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Page 7**

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

**The Importance and Significance of Louisiana**

**HBCUS**

Page 2



**Newsmaker  
Honoring  
Black Civil War  
Soldiers**

Page 4

**State & Local  
Safety First  
in Cold  
Weather**



Page 10



# Black History Month

*Data News Weekly Focuses on the Importance and Significance of Louisiana Historically Black Colleges and Universities.*



Southern University System of Louisiana is the only Historically Black University System in the world.



Xavier University of Louisiana is recognized as a national leader in the sciences and liberal arts. It also carries the distinction of being the only Historically Black and Catholic University in the United States.

## Data News Staff Edited Report

Again, we are in the month of February which is Black History Month, where the nation observes and celebrates the achievements of African-Americans.

Data News Weekly, in our role as The People's Paper in Commemoration with of Black History Month,

is doing a 4-part series on the history and legacy of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's) in New Orleans and the State of Louisiana.

Our 4-Part Series focus on the Southern University System, Xavier University and Dillard University. It will highlight the schools, their rich history, educations they offer distinguished graduates and their im-

pact on the community of New Orleans and the nation.

We believe that spotlighting these beacons on Black Excellence is important in an age where the relevance of these great institutions is of pressing importance. They have been and are where many movements of African-American uplift have taken place. Additionally, they have given opportunities to countless African-

Cover Story, Continued on page 3.

## INSIDE DATA

Cover Story . . . . .	2	Commentary. . . . .	8
Newsmaker . . . . .	4	In The Spirit . . . . .	9
State & Local News . . .	5	National News . . . . .	11
Data Zone . . . . .	6		

## DATA NEWS WEEKLY

P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347 | Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622  
editorial: datanewseditor@bellsouth.net | advertising: datanewsad@bellsouth.net

Terry B. Jones	Contributors	Art Direction & Production
CEO/Publisher	Kichea S. Burt	Pubinator.com
Edwin Buggage		Editorial Submissions
Editor	James A. Washington	datanewseditor@bellsouth.net
Cheryl Mainor	Kotey Thomas	Advertising Inquiries
Managing Editor	Leon A. Waters	datanewsad@bellsouth.net
Calla Victoria	Mark Mahoney	Distribution
Executive Assistant		On The Run
June Hazeur		Courier Services
Accounting	Andreanecia Morris	

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## Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

Americans to receive quality educations and to be able to compete and be successful in many fields of endeavor.

This is but a snapshot of our series:

### Southern University of Louisiana

What began as a dream more than 136 years ago is today a living legacy of determination, commitment, and success. The Southern University and A&M College System is the only Historically Black University System in the United States.

Southern University is a Historically Black University with a main campus located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Originally founded in 1880 in New Orleans as Southern University in New Orleans, it began its mission of providing post-secondary education for African-Americans with 12 students and 5 faculty members. In 1890 the school's name was changed to Southern University, and in 1892 it was recognized as a land grant college. In 1912 the school awarded its first baccalaureate degree, and in 1914 the campus was moved to the State Capitol in Baton Rouge.

The Southern University System also includes another four-year campus in New Orleans, a two-year campus in Shreveport, and a law school in Baton Rouge. The four campuses were united as a system in 1975 by the state legislature, creating the largest Historically Black University in the United States.

### Xavier University of Louisiana

Over its nine-decade history Xavier University is recognized as a national leader in the sciences and the liberal arts. It also carries the distinction as being the only Historically Black and Catholic University in the United States.

In a survey of students conducted for The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education College Rankings, based on students' opinions on how well their college or university is preparing them for their career, Xavier received the highest score of any school in the South – in fact, it received the highest score of any of the more than 1,000 schools that were included in the 2017 WSJ/THE rankings.

- Ranked #1 in the nation in awarding bachelor's degrees to African-American students in the biological and biomedical sciences, the physical sciences, and physics.
- Ranked #1 in the nation in the number of African-American graduates who go on to complete medical school.
- Among the nation's top four colleges of pharmacy in graduating

African-Americans with Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm D) degrees.

- Ranked #3 in the nation in the number of African-American graduates who go on to earn a

one of the top 25 universities in the nation in awarding bachelor's degrees in chemistry.

