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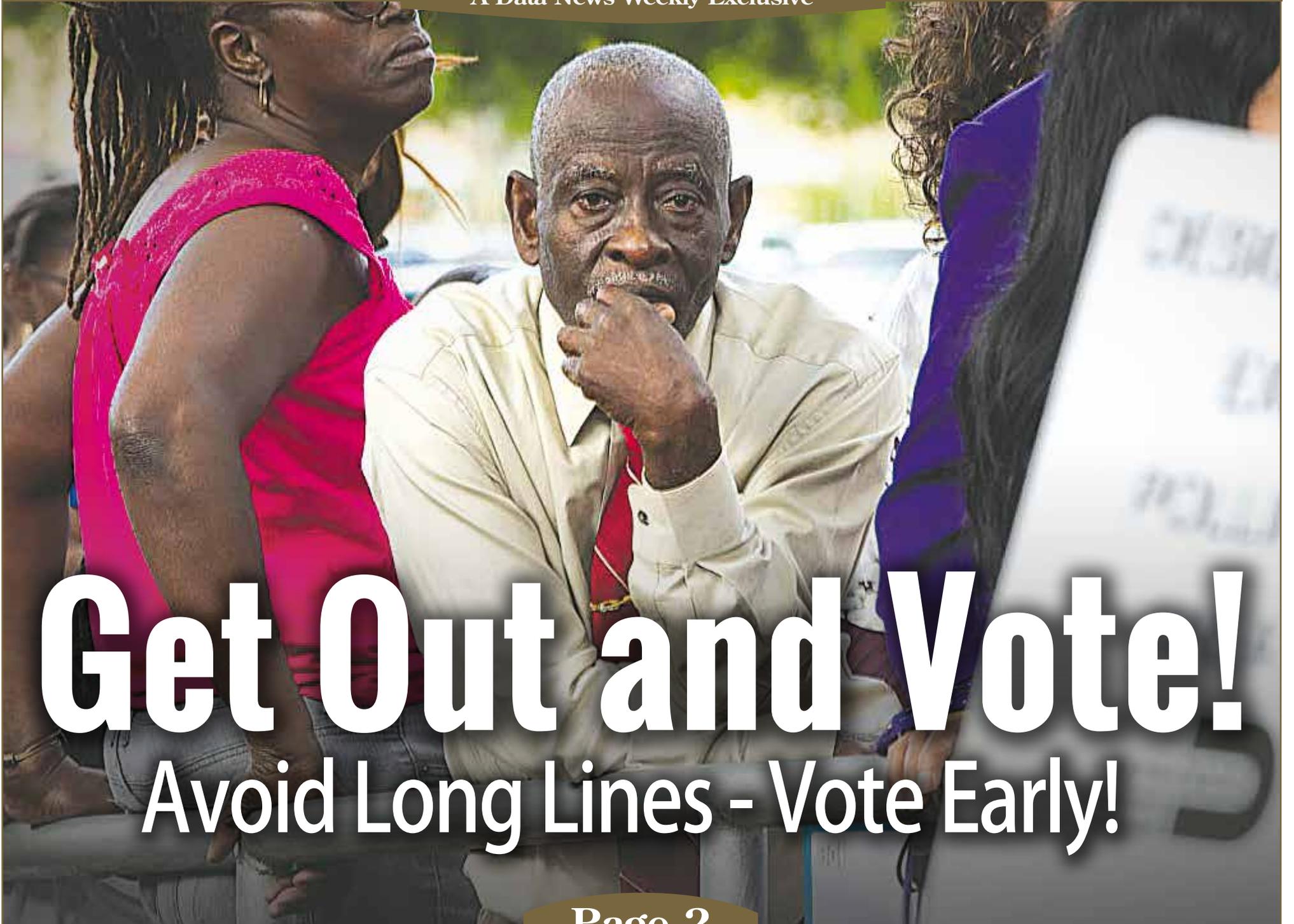
St. Peter
Claver
Jazz
Extravaganza

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October 20 - October 26, 2018 53rd Year Volume 25 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive



Get Out and Vote!

Avoid Long Lines - Vote Early!

