As I started thinking about my own life having a grandmother with 6th grade education who became a property owner of two houses. I look at my mother and Godmother and how they fought their way through racism and segregation to raise their daughters and granddaughters to become educated even though they didn't have those opportunities themselves. They were strong forever. And these are women to be honored as well for their courage and dedication making the sacrifices and inspiring the next generation of women for greatness."

Other Amazing Women honorees included; Dr. Kya Robottom, Founder of the Robottom Foundation, whose mission is to mentor pre-teen and teenage young women in New Orleans. Leona Tate, Founder of the Leona Tate Foundation for Change, where the mission is to educate young people on the lessons of Civil Rights to help build social equality in today's society. Lauren Perry, Executive Director of the Beautiful Foundation, where their mission is to provide a safe environment for leadership development for underserved young women in the community. Ariel Wilson, Founder of The Orchid Society. A professional women's organization focused on mentoring, community service and social awareness. Patricia Watson, Executive Pastor of Watson Teaching Ministries and Executive Director of the Family Center of Hope Educational and Social Services.

Gov. Edwards Orders Flags at Half-Staff for Sen. John McCain



The Late US Senator, John McCain (R-AZ)

BATON ROUGE – Today, Gov. John Bel Edwards ordered flags of the United States and the State of Louisiana to be flown at half-staff over the State Capitol and all state buildings until sunset on Sunday, September 2, 2018 in honor of American patriot and hero U.S. Senator John McCain.

“Sen. McCain lived an exemplary life in service to his family, state and nation,” said Gov. Edwards. “After volunteering for duty in Vietnam, McCain’s plane was shot down and he was held captive for more than five years at Hoa Loa prison in North Vietnam. Determined to con-

tinue a life of public service, once he returned home, he went on to represent Arizona in Congress for 35 years. Sen. McCain established himself as a great statesman, one who pushed to reform the tobacco industry, campaign finance and he cast the decisive vote to prevent the repeal of Medicaid Expansion, which has provided health care coverage for more than 470,000 Louisianans. He leaves behind a lasting legacy of staying true to one’s principles and putting country over politics. Donna and I ask Louisianans to join us in prayer for his devoted wife, Cindy and their family.”

New Orleans Sailor Serves in Black Sea Aboard USS Carney

BLACK SEA (Aug. 13, 2018) Gunner’s Mate 3rd Class Karen Handy, from New Orleans, stands watch on the starboard bridge wing of the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Carney (DDG 64) Aug. 13, 2018. Carney, forward-deployed to Rota, Spain, is on its fifth patrol in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations in support of regional allies and partners as well as U.S. national security interests in Europe and Africa. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Ryan U. Kledzik/Released)



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Greater Glam 2018

Photos by Glenn Summers
Data News Weekly Contributor

The Greater St. Stephen Ministries community project Greater Glam 2018 took place on Saturday August 25, 2018 and featured an Empowerment Day Session and Fashion Show Experience. Greater Glam 2018 is the inspiration of Dr. Debra B. Morton in collaboration with fashion leader Tracee Dundas Creative Director of New Orleans Fashion Week and Cumulus Radio New Orleans. Didn't the ladies look amazing? Of course they did and of course, Data was there!



Chelsey Napoleon Fundraiser

George Bordenave gave a get together fundraiser for Candidate Chelsey Napoleon running for Clerk of Civil District Court at his home. The fundraiser was held on Saturday, August 25, 2018. It was well attended. Data News Weekly was there!!!



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

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Secretary DeVos' Plan to Arm Teachers



Cong. Frederica S. Wilson
U.S. House of Representatives

"This is yet another example of Secretary Betsy DeVos's disdain for our nation's public schools and

underscores the urgent need for Democrats to remain steadfast in the fight to safeguard our students, teachers, and schools."

Washington, D.C., August 23, 2018 –Congresswoman Frederica S. Wilson issued the following statement in response to news reports that the U.S. Department of Education is considering allowing states to use federal tax dollars to purchase guns for teachers:

"I was astounded to learn today that the U.S. Department of Educa-

tion is allegedly considering using federal tax dollars to arm public school teachers by diverting funding from the Every Student Succeeds Act earmarked for mental health treatment, anti-bullying programs, and drug prevention in our nation's poorest schools. Such a policy would not only endanger students, but also would rob them of access to these critical support programs.

"The department has pushed back on the news reports and said that it received an inquiry from the Texas state Department of Education about funding for firearms, which it ignored. I believe that it

should have responded to the agency with a resounding 'no.'