- U. S News "Best Colleges" Guide 2018 rates Xavier as the #1 "best

master's programs but few doctoral programs.

- College Consensus, a unique college ratings website that aggregates publisher rankings and

a rich heritage that will be on full display this year as they commemorate a century and a half of Black Excellence in Education. This is a short history of the early years of Dillard University.

In 1869, with support from the American Missionary Association of the Congregational Church (now the United Church of Christ) and the Freedmen's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church (now the United Methodist Church), Straight University and the Union Normal School were founded. They were subsequently renamed Straight College and New Orleans University, respectively. Gilbert Academy, a secondary school, was a unit of New Orleans University.

In 1889, New Orleans University opened a medical department, including a school of pharmacy and a school of nursing. The medical department was named Flint Medical College and the affiliated facility was named the Sarah Goodridge Hospital and Nurse Training School. The medical college was discontinued in 1911, but the hospital, including the nursing school, was continued under the name Flint-Goodridge Hospital. Straight College operated a law department from 1874 to 1886.

In 1935, New Orleans University and Straight College merged to form Dillard University. The trustees of the new university called for the implementation of a co-educational, interracial school, serving a predominantly African-American student body adhering to Christian principles and values. The university was named in honor of James Hardy Dillard, a distinguished academician dedicated to educating African-Americans.

Dillard trustees elected to continue the work of the hospital but not that of Gilbert Academy. The latter continued operation as a separate institution under the sponsorship of the Board of Education of the Methodist Church until 1949. The university operated Flint-Goodridge Hospital of Dillard University from 1932 until 1983.

Will W. Alexander was chosen to be the acting president of Dillard University. He served from 1935 to 1936. At the time of his appointment, he was Director of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation (CIC), which actively campaigned against lynching and conducted research studies of issues pertaining to "Negro Welfare" and other Southern "problems."

We at Data News Weekly look forward to bringing you this series on HBCU's in Louisiana in the Month of February as we celebrate Black History Month.



Dillard University has a rich heritage of producing leaders that have went on to lead not only Louisiana but all of America. This year they will be celebrating 150 years of being a beacon light of Black Excellence.



Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) has continued since its opening in 1956 as a leader producing many talented African-Americans who have went on to lead the City in many fields of endeavor. Today it continues in the spirit of this legacy in the fight for justice, equality and opportunities for all.

Ph.D. in science and engineering disciplines.

- The Department of Physics is #1 in the nation for awarding African-Americans baccalaureate degrees in physics and the physical sciences, according to the latest report from the American Institute of Physics (AIP). Xavier is consistently ranked by the American Chemical Society as

value" among southern regional colleges and universities. The same report ranked Xavier No. 5 spot among 70 Historically Black Colleges and Universities and No. 25 among 140 schools in its grouping of the Best Regional Colleges – South. Schools are considered Regional Universities if they offer a full range of undergraduate programs and some

student reviews, ranks Xavier as the nation's #2 HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) in its newly released publication, Best HBCUs for 2018. It also ranks Xavier as #3 among all Louisiana colleges.

### Dillard University

Celebrating its 150th Anniversary this year Dillard University has



# In Honor of Black History Month, Honor the Black and White Soldiers Who Fought to Defeat Slavery

**Leon A. Waters**  
Chairperson of the Louisiana Museum of African-American History; Manager of Hidden History Tours, @ www.HiddenHistory.us

Africans played a very important role in the victory over the slave holders and the defeat of the Confederacy. Just before and after the war broke out (1861), thousands of enslaved Africans from New Orleans, Louisiana across the South deserted the plantations and fought as maroons (runaway slaves) against the slave masters. Many made it to St. James A.M.E. Baptist Church on N. Roman Street that served as a Union recruiting station. Over 200,000 Black men fought in the Union Army; up to 28,000 former enslaved came from New Orleans and Louisiana. They



The 1st Louisiana Native Guard (USA) was one of the first all-Black regiments to fight in the Union Army during the American Civil War.