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Endorsements

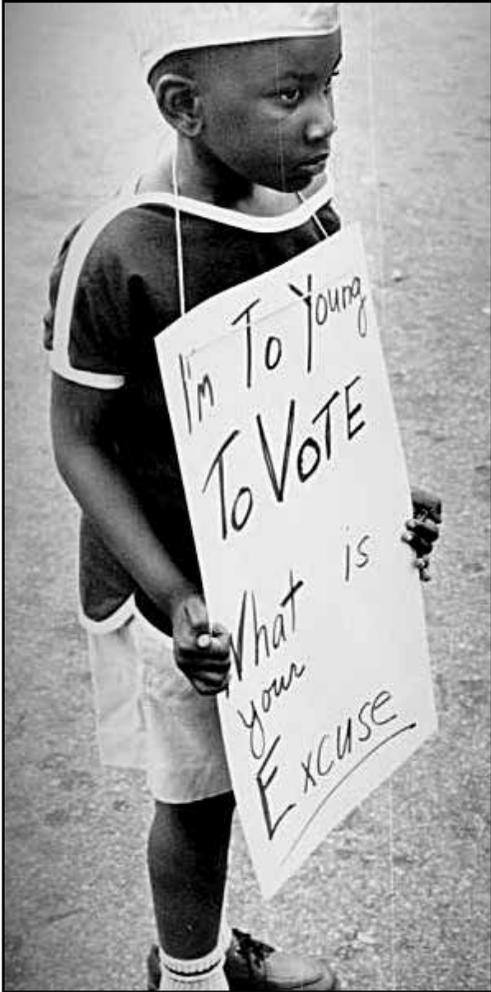
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Data News Weekly Wants You to Get Out and Vote!



We are in historic times and it is important to get out and vote.

By Data News Weekly Staff

Early Voting October 23-30

It is that time again and Data News Weekly is encouraging all of the citizens to get out and vote for the November 6th election. As we know that as National Election Day falls on a Tuesday, so we at Data News

Weekly are encouraging our readers if possible to vote early. The days our citizens can begin casting ballots begins on October 23-30 at various locations around the city.

Things to Look at On the Ballot

There are several races on the ballot that we feel are important for our readers. Louisiana 2nd Congressio-

nal District, Clerk of Civil District Court, Clerk of 1st District City Court, and Judge of Civil District Court Division E.

And most importantly, we at Data News have been focusing on Louisiana Constitutional Amendment 2; that has to do with repealing the non-unanimous verdict in serious felonies. A law that originated in the Jim Crow Era and been one of the reasons that the State

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



of Louisiana has become for many years held the distinction of the World's Prison Capital.

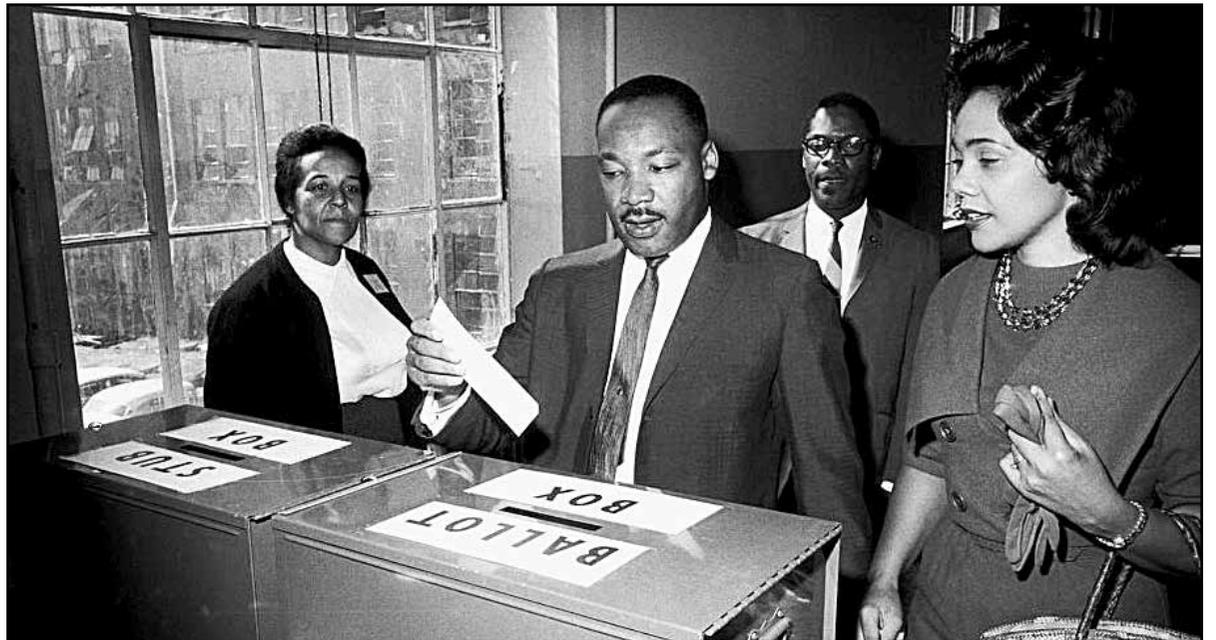
One cannot overstate that these are important times for our city, state and nation. We are undoubtedly in historic times and that voting or not voting can have a major impact on public policies that affects the African-American community.