"Earlier this year, Congress passed the bipartisan Stop School Violence Act, which allocated \$50 million yearly to local school districts to augment school safety, and specifically prohibits funding for firearms. I will continue to work with my colleagues on initiatives to stem gun violence and prevent weapons from reaching classrooms.

"This is yet another example of Secretary Betsy DeVos's disdain for our nation's public schools and underscores the urgent need for Democrats to remain steadfast in

the fight to safeguard our students, teachers, and schools."

Congresswoman Frederica S. Wilson is a fourth-term Congresswoman from Florida representing parts of Northern Miami-Dade and Southeast Broward counties. A former state legislator and school principal, she is the founder of the 5000 Role Models for Excellence Project, a mentoring program for young males at risk of dropping out of school. Congresswoman Wilson also founded and chairs the Florida Ports Caucus, a bipartisan taskforce that coordinates federal action in support of Florida's harbors and waterways. The Florida lawmaker sits on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Is Trump Looking Out for American Workers?



Bill Fletcher, Jr.
NNPA Columnist

This may seem strange, but there are apparently unions that feel that President Donald Trump's

policies on trade are in the interests of workers in the United States. I am a bit perplexed.

If you leave aside for a moment the horrendous assaults that Trump and his Republican allies have been conducting against American workers and their unions, it is still difficult to see how Trump's views on trade are helping American workers.

Let's look at the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) for a moment. Trump has repeatedly suggested that the U.S.—as

a nation—has been the principal victim of NAFTA; that turns out to be less than true. Workers in the U.S., Canada and Mexico have all been victimized by NAFTA. For instance, NAFTA destroyed Mexican agriculture, and forced a massive migration of Mexican farmers into the cities of Mexico and later to the U.S. Many U.S. manufacturing plants have closed and gone to border areas of northern Mexico where the workers are underpaid. Canadian companies have left Ontario and moved to the U.S. in

search of cheaper labor.

What does Trump say about this? Nothing, as a matter of fact. Instead he acts as if the people of these other countries are out to carve up the U.S. the way that you carve a turkey at Thanksgiving.

This leads to another question. If Trump is squeezing U.S. workers through his judicial appointments, destruction of worker and environmental regulations, and siding with the corporate "Right" against workers, why would anyone assume that in dealing with NAFTA negotiations

or negotiations with China that he would be particularly concerned about the interests of U.S. workers?

I suppose that I look at it this way. If the neighborhood bully regularly assaults me and then one day comes to me and says that "we" should join together against some people on another block, why would I believe them? In fact, why would I believe that my interests and those of the bully are at all aligned?

Bill Fletcher, Jr. is a talk show host, writer and activist. Follow him on Twitter @BillFletcherJr, Facebook and at www.billfletcherjr.com.

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TRULY YOUR NEWSPAPER IN LOUISIANA

Ask Dr. Kevin

Out with the Old, In with a New Understanding to Improve SCD Care



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

With National Sickle Cell Awareness Month just next month, I've been thinking a lot about the challenges that people with sickle cell disease (SCD) face and what can be done to make a meaningful change in their care.

Evolution of the science behind SCD has advanced in recent years, resulting in a new understanding of the disease. However, this knowledge is not commonplace among individuals living with SCD and their healthcare professionals. As with any disease, better understanding and awareness of the condition is the foundation for improvement in appropriate and timely care. Recently, the Sickle Cell Disease Council For CHANGE (CFC) has set their sights on raising awareness of the expanded science behind the disease among patients, their families, and healthcare professionals.

The CFC, a group convened by Pfizer and inclusive of more than 20 experts, advocates, and patients working to improve care for SCD patients, is looking at this issue as part of a recently released report called "Improving Vaso-occlusive Crisis (VOC) Management." In the report, the CFC explains how the

understanding of SCD has evolved through the years, and outlines recommendations for how to get this information into the hands of those who can use it—healthcare professionals, emergency department staff, and people living with SCD—to make a positive change and improve patient care.

Here is an overview of what the CFC found, which is outlined in the report:

The Expanded Science Behind the Disease

Let's start at the beginning. A common (and somewhat outdated) view of SCD is that complications from the disease are caused by a simple "plumbing malfunction." In other words, it is only the sickled red blood cells that clump together and cause blockages in blood vessels that lead to pain and organ damage.

Now it has been understood that the underlying science is more complex than this.

Recent breakthroughs in the understanding of SCD have shown in fact that the vaso-occlusion (or blocking of minute blood vessels involving multiple pathways and different types of blood cells), is a key factor underlying all of the different manifestations of the disease.