1862) and by the desertion of thousands of Johnny Rebs in the face of the armada of Union ships led by Admiral Farragut who captured New Orleans on April 26, 1862. \*\*

At Port Hudson, eight African regiments including the famous 1st and 2nd Native Guards liberated themselves well. The latter two regiments made over five heroic and daring sorties up difficult terrain to capture Confederate positions. In these assaults, the African troops displayed unmatched heroism and courage in the face of sharp fire from entrenched enemy positions. On one charge they nearly carried the enemy's position and were thrown back only at the last moment. In the battle of May 27, 1863, Captain Andre' Cailloux, a Black soldier of the 1st Louisiana Native Guards, displayed enormous courage and calm under fire. After being shot and seriously wounded he

## Data News Weekly is Hiring

Data News Weekly Newspaper, The People's Paper, is hiring in our New Orleans Office.

### Editor/Reporters

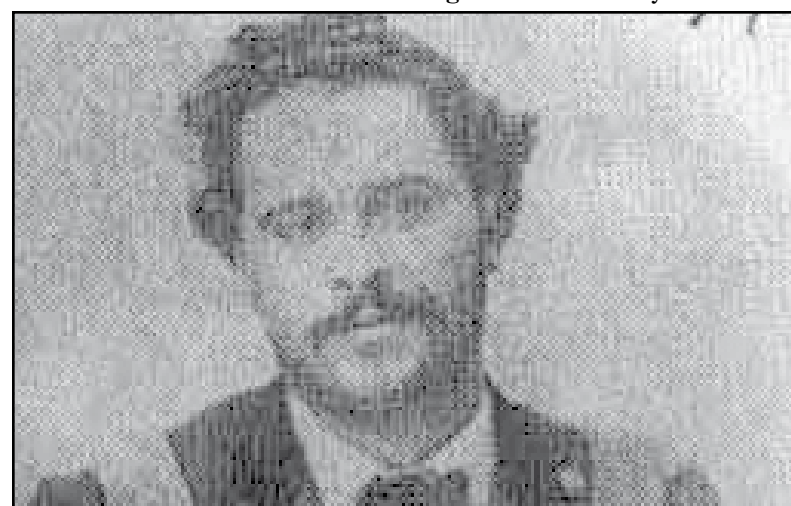
#### About the Job

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Captain Andre' Cailloux a Black soldier of the 1st Louisiana Native Guards was one of the first Black officers in the Union Army to be killed in combat during the American Civil War. He died heroically during the first attack on the Confederate fortifications during the Siege of Port Hudson, Louisiana. Accounts of his heroism were widely reported in the press, and became a rallying cry for the recruitment of African-Americans into the Union Army.

were in the vanguard of some of the decisive battles of the war. Several regiments of the U.S. Colored Troops participated in the defeat inflicted on General Robert E. Lee's army in Virginia. Black troops of the 25 Corp were among the first Union troops to liberate the Confederate capital at Richmond, Virginia, on April 3, 1865\* that later led to the surrender of General Lee at Appomattox, VA. on April 9, 1865.

In Louisiana, African troops were decisive in defeating the Confederate forces. The Confederate forces were already weakened from within by the mutiny of Confederate troops at Fort Jackson and Fort St. Philip in Plaquemines Parish (April

struggled to his feet and led his men in another bold assault. He was then hit again, yet found the fortitude to continue. A third time he was shot; this time it was fatal. He died a glorious death for the cause of freedom. And for this he has become a great martyr for the anti-slavery cause and for self-determination of the African-American nation.

The Union Army was pursuing a just and democratic objective. This is why we should honor the Civil War. After the Civil War, the U.S. government passed into the hands of the monopoly millionaire class. The government, then, began to

**Newsmaker, Continued on page 9.**



# Local High School Students Examine Injustice in the U.S.

By Kotey Thomas  
Data News weekly  
Contributor

High school scholars were given an opportunity to speak out against social justice and inequity at the Criminal Justice Symposium of Scholars organized by the Bard Early College in New Orleans Program on January 26, 2019, at Dillard University's Professional School Building. The symposium also brought experts who work on social justice issues from various disciplines like environmental, criminal, and arts-based, to educate young people about these issues.