So, it is without question that voting early is in the best interest for our community. We at Data News Weekly have provided some of the important information that you must know before voting in addition to our endorsements.

In this election voters can make history by voting yes on Louisiana Constitutional Amendment 2, that eliminates non-unanimous verdicts for serious felonies. A Jim Crow Law that's impacted Blacks adversely and contributed to for many years the state being the prison capital of the world.

One cannot overstate that these are important times for our city, state and nation. We are undoubtedly in historic times and that voting or not voting can have a major impact on public policies that affects the African-American community.

As we know that as National Election Day falls on a Tuesday November 6, 2018. So we at Data News Weekly are encouraging our readers if possible to vote early. The days our citizens can begin casting ballots begins on October 23-30 at various locations around the city.



Voting Information

The registrars of voters will open their offices from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. for each day of early voting. When you go to cast your vote early, you will be asked to identify yourself with either a photo ID or signature on a voter affidavit. You may use a driver's license, a Louisiana Special ID or some other generally recognized picture ID that has your name and signature. You may wish to contact your local Registrar of Voters Office for specific locations, dates and times.



Important Dates for November 6th Election

- **October 9, 2018:** Was the last day to register to vote in person & by mail
- **October 16, 2018:** Was the last day to register to vote (online)
- **October 23-30, 2018:** Early voting, 8:30am-6pm, excluding Sunday
- Voters who need help finding their polling location can call **(504) 658-8300** or use the Louisiana Voter Portal

Important Dates for December 8th Election

- **November 7, 2018:** Last day to register to vote in person & by mail
- **November 17, 2018:** Last day to register to vote (online)
- **November 24 - December 1, 2018:** Early voting, 8:30am-6pm, excluding Sunday

Early Voting Sites

City Hall
1300 Perdido Street, Room 1W24
New Orleans, LA 70112
504-658-8300

Algiers Courthouse
225 Morgan Street, Room 105
New Orleans, LA 70114
504-658-8323

Chef Menteur Voting Machine Warehouse Site
8870 Chef Menteur Highway
New Orleans, LA 70126
504-658-8300

Lake Vista Community Center
6500 Spanish Fort Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70124
504-658-8300

In these important times get out and vote and let your hands shape the future of our great city.

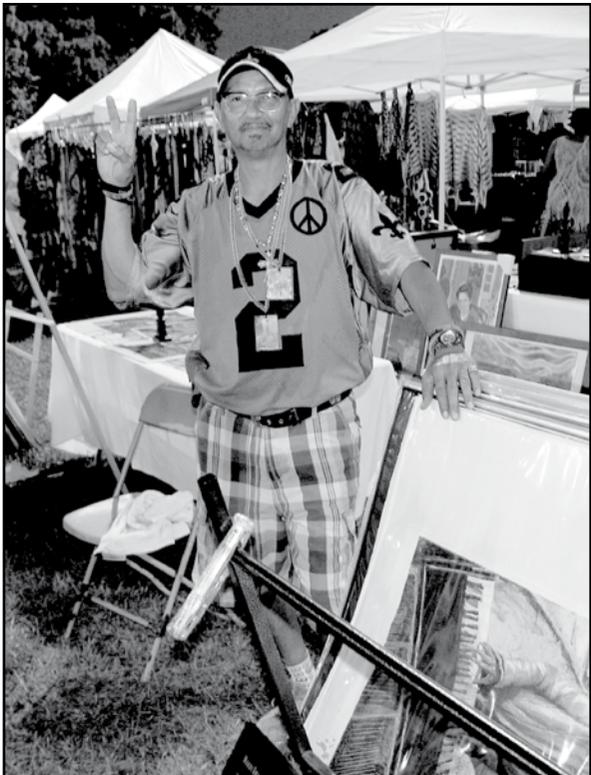
2018 Gentilly Festival

Laissez Les Bon Temp Roulez for a Good Cause

Data News Weekly Photos

Gentilly Fest celebrates all things New Orleans! Festival goers were treated to some of the best live music, delicious food from a variety of local restaurants & caterers, fine arts and crafts and family friendly fun! Activities for children included the Kids' Village which featured pony rides, a kids stage, a New Orleans Fire Department fire truck, face painting, an imagination playground, pottery making, garden crafts and much more...

Gentilly Fest also offered a variety of practical recovery information offered by local organizations and an opportunity for neighbors and friends to come together with their families in a safe, festive environment to build closer relationships with our police & fire



Why Should You Vote?

Actor/Director Anthony Bean

I am actor and director Anthony Bean, I am encouraging all who are eligible to vote to get out and cast your ballot on Tuesday November 6th.