In SCD, these rigid, crescent-shaped cells have difficulty passing through small blood vessels and irritate the internal lining of these vessels. This causes the lining of blood vessels to become "sticky," and as a

result, not only the red blood cells, but also white blood cells and platelets clump together. This can further contribute to obstructions in blood flow and inflammation. These events can occur even when there are no outward signs or symptoms, ultimately causing several of the complications seen with SCD.

Other factors that contribute to vaso-occlusion may include stress, the thickness of a person's blood, as well as infection or conditions that commonly trigger a painful crisis.

The most common symptom of vaso-occlusion is the pain crises (or vaso-occlusive crisis – VOC). VOC is the cardinal manifestation of SCD and is often thought of synonymously with SCD.

In addition, there is an increasing awareness of another SCD complication—one that is often overlooked: chronic pain. VOCs are sudden, intense episodes of pain, while chronic pain, especially for older adolescents and adults, is defined as ongoing pain that has been regularly present over a period of the past six months.

What makes it more complicated? People with SCD can experience VOCs while also suffering

from chronic pain. And while VOCs are routinely treated with opioid medications, chronic pain should be managed separately and with a different approach. Ongoing, long-term use of opioids can lead to drug tolerance, which causes people with SCD to require higher doses. However, according to the report, considering alternative pain relief options when appropriate, along with regular reassessment of medication use and dose, may be helpful in minimizing this issue.

Getting the Word Out

It is great news that the understanding of the science of SCD has evolved, but it is important to make sure that the right people, especially patients and their doctors, are aware that SCD is far more complex than being just a disease of red blood cells in order to make a meaningful difference.

Armed with this information, individuals living with SCD and their healthcare professionals better understand and explain the varied symptoms an individual can have. They can make more informed treatment decisions for their SCD patients, and people with SCD

can be empowered to advocate for better care. Additionally, this new understanding of SCD among both healthcare professionals and patients can lead to better communication and more positive interactions in the future.

The time for change is now, and the CFC is working to get the word out about the urgency around improved care for SCD. Learn more about the Council here and read their first report here.

The next Ask Dr. Kevin article will be available this fall. Until then, join the conversation and find out more information about SCD at oneSCDvoice.com, a collaborative platform that provides access to resources designed to increase knowledge, provide emotional support, and help empower people living with SCD. Sign up for free today.

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 rare diseases, such as sickle cell disease, in the African American community. You can follow Pfizer on Facebook and Twitter.

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Jay Z, Beyoncé Awarding \$1M in Scholarships to 'Exceptional' High School Students

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Popular music's most powerful couple continue to make power moves.

Hip-hop superstar Jay Z and his wife, Beyoncé, have announced a new scholarship program that will award 10 scholarships worth \$100,000 each to "exceptional" high school seniors who demonstrate financial needs.

The award will serve as a dedicated university-based fund for each selected student throughout the duration of the student's enrollment, according to a news release.

"This back to school season, students in the On The Run II Tour markets, who are preparing for college, will be chosen by Boys and Girls Club of America," according to a joint press release from Beyoncé's "BeyGOOD Initiative" and Jay Z's "The Shawn Carter Foundation."

"Qualified students must demonstrate academic excellence and show financial needs that would make it hard for them to enter college or university for the academic year 2018-2019," the release noted.

The markets will include Atlanta, Orlando, Miami, Arlington, Texas; New Orleans, Houston, Phoenix, Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Clara, and Seattle.

The power couple have had a long history of helping students with The Shawn Carter Foundation spearheading college tours to his-



Beyoncé performing on The O2 in London. Photo by idrewuk (originally posted to Flickr as Hello hubbie!) [CC BY 2.0] (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>), via Wikimedia Commons

torically black colleges and universities and providing scholarships to college bound students throughout the country.

Through her BeyGOOD initiative, Beyoncé created the Formation Scholars Award, a merit program to help female students start or further their college education, and this year they announced the Homecoming Scholars Award, a second merit program, opened to qualified students, regardless of gender, to enter or continue their

studies at one of eight HBCUs.

In May, Jordan Davis decided to apply for the BeyGood scholarship but said doubted he would receive the award. About a month later though, he got the news. The Plano native was one of the eight finalists who had won the inaugural scholarship sponsored by Beyoncé and Google.

"I was so ecstatic," Davis told the Houston Chronicle. "It was a dream come true. It almost felt like Beyoncé had chosen me."

Homecoming Scholars was inspired by Beyoncé's performance at the 2018 Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival. Beyoncé, the first black woman in the festival's 19-year history to be its headline performer, referenced HBCUs throughout her performance that incorporated a 100-piece all-black marching band and song selection.