"I wanted to be able to organize something like this to give them the opportunity to not only engage with that bridge between an academic self and activist self, but also to reassert the significance of their own voices," said Imani Sheppard, an Assistant Professor of Medical Humanities at Bard College in New York, and the coordinator of the event.

Sheppard said that seeing young people engage issues about social injustice, early on, inspires hope for a more equitable future. "I would hope that it reassures listeners that all is not lost, and that there is a potential for positive upward movement within the community starting with these students who often don't have a voice," she said.

The event's speakers hoped that such forums, outside the classroom, can help future leaders see how social and political structures lead to forms of oppression.

"Policies that pass in our neighborhood are based upon those who govern," said Asali DeVan Ecclesiastes, the Keynote Speaker, who is the Director of Strategic Neighborhood Development for the Claiborne Corridor Cultural Innovation District. She illustrated that those in power control how neighborhoods are developed around socioeconomic status; putting those in lower class neighborhoods at a societal disadvantage.

"If you live in Gert town...Tulane, Gretna, Seventh Ward and Ninth Ward areas, chances are your neighborhoods have been decimated by the policy decisions of our leaders," Ecclesiastes said. "You need lots more in order to have better outcomes in life because the cards have been stacked against you," she added. "And I challenge you all to help us deal new hands."



(left to right) Dianne Hanley, the Executive Director of the St. Joseph Spirituality Center, Dr. Henryenne Louden, Medical Doctor and Professor of Pediatric Medicine, Kari Canizaro, Catholic High School Teacher and Board Member of St. Joseph Spirituality Center, and Dr. Melba Venison, a Board Member of the National Association of Multi-Cultural Education. The panelists, members of the National Association of Multicultural Education, discuss the impact of racism and religion on minority communities affected by the police, on Jan. 26, 2019. (Photos by Kotey Thomas)

For many students coming from these neighborhoods, especially African-Americans, the school-to-prison pipeline is institutionalized through urban school culture, said Tuere Burns, the Executive Director of BarNone. Her non-profit organization was founded to provide people affected by incarceration with opportunities for entrepreneurship and success. "If you have not been to any of the local schools here, go visit. And you'll see. You'll see tape on the floor, you'll see the way the children are handled and not respected," Burns said.

After working for 25 years in social justice campaigns around the prison industrial complex, Burns explained that the system profits off of inequality. "[It] makes a ton of money off of our people, poor people, and especially our boys," Burns said.

Social justice advocates from the National Association of Multicultural Education examined how different groups in the community, both academic and faith-based, could intervene in forms of oppression, particularly when it comes to policing. Students said the experience opened their eyes to become more aware of how subtle injustices can be.

"You are not to be so blind with patriotism that you cannot face reality," said Ron Triggs of International High School of New Orleans who was the first student of the Bard Early College in New Orleans Program to present his research.


"Due to power dynamics, we

refuse to challenge the systems," Triggs said.

In identifying forms of systemic oppression, the students outlined in their presentations that this was the first step to breaking decades of inequality within the African-American community.

"Getting out of a cycle of destruction often takes a lot of resources and is even harder when your own education system is trying to destroy you," Triggs added.

The organizers said they hope such critical learning, outside the classroom, would prepare high school students for facing the challenges of today, long after they graduate. "Deprogramming. I feel that is what we are working towards," Sheppard said. "Deprogramming students from what they feel is normal and what they have accepted as normal," she said.




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# 2019 French Quarter Festival Announces Music Lineup

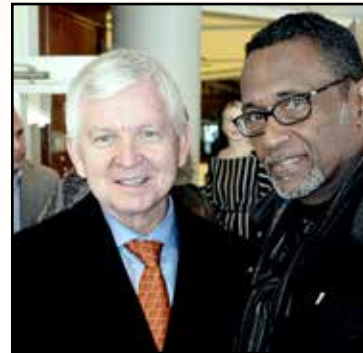
Photos by Kichea S. Burt

French Quarter Festivals, Inc. proudly announces the music lineup for the French Quarter Festival presented by Chevron, which takes place April 11-14, 2019. A full schedule will be revealed in March.