Remember there is too much at stake for you to stay at home. Our community and our children's future depend on it. Remember a voteless people are a hopeless people. **Vote Tuesday November 6th.**

If not now, then when - If not you, then who?

Sponsored by Data News Weekly and Cumulus Radio



departments, elected officials and each other.

Gentilly Fest supports the New Orleans Police, Fire, EMS, Children's Music Camps and other New Orleans organizations and this year, Gentilly Fest also donated funds to the Sports Programs of Pontchartrain Park & Milne Playgrounds and The Roots of Music.



Data News Endorsements

Below are the first endorsements for candidates in the upcoming election. Please keep these in mind as you engage in early voting.

U.S. Representative Louisiana 2nd Congressional District
Cedric Richmond

Yes Amendment 2

A Yes Vote will end a law created during Reconstruction, that sets Louisiana apart from every state, as the only place where someone can get a Life Sentence despite the “reasonable doubt” of two jurors.

Clerk Civil District Court
Chelsey Richard Napoleon

Clerk First City Court
Timothy David Ray



U.S. Representative Louisiana 2nd Congressional District Cedric Richmond



Clerk Civil District Court Chelsey Richard Napoleon



Clerk First City Court Timothy David Ray

**YOUR SON HAS ASKED
A CALCULUS QUESTION
YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND
AT ALL**

Do you:

- (A) Create a diversion.
- (B) Look up the answer on your phone but pretend you knew it.
- (C) Hire a tutor. For yourself.

When it comes to being a parent, there are no perfect answers – just being there is enough. So don't worry, you don't have to be perfect to be a perfect parent. There are thousands of teens in foster care who will love you just the same.



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BLUE LION Karate Academy
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504-244-8395

GEO@LIONMANFoundation.org
info@BLUELIONKarate.com

www.LIONMANWorld.com
www.TheLegendOfLIONMAN.com
www.BLUELIONKarate.com

Crescent City Blues & BBQ Fest Highlights

Photos by Kichea S. Burt
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Guitar Legend Jimmie Vaughan, fast-rising star Samantha Fish, world-famous blues belter Shemekia Copeland, New Orleans' beloved Soul Man Walter "Wolfman" Washington and Memphis R&B Icon Don Bryant were just a few of the great artists who performed at the 13th Annual Crescent City Blues & BBQ Festival, presented by the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation Oct. 12-14 in Lafayette Square Park. Festival goers experienced great music and a fantastic time, and Data was there for it all!!!



KEEP

CHELSEY

RICHARD NAPOLEON

#53

CLERK-CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

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EARLY VOTING: October 23 - October 30

ELECTION DAY: November 6, 2018

While each Clerk's Office has its own set of responsibilities, it takes experience on the job and training as a lawyer to be Clerk of Civil District Court. I know because I am a lawyer and I have practiced in Civil District Court. Chelsey Richard Napoleon is also a lawyer. I know that she has the education, experience, integrity and compassion to continue to run the Clerk's Office in a manner that empowers employees and provides access to justice for all in our community.
- Clerk of Criminal Court Arthur Morrell

Chelsey understands that our residents need swift access to justice. She is sympathetic to the needs of this community. The Clerk's office handles all of your most important documents. Chelsey has the education, training and innovative ideas to move this office forward. Let's keep Chelsey Clerk.
- Former Councilmember Cynthia Willard Lewis

EDUCATION
 Juris Doctor Degree - Loyola University New Orleans College of Law
 Master of Arts Degree, Political Science - University of New Orleans
 Bachelor of Arts Degree, Major-Political Science/Minor-History - University of New Orleans
 Benjamin Franklin Senior High School

EXPERIENCE AT CLERK OF CIVIL DISTRICT COURT'S OFFICE
 Clerk of Civil District Court
 Chief Deputy Clerk

COMMUNITY
 Member - St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church - Pastoral Council
 Member - (LCCA) Louisiana Clerks of Court Association
 Member - (IGO) International Association of Government Officials
 Member - (NACM) National Association for Court Management
 Member - (NAGARA) National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators
 Member - (PRIA) Property Records Industry Association
 Member - (SAA) Society of American Archivists
 Member - (SHRM) Society of Human Resource Management
 Member - American Bar Association, Louisiana Bar Association, New Orleans Bar Association

www.KeepChelseyClerk.com

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PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT CHELSEY RICHARD NAPOLEON

Jazz Extravaganza Raises Funds for St. Peter Claver Catholic School

Data News Weekly Contributor
Photos by Terry Jones

The 15th Annual Jazz Extravaganza to benefit St. Peter Claver Catholic School, took place on Saturday, October 9 and featured local favorite Glen David Andrews as the marquee performer. Additional musical acts for the evening including James Andrews, Nyjda Cojoe, a special performance by the SPC Almighty O'Jays and the R&B vocal group Real Love, meant the supporters had a fantastic evening of entertainment. The evening finished with a secondline led by Mayor LaToya Cantrell. Hors d'oeuvres served at the event were provided by Dooky Chase Restaurant and Byrd House Catering. And of course, Data was there.