"The show, with its homage to excellence in education, was a celebration of the homecoming weekend experience, the highest display of college pride," according to a news release.

"The energy-filled production put the spotlight on art and culture, mixing the ancient and the modern, which resonated masterfully through the marching band, performance art, choir, and dance. It was the impetus to mark her second scholarship program."

As a part of the scholarship ap-

plication, students were required to submit a 1,000-word essay about "one African or African-American thought leader in their field who has inspired them to achieve their goals."

Davis wrote about David Satcher who served as U.S. Surgeon General in both the Bill Clinton and George W. Bush administrations. Satcher, who was director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from 1993-1998 before being appointed as surgeon general by Clinton, is an "inspiring" figure to look up to, Davis said.

Davis, 20, is a senior health-care administration major at Texas Southern.

He said the scholarship will make it possible for him to pursue a career in healthcare administration. One day, he hopes to work for a home health agency, clinic or hospital as an administrator who helps underserved communities.

"I always cared about helping the community and contributing," he said. "I like to work with people."

In addition to maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or higher, he volunteers for Habitat for Humanity and is a member of TSU Honors College Enrichment, the Urban Gardening program, Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, and is also a counselor for Young Life Christian Fellowship.

Davis said he is grateful because the scholarship relieved him of a heavy financial burden, especially because he plans to pursue a master's degree in organizational leadership and development.

"This scholarship took off the pressure to get loans or additional funds," Davis said.

"A master's degree is not cheap and this makes the gap smaller."

Jay Z and Beyoncé's OTRII Tour reportedly has grossed more than \$150 million.

"And, they're giving back in a large way," superfan Nolan Crenshaw said.

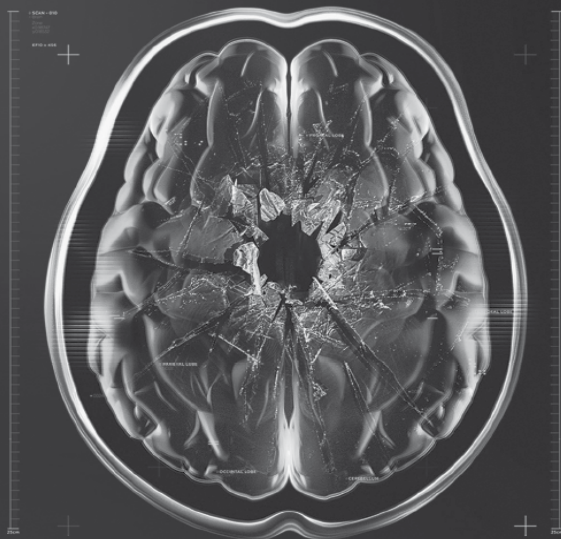
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NNPA Official Statement on the Passing of Senator John McCain

“John McCain’s integrity and courage were his greatest virtues. His national leadership example is still needed today not only in the U.S. Senate, but also in every state, city and town across America.”

Washington, DC, August 27, 2018 — The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) extends sincerest condolences to the family of Senator John McCain. Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr, President and CEO of the NNPA emphasized, “John McCain’s integrity and courage were his greatest virtues. His national leadership example is still needed today not only in the U.S. Senate, but also in every state, city and town across America.”

Dorothy Leavell, Chairman of the NNPA and publisher of the Crusader Newspapers, stated, “The death of Senator John McCain reminds us that none of us are immortal, but his life was one of service and love for his country. Giving of one’s service until the end speaks volumes of his integrity and he fulfilled the call from our maker to be of service to others.”

Cloves Campbell III, former Chairman of the NNPA and publisher of the Arizona Informant observed, “Senator John McCain will be remembered in the African American community of Arizona as a national statesman who grew and evolved particularly in his later years as an elected official who transcended partisan politics and who eventually did what he thought was the right thing to do rather than to be confined to po-