French Quarter Festival is consistently voted 'local favorite' while attracting a tremendous out-of-town audience. The appeal is the authenticity: attendees experience a broad range of Louisiana artists from a variety of genres. In 2019 the free festival will feature music from more than 250 acts on 23 stages throughout the historic French Quarter. The

Chevron Stage, a longtime Cajun/Zydeco destination, will expand its Evening Concert Series programming to showcase more genres with headliners George Porter, Jr. & The Runnin' Pardners, Jon Cleary, Flow Tribe, and Rockin' Dopsie. Other headliners include 2019 fest debut Galactic, Bill Summers & Jazalsa, Brass-A-Holics, Big Chief Bo Dollis, Jr. & the Wild Magnolias, Grammy-winner Irma Thomas, Cyril Neville, Jon Cleary, Erica Falls, Little Freddie King, and Grammy-nominated and Billboard Top 20 Recording Group Water Seed, and more.

Visit [www.frenchquarterfest.org](http://www.frenchquarterfest.org) for more information about music, food, and special events.



## Data News Weekly is Hiring

Data News Weekly Newspaper, The People's Paper, is hiring in our New Orleans Office.

### Sales Manager/Retail Ad Manager

#### About the Job

Data News Weekly Newspaper is the leading African American media company in New Orleans, publishing a weekly newspaper. Additionally, its website under [ladatanews.com](http://ladatanews.com) is the most read Black website in the region.

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# Celebration of the Life of Father Jerome LeDoux at St. Augustine Church In Tremé

Photos by Kichea S. Burt  
Data News Weekly Contributor

New Orleanians came to celebrate the life of the beloved longtime St. Augustine Pastor Divine Word Father Jerome LeDoux at St. Augustine Church.

Father LeDoux who passed on January 7, 2019, served as Pastor of St. Augustine in New Orleans from 1990-2006. In his retirement, he lived at St. Augustine Seminary and then at Holy Ghost Church in Opelousas from 2016 until his death.

The Memorial Mass was followed by a celebration of life from noon to 4 p.m. with a second-line winding through the Tremé.



Visit [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com) for more photos from these events

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# City Council Continues to Put Housing First



**Andreanecia Morris**  
Executive Director,  
HousingNOLA

At its January 24th meeting, the New Orleans City Council unanimously voted to create an ordinance that would guarantee the creation of affordable housing in line with a Smart Housing Mix. Out of the HousingNOLA planning process, one of the most significant recommendations eventually became the Smart Housing Mix. That process,

which began in 2014, led to the 10 Year Strategy and Implementation Plan and annual report cards which document the State of Housing in New Orleans. The Smart Housing Mix is a citywide strategy to create more Affordable Housing that is fair and feasible by requiring that new development, adaptive reuse projects, and rehabilitation projects include at least 10% affordable units in areas where it's almost impossible to find Affordable Housing. Developers would have the option to pay a fee, build affordable units off-site, preserve a building or dedicate alternative land if they do not wish to reserve units below market rate. A standard, unified package of incentives would be offered to developers to accompany the Smart

Housing Mix requirements, and require minimum terms of affordability.

Opponents of the Smart Housing Mix seem to believe the Capitalistic Market will readjust on its own but history has shown us that this is not the case. If you believe the market will "fix itself," you believe this market will suddenly begin magically producing homes and apartments that are affordable when this hasn't happened despite current mismatch. In 2018, 50% of all households were cost burdened—paying more than 30% of their gross income on housing. That means that more than half the people of New Orleans, cannot afford to live here. The costs to rent or buy is disconnected from what the people of New


Orleans earn. For housing to be affordable and accessible, it is imperative that the Smart Housing Mix is used in central and transit-oriented development neighborhoods. As the neighborhoods of New Orleans grow and gentrify, the areas around job centers grow more expensive to live. Unfortunately, when preferred areas of the city become too expensive to live, people with limited means are forced to move further from their jobs. The need for affordable, mixed housing developments near job centers with adequate public transportation is crucial.