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

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White Privilege and Sexism Merge at the U.S. Supreme Court



Austin R. Cooper
NNPA Newswire Columnist

As I sat in my hotel room in West Africa watching Justice Brett Kavanaugh confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court, I was reminded of what several Africans have said to me since the election of President Donald Trump: "So my

American friend, how does it feel to live under a dictator? Welcome to the African way."

On the afternoon of September 27th, I posted on Facebook: "Dr. Christine Blasey Ford is not only poised, but also credible. Without a doubt, she is being truthful. The Brett Kavanaugh nomination is dead." Clearly, I was wrong.

Later I wrote, "Sen. Lindsey Graham's conscience died last month. Referencing the passing of Sen. John McCain, I was right.

The following morning, I said, "The president, prior to shaming him into not running for re-election, often referred to Sen. Jeff Flake as flaky." The president and I remain

in agreement on that assessment.

Senator Flake's request to delay a committee vote in order to give the FBI one additional week to explore other allegations of sexual misconduct, was nothing but a fleeting display of political courage. If it was ever genuine to begin with.

Numerous individuals who wanted to share their stories with the FBI were ignored. The investigation was a sham at the implicit direction of the White House.

A former boss used to remark, "When I come back in another life, I want to be a White man. It's just too difficult being Black in America." I always laughed at his comment, despite the deep real-

ization that it is a true statement.

I also find truthful humor in the comedienne Chris Rock's routine as he reflects on White complaints of reverse discrimination: "Oh, we're losing everything we worked for. We're losing.... White people ain't losing shit. If you all are losing, who's winning? It ain't us. Shit, there ain't a White man in this room who would trade places with me. And I'm rich."

White male privilege allowed Justice Kavanaugh to comfortably display a complete lack of judicial temperament, respect and regard for members of the very government body that would decide his fate, without repercussion.

It allowed him to yell at senators in the minority, while those in the majority sat silently. Serena Williams was held to a higher standard and suffered more consequences for her outbursts at the last US Open than was Justice Kavanaugh.

It allowed the Senate majority to cower behind prosecutor Rachel Mitchell as she posed questions on their behalf to Dr. Ford – lest they lose their cool and show themselves for who they really are on national television – then publicly sideline her and return to their comfort zone with a soothing questioning of Justice Kavanaugh.

Commentary, Continued on page 10.

I'm About to Have Me a Kavanaugh!



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

I'm mad. So mad that I can spit. Throw stuff. Holla. Make some noise. What is a righteous woman to do? I'm about to throw me a Kavanaugh.

Brett Kavanaugh may have made it to the Supreme Court, but he also needs to make it to ignominy. In other words, he needs to go down in disgrace, not because he was accused of sexual assault, not because Senate Democrats never got his work product they asked for from the Bush Administration, not because there is some evidence that he perjured himself when he testified to the Senate during his hearing. Kavanaugh needs to go down in disgrace because he is an intemperate, rude, sexist who managed to maneuver himself onto the Supreme Court because his sponsor, the genital-grabbing President of the United States, stood by him.

Few have seen such a disgraceful performance as Kavanaugh's 45-minute diatribe at the Senate Ju-

diary Committee. More than two thousand law professors said his demeanor was so objectionable that he was unqualified for the court. The former dean of the Yale Law School called his presence on the court "a national disaster." He was confirmed by the narrowest of margins and is poised to move the court to the right, imperiling all kinds of human rights, including voting rights, a woman's right to choose, and other rights.

For his outburst and his ignorance, he deserves to go down in history, not as a Supreme Court Justice but as a singular example of white male rage and privilege. So, let's make Kavanaugh a noun, verb, and adjective of disgrace. As a noun, it's straightforward. It's a synonym for hot, crazy, intemperate, loud, woman-interrupting fit. Noun. He pulled a Kavanaugh on us. That's what we say when a fool white man loses it, gains some redness, inhales barrels of water, and simply makes a spectacle of himself. As an example, didn't Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) pull a Kavanaugh when he had an outburst during the Senate hearings?