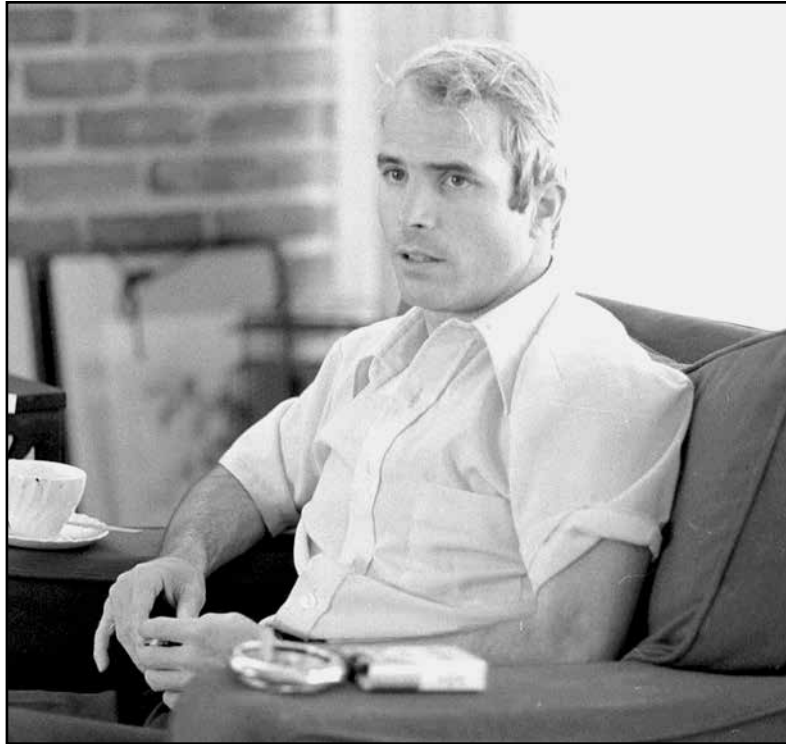


Photo of John McCain during an interview, April 24, 1974. Collection of the Library of Congress. Photographer: Thomas J. O'Halloran.

litical party loyalty. That is why he voted pivotally to save the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) at a time when most Republicans were voting to end the ACA.”

“His acts of service in war, where he was held captive, and then at home, was one of dignity, respect and care in the United States Senate far surpassing many others in similar circumstances,” concluded Leavell. “Above all, he put partisanship aside to make decisions that were in the best interest of all of the citizens of the United States and usually without much fanfare. We shall remember him and miss his brand of high character in the Senate. We add our condolences to his family and our country as a whole. Rest in peace (RIP) dear Senator.”

On Monday morning in Arizona, Senator John McCain’s former

campaign manager Rick Davis, acting as a spokesperson for the McCain family, read aloud the text of the late senator’s final letter to the public. “These are John’s words,” he said. What follows is a transcription of what Davis read:

My fellow Americans, whom I have gratefully served for 60 years, and especially my fellow Arizonians, thank you for the privilege of serving you, and for the rewarding life that service in uniform and in public office has allowed me to lead.

I’ve tried to serve our country honorably. I’ve made mistakes, but I hope my love for America will be weighed favorably against them. I’ve often observed that I am the luckiest person on Earth. I feel that way even now, as I prepare for the end of my life. I’ve loved my life, all of it. I’ve had experiences, adventures, friendships, enough for 10 satisfying lives, and I am so thankful. Like most people, I have regrets. But I would not trade a day of my life in good or bad times for the best day of anybody else’s.

I owe this satisfaction to the love of my family. One man has never had a more loving wife or children he was prouder of than I am of mine. And I owe it to America to be connected to America’s causes:

Liberty, equal justice, and respect for the dignity of all people brings happiness more sublime than life’s fleeting pleasures. Our identities and sense of worth were not circumscribed, but are enlarged by serving good causes bigger than ourselves.

Fellow Americans, that association has meant more to me than any other. I lived and died a proud American. We are citizens of the world’s greatest republic, a nation of ideals, not blood and soil. We are blessed and are a blessing to humanity when we uphold and advance those ideals at home and in the world. We have helped liberate more people from tyranny and poverty than ever before in history, and we have acquired great wealth and power in the progress.

We weaken our greatness when we confuse our patriotism with tribal rivalries that have sown resentment and hatred and violence in all the corners of the globe. We weaken it when we hide behind walls, rather than tear them down; when we doubt the power of our ideals, rather than trust them to be the great force for change they have always been.

We are 325 million opinionated, vociferous individuals. We argue and compete and sometimes even vilify each other in our raucous public debates. But we have always had so much more in common with each other than in disagreement. If only we remember that and give each other the benefit of the presumption that we all love our country, we will get through these challenging times. We will come through them stronger than before, we always do.

Ten years ago I had the privilege to concede defeat in the election for president. I want to end my farewell to you with heartfelt faith in Americans that I felt so powerfully that evening. I feel it powerfully still.

Do not despair of our present difficulties. We believe always in the promise and greatness of America because nothing is inevitable here. Americans never quit, we never surrender, we never hide from history. We make history. Farewell fellow Americans, God bless you, and God bless America.

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