We can longer simply offer incentives and hope for the best. That's why HousingNOLA and our advocacy partner the Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance (GNO-

HA) had the support of a broad coalition of advocates, professionals, community leaders and developers, including and non-profit home builders and for profit business leaders when working with city officials to craft the Smart Housing Mix. Two-dozen individuals showed up to support the Smart Housing Mix and only three people registered their objection in person. The council listened and voted began a process that would make Affordable Housing a definitive and not an option. That day the council also voted to advance two additional projects that would also create Affordable Housing opportunities. We can only hope that this council continues to make decisions that Put Housing First.




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## Spiritually Speaking

## Battle Rested is Not Battle Tested



**James A. Washington**  
NNPA News Wire  
Columnist

I believe there is a perception (right or wrong) in our faith that our suffering is an integral part of God's plan to ready us for the struggle of spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. Many believe that suffering in some ways is a prerequisite for strengthening one's spiritual muscle. I think it is more akin to gaining testimony than anything else. We all know how hard it

is to respect the opinion of someone who has led the so-called charmed life, or, someone who was born with the proverbial silver spoon in a cavity free mouth. It's hard, if not impossible, to listen to someone talk with authority about things they've never seen or places they've never been. My belief is that God teaches in a manner few of us will ever truly understand. I honestly believe that when He chooses you, when it's your time, He has a unique way of communicating who's really in charge. And believe it or not, it ain't you.

When God is actually talking to you, I believe you know it. It may not be something you or I want to hear but, "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace

for those who have been trained by it." Hebrews 12:11. We are all in training to fight in God's war as far as I'm concerned. Whether being forged in a fiery furnace or stuck in a tailspin of perceived despair and hopelessness, each one of us is being battle tested in anticipation that one day, we will be called to arms. This struggle, these experiences, they bring about wisdom; a spiritual wisdom that from a spiritual perspective must be shared. It must be. Otherwise, God keeps you in a perpetual classroom where life constantly gives you a new place to go to the bathroom. You haven't learned anything so life keeps kicking your...well, you get the picture.

When you finally realize the one trying to tell you something is God, then a wondrous thing begins to happen. You listen more intently

and learn more eagerly. Like the child who discovers walking leads to the joy of running, or the baby who discovers his own hand, the possibilities seem endless. The mind says 'tell me more.' The spirit says 'thank you Jesus.' At that very moment, it is my belief that God let's us know we're able to withstand, overcome, rise above and win the battle of carrying the message of salvation. Christ is savior. At that moment also, we move from being in the classroom to being on the battlefield where the game Satan is playing is for to keeps.

You remember those days back in school when you actually studied and were prepared for the big test? Confidence oozed from you. When God has been the lesson planner, the study partner and the instructor, it doesn't matter how much

Satan wants it to be a bank it night. "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him." James 1:12. Our job then is to recognize and represent; recognize that the hell we're going through is not without purpose. The most important message of the day is to understand who (Jesus) has suffered the most and why. "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom." Luke 12:32.

May God bless and keep you always.

James A. Washington is President & Publisher of Dallas Weekly. You can reach out to James by email: jaws@dallasweekly.com

## Newsmaker, Continued from page 4.

employ African-American and White troops in a series of unjust wars. The objective of these wars was to subdue the native peoples (incorrectly called Indians) and to invade Spanish held colonies in the Caribbean (Puerto Rico, Cuba, Philippines, etc. in 1898) These wars were unjust wars and were conducted in the interest of the rich millionaires and were contrary to the real interest of the oppressed masses in the U.S.A. For this reason we should not honor these wars.

Long live the heroic African fighters!!

\*1 Lerone Bennet, Jr., *Before the Mayflower: A History of Black America* (New York: Penguin Books, 1993) p. 475.

\*\*2 Col. Robert N. Scott, *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Series I Volume VI* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1882) p. 556-643.