Kavanaugh's outburst set a standard for outrageousness. When women of color raise their voice and lose their tempers, think Serena Williams at the US Open, they are vilified with hostile and racist cartoons coming from all over the

world. I've yet to see a Kavanaugh cartoon that has lava coming out of his head or through his ears. I say lava, but given the line of questioning, it might well be another liquid,

A particular aspect of the Kavanaugh, or Kavenaughing, is interrupting, especially interrupting women. So, the use of the Kavanaugh noun, verb, adjective is easily adaptable to

“For his outburst and his ignorance, he deserves to go down in history, not as a Supreme Court Justice but as a singular example of white male rage and privilege. So, let's make Kavanaugh a noun, verb, and adjective of disgrace.”

maybe beer. Since Kavanaugh has set a standard for outrageousness, let's memorialize it by making him that kind of a noun.

He could also be a verb. He is just Kavenaughing for attention, we might say to the perpetrator of an outburst. Lots of Kavenaughing going on on Capitol Hill. Let's just call it as it is. Not a fit. Not a tantrum. Not a loss of control. But a Kavanaugh.

the workplace, given the frequency with which men enjoy interrupting women. Please, don't Kavanaugh me today, I'd like to make my point, a woman might say. Or we've had enough Kavenaughing for today, let's conform to codes of civility. Can't you see how invoking the name of the great interrupter puts everything in perspective? To Kavanaugh is to interrupt, to disrespect, to come back with a tepid apology,

and to be assured that you will get away with it.

Then there is an adjective here. An adjective is descriptive, and Kavanaugh is sure-nuff a descriptive. That was a Kavanaugh fool. She threw a Kavanaugh fit. I won't have a Kavanaugh worker in my shop. We can't pay for Kavanaugh water consumption, we're on a budget. There was so much in that Kavanaugh performance to link to a noun, verb, pronoun that I'm sure my Kavanaugh fit hardly scratches the surface.

The 51 Senators who confirmed Brett Kavanaugh to be a Justice of the Supreme Court represent a minority (about 45 percent) of the population. That alone is ground for considering amendments to the Constitution. More importantly, while we in the majority can't immediately impeach, but we can immediately induct him into the Hall of Shame by making him a noun, verb, adverb (and for that matter a pronoun and an exclamation point). I am about to go somewhere, holler and scream at a job interview, and just have myself a nice comfy Kavanaugh!

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available via www.amazon.com for booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit www.juliannealveaux.com

The Dirty Water Rule Will Heighten the Clean Water Crisis for Black Americans

By Niva Lubin-Johnson, M.D., FACP
President, National Medical Association

Clean water is a basic human right. Still, too many low-income communities and communities of color are not receiving their right of clean water. They are being wronged and are suffering from contaminated drinking water due to failing infrastructure and polluted water and air.

At the National Medical Association (NMA), we see firsthand how this crisis in clean water creates a variety of healthcare problems for Black patients and their families. The NMA represents the voices of African American physicians and patients nationwide. We are your doctors in community hospitals, clinics and private practice who are on the frontline of healthcare for Black Americans. Our focus is health equity and closing gaps in disparity, a mission grounded in a baseline belief that we all have a right to healthy lives no matter our status or skin color. That's why our mission demands we support and advocate for strong policies and funding around clean water and environmental health.

As President of NMA, and an active member of the organization for over 30 years, I will continue to focus on the work of my predecessor by paying close attention to environmental health hazards that impact our communities. I grew up on the Southside of Chicago, where I continue to live and practice. Approximately 93% of the residents of Chicago's Southside are Black and for the last 29 years, my private practice in internal medicine has seen the effects of air and water pollution on my patients.

In addition to Flint, Michigan, high levels of lead in drinking water have been found in Black communities in Washington, D.C.; Durham and Greenville North Carolina; Jackson, Mississippi; and many other cities. Many other substances contaminate



Niva Lubin-Johnson, M.D., FACP, 119th President, National Medical Association (Courtesy Photo)

nate our water, including fracking contaminants, PFOAS, pesticides, PAHs, PCBs, and pharmaceuticals. Black children are often disproportionately exposed and affected by these environmental contaminants.

However, the Trump administration continues to slash the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Water Rule. The administration has proposed deep budget cuts to the EPA, close to 30%, which would result in dirty air and water and hazardous pollution. Sources of drinking water are already facing incredible stress from the impacts of extreme weather, toxic chemicals, plastic waste, and more. The EPA's proposed Dirty Water Rule will put drinking water at increased risk of pollution by stripping clear Clean Water Act safeguards from small streams and wetlands. This means unhealthy water flowing through our taps, our communities and our bodies.