## NNPA Presents Lifetime Achievement Award to Rosetta Miller Perry, Tennessee Tribune Publisher



Each year at its Mid-Winter Conference, the National Newspaper Publishers Association recognizes a publisher who has been a member for 30 or more years, whose legacy encourages and inspires the new generation of Black Press publishers. This year, the 2019 NNPA Publisher Lifetime Achievement Award recipient is Mrs Rosetta M Perry, CEO/Publisher of The Tennessee Tribune, in Nashville. Mrs Perry's lifetime of accomplishments were recognized at the 2019 NNPA Publisher Lifetime Achievement Award Black Tie Dinner, held on January 25, 2019 at the Hilton Orlando Hotel. Pictured left to right are Data News Weekly Publisher, Terry Jones, Tennessee Tribune Publisher and recipient, Rosetta Miller-Perry, NNPA President, Dr Benjamin Chavis, Compassion & Choice Marketing Director, Brandi Alexander, NNPA Chairman, Dorothy Leavell (Photo courtesy of Mark Mahoney, Dream In Color Photography).

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# Be Winter Weather Ready

Even though we're so far south, New Orleans can see dangerous winter weather. Extreme cold, dense fog, and even ice & snow storms are possible during the winter months. Dangers from these weather conditions include unsafe roads, cold-related illness, fires, and power outages. When there's a winter weather risk in New Orleans, the National Weather Service issues alerts. Sign up to receive emergency alerts at [www.nola.gov](http://www.nola.gov).

- **Freeze Warning:** Air temperature is expected to be 32 degrees F or lower for a significant amount of time
- **Hard Freeze Warning:** Air temperature is expected to be 25 degrees F or lower for long enough to freeze water pipes
- **Dense Fog Advisory:** Widespread or localized fog reduces visibility to 1/4 mile or less
- **Winter Storm Warning:** A mix of wintry precipitation (freezing rain or snow) is happening or is



about to happen

- **Ice Storm Warning:** Heavy freezing rain is happening or is about to happen

Here are tips to keep you, your family and your pets safe during the cold days to come:

## During Extreme Cold

- Stay warm
- Stay inside in heat during extreme cold.
- If you are homeless, seek shelter. During extreme cold, the city-wide freeze plan will offer free shelter for homeless residents.
- If you have to go outside, wear layers, a hat & gloves and carry

a cell phone.

- Check on neighbors, children, the elderly & chronically ill to make sure they are okay.
- Bring pets inside.
- Know the signs of cold-related illness
- See a doctor immediately or go to the emergency room if you or someone you know has these symptoms:

## Signs Of Hypothermia

- Shivering or fumbling hands

- Exhaustion or drowsiness
- Confusion or memory loss
- Slurred speech
- Bright red, cold skin or very low energy in infants

## Signs Of Frostbite

- Redness or pain in any skin area
- White or grayish-yellow skin area
- Skin that feels unusually firm or waxy
- Numbness

## Practice Fire Safety & Prepare Your Home

- Never leave space heaters unattended.
- Never use a stove or an oven to heat your home.
- Check your smoke & carbon monoxide detectors to be sure they are working. Get free smoke detectors or batteries installed by the New Orleans Fire Department.
- Have a fire extinguisher and know how to use it.
- Protect your water pipes from damage. Trickle a very thin (spaghetti sized) stream of water in a faucet farthest from your water meter. Make sure to turn it off once the temperature raises up above 32 degrees.

Learn more winter preparedness tips by visiting <http://ready.nola.gov/winter/>

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## Angela Davis Reoffered Award By Birmingham Civil Rights Institute



Author, Educator and Activist Dr. Angela Davis

**The institute sparked outrage after it rescinded an award to the longtime civil rights activist, with speculation it was due to her activism for Palestinian rights.**

### Data Staff Report

Angela Davis has been reoffered an award from an Alabama Civil Rights Museum after it sparked controversy for rescinding the honor this month.

The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute released a statement on Friday announcing its decision to reaffirm Davis as the recipient of its 2018 Fred L. Shuttlesworth Human Rights Award.

Davis was personally invited to accept the award, the institute said, adding that it "respects her privacy and timing in whatever her response may ultimately be."

"Dr. Angela Davis, a daughter of Birmingham, is highly regarded throughout the world as a human rights activist," BCRI President and CEO Andrea L. Taylor said in the statement, citing Davis' "significance in the movement for human rights, her involvement in raising issues of feminism, as well as her

leadership in the campaign against mass incarceration."

The institute announced in September that Davis would receive the award, after a board meeting on Sept. 18.