Too many Black communities are in areas exposed to environmental health dangers from highly toxic pollutants, extreme weather conditions, and failing infrastructures. Where you live shouldn't determine if you get clean water. The Dirty Water Rule will heighten the



Many other substances contaminate our water, including fracking contaminants, PFOAS, pesticides, PAHs, PCBs, and pharmaceuticals. Black children are often disproportionately exposed and affected by these environmental contaminants.

water crisis for Black communities. It will turn back the clock to a time when fewer protections existed to safeguard people and wildlife from harmful pollution in our waters. The Dirty Water Rule would wipe out protections for vital parts of our natural water infrastructure, exacerbating this unjust situation. It would leave our communities fac-

ing greater health risks with more sick children and families.

Although the EPA downsized its environmental justice division, Black communities need to be at the forefront for advocating the government to clean up toxic pollution and invest in badly needed water infrastructure. Call, email, and tweet your representative in Con-

gress and the Senate and tell them that you do not support President Trump's Dirty Water Rule.

The NMA is a longtime advocate for environmental justice. Our NMA Commission on Environmental Health continues to address the increasingly negative effects of the environment on public health and health disparities in Black communities. We will continue to be a voice for justice in medicine and the elimination of health disparities, and we will continue to hold this administration accountable. If we are to uphold our purpose of protecting public health, preventing ailments and disease, and promoting healthier lives, it's imperative that the administration upholds its EPA mission to protect public health and the environment by investing in badly needed water infrastructure and maintaining environmental policies that are good for everybody's health.

Niva Lubin-Johnson, M.D., FACP is an internal medicine doctor who practices in Chicago, IL and is the 119th President of the National Medical Association. Visit www.NMAnet.org to learn more about the National Medical Association.



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Various Community Organizations Welcome Chelsey Richard Napoleon as Election Day Draws Near

Photos courtesy of Teddlie Stuart Media Partners



St. James AME
Clerk of Civil District Court Chelsey Richard Napoleon celebrating Pastor Johnathan C. Augustine and First Lady Michelle Burks Augustine during the Pastoral Appreciation Celebration at Historic St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church.



Dillard University
Clerk of Civil District Court Chelsey Richard Napoleon participating in a candidate forum hosted by the Greater New Orleans Chapter of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society at Dillard University.



Dillard University
Clerk of Civil District Court Chelsey Richard Napoleon pictured with Robert McKnight, Political Action Committee Co-Chair of the Greater New Orleans Chapter of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society.



New Orleans Delta Foundation
Clerk of Civil District Court Chelsey Richard Napoleon congratulating honorees at the New Orleans Delta Foundation Scholarship Luncheon.



Lil Dizzy's
Clerk of Civil District Court Chelsey Richard Napoleon enjoys breakfast at Lil Dizzy's with owner Wayne Baquet.



Booker T. Washington H.S. Alumni Picnic
Clerk of Civil District Court Chelsey Richard Napoleon with attendees at the Booker T. Washington High School Annual Alumni Picnic.



TIMOTHY DAVID RAY

CLERK OF FIRST CITY COURT

#55

Timothy David Ray is on the job, improving the office and earning your trust.

ELECTION DAY: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2018
EARLY VOTING: OCTOBER 23, 2018 – OCTOBER 30, 2018

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Commentary, Continued from page 8.

An insensitive president, who himself has been accused of offensive behavior to women, was suddenly empowered to ridicule and attack Dr. Ford to the delight of many, some of whom in their ignorant splendor, shouted “Lock her up!”

It offered Senator Mitch McConnell and Senator Chuck Grassley the opportunity to deny Judge Merrick Garland even the basic courtesy of member meetings and a committee vote.

Such privilege offered Justice Kavanaugh protection to lie under oath and deny ever drinking obsessively in college, despite the contrary observations of several former buddies who drank with him.

It grants political cover under oath, you express an intent to ex-

tract political retribution to those whom you feel have wronged you – “what goes around comes around” – once on the Court.

Remarkably, it can even transfer power to White women and permit, for example, Sen. Susan Collins and others to argue that Dr. Ford was assaulted, just not by the person she identified with “one hundred percent” certainty as her assailant.

We all have behavior in our past which would be embarrassing if it ever came under media scrutiny. However, we also each have an obligation and responsibility to acknowledge and own our past. Both the good and bad.

To those who doubt the truthfulness of Dr. Ford’s testimony, I ask: How would you have voted had the accuser been a loved one of yours? Your mother, wife, daughter or sister? Would you be comfortable with the scope of

the FBI investigation? Would you laugh as the president mocked her?

There is nothing that Justice Kavanaugh could have said to convinced me to support his nomination. After all, he was nominated by a president who does not represent my interests and will be as useless to me as Justice Clarence Thomas.

As Chairman Grassley sped Justice Kavanaugh’s nomination to a vote, he declared the Senate was approaching “rock bottom” and needed to right itself. He was correct.

Voters in general, and women in particular, can begin righting this ship by voting in November. Certainly, after this newest addition to the Supreme Court, everyone should realize that elections matter.

Austin R. Cooper, Jr. is the President of Cooper Strategic Affairs, Inc.

ladatanews.com

The People's Website

NNPA Leaders React to "Historic" Verdict in Laquan McDonald Case

The conviction of Jason Van Dyke could prove historic, but much more needs to be done to stem the tide of police shootings involving African Americans

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor



Photo Caption: Screen capture from police video footage of the killing of Laquan McDonald by Former Chicago Police Officer Jason Van Dyke

Contradictory, overly rehearsed and simply not believable – those were just a few adjectives jurors in the Laquan McDonald murder trial used after finding former Chicago Police Officer Jason Van Dyke guilty of second-degree murder.

Van Dyke shot McDonald 16 times in Oct. 2014 and, although McDonald, 17, was carrying a knife, videotaped evidence showed he was veering away from Van Dyke and other officers and he posed no threat.

In fact, jurors noted the videotape that showed several officers at the scene with none of them firing a single shot. Van Dyke arrived and immediately opened fire, killing the teenager.

One white woman juror told the New York Times that it appeared that during testimony, Van Dyke "seemed kind of like he was finally giving the play after they had been rehearsing him for weeks."

It's that description – that "play" from what has been a tried and true playbook – that has allowed law enforcement officers to repeatedly dodge prosecution or guilty verdicts in the shootings of African Americans.

This time, advocates and court watchers noted that jurors didn't buy it.

Their historic verdict not only has resonated throughout the nation, but also with the leaders of the National Newspaper Publish-

ers Association – the Black Press of America, which includes 220 African-American owned newspapers and media companies in the United States.

"Black citizens of Chicago are stunned that finally a Chicago policeman has been convicted of murder and they are having peaceful demonstrations," said NNPA National Chairman Dorothy Leavell, who publishes the Crusader newspapers in Chicago and Gary, Indiana.

"We are so proud of the sophistication the leaders, young and old, have shown as well as the jurors, who took their jobs seriously and convicted Jason Van Dyke," Leavell said.

Following the verdicts, which will send Van Dyke to prison for at least six years and as many as 25 years, Leavell attended a Rainbow Push Coalition event in Chicago where the Rev. Jesse Jackson and others hailed the verdicts as a turning point for Black Americans who have continually been the target of wayward police officers.

"The verdicts were a "small sign of progress," Jackson said, alluding to the various incidents of African

Americans killed by police officers.

Over the past few years, several cases— including the police-involved deaths of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri; Eric Garner in New York; Tamir Rice in Cleveland; and Freddie Gray in Baltimore — have seen white officers go unpunished for the killings.

"The people's cup has run over with these police violations of people's rights," Jackson said. "People were hoping for the best and expecting the worst."

The verdict is a step in the right direction, said Charlene Carruthers, an activist and national director of Black Youth Project 100.

"This is a moment where people are seeing that the blue wall that exists in Chicago has a crack in it. This is an opportunity to continue our organizing and act on the visionary demands that we have to transform our community," Carruthers said.

Leavell, who's editor at the Chicago Crusader, Erick Johnson, covered the trial, said Chicago residents are reenergized and will show their strength at the ballot box in November.

"It's a new day," she said.

The verdict handed down

against Van Dyke was "a victory for the people of Chicago and should serve as a model for the country," said Janice Garth of the Chicago Citizen newspaper.

"Justice prevailed in the McDonald case, however Justice failed countless of other young Black men across this country who also were victims of the same crime. We must continue to push and fight for a criminal justice system that works for all," Garth said.

She added, "We must continue to work – pass legislation – fight – to elect accountable representatives – and march until change comes. Our Mental Health Status of our nation is past critical. We must continue the fight on the grassroots level to prevent the country from experiencing another LaQuan McDonald."

NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., said the Black Press "forthrightly states that the racially-motivated police murder of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald in Chicago in 2014 was not an isolated incident."

The conviction of Van Dyke could prove historic, but much more needs to be done to stem the tide of police shootings involving African Americans, said Chavis, a longtime civil rights activists and one of the famous "Wilmington 10" activists, who were wrongfully charged and convicted of arson and conspiracy in North Carolina in 1971.

"The Chicago police officer found guilty of the second-degree murder of Laquan McDonald demands a full review of all racially-motivated police killings of Black people across the United States during the past 50 years," Chavis said.

"This is a deadly systematic reality for Black America and the NNPA will not rest until all these police murderers are brought to justice," he said.

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