In early January the BCRI announced that it was canceling a gala planned for February and rescinding the honor for Davis, saying she "unfortunately does not meet all of the criteria on which the award is based," The Associated Press reported.

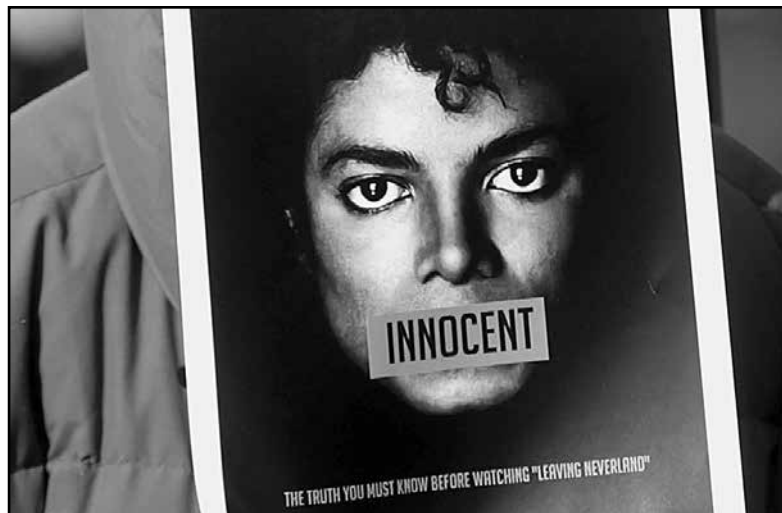
The decision to rescind the award sparked outrage on social media and condemnation from organizers and other groups, including the social justice organization Jewish Voice for Peace, which launched a petition in support of Davis this month.

The BCRI said its board voted 9-2 on Jan. 4th to rescind the award "based on new input from the community." The board issued an apology on Jan. 14th.

"Immediately after that public apology, in keeping with its commitment to learning from its mistakes and in order to stay true to the BCRI's founding mission, the Board voted to reaffirm Dr. Davis as the recipient," the BCRI said in a statement.

The Annual Award pays tribute to the Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth, a civil rights activist who died in 2011 at 89.

## Michael Jackson's Family Accuses Sexual Abuse Documentary as being 'A Public Lynching'



Sundance's Michael Jackson documentary brings strong feelings to Park City premiere.

### Data Staff Report

The family of singer Michael Jackson on Monday joined the firestorm against "Leaving Neverland," calling the harrowing new documentary about Jackson's alleged history of sexually abusing boys a "public lynching."

"People have always loved to go after Michael. He was an easy target because he was unique. But Michael was subjected to a thorough investigation which included a surprise raid of Neverland and other properties as well as a jury trial where Michael was found to be COMPLETELY INNOCENT. There has never been one piece of proof of anything. Yet the media is eager to believe these lies," the late singer's family said in a statement Monday, after the documentary's Sundance Film Festival premiere on Friday left attendees stunned and shellshocked.

"We can't just stand by while this public lynching goes on, and the vulture tweeters and others who never met Michael go after him," the statement continued. "Michael is not here to defend himself, otherwise these allegations would not have been made."

Jackson's estate and some of his fans have actively campaigned against the film in statements and

on social media, questioning its veracity and attacking defenders of the film, its director Dan Reed, and Jackson's accusers Wade Robson and James Safechuck, whose stories are featured in the four-hour documentary.

Jackson's fans have seized on the fact that both of the accusers previously defended Jackson against other child sexual abuse allegations. However, sexual abuse experts note that trauma can affect survivors' memories and perceptions of their experiences, particularly if they were children at the time of their abuse, as Robson and Safechuck would have been.

During a 2005 trial, Robson testified that Jackson did not molest him when he was a child. But Robson has said that he later realized he "compartmentalized" the abuse because of his close relationship to Jackson.

The family of Jackson, who died in 2009, continues to maintain that he "was and always will be 100 percent innocent of these false allegations," and in their statement Monday, referred to Robson, Safechuck and the filmmakers as "opportunists."

Robson and Safechuck have denied accusations from Jackson's defenders that they were paid to tell their stories.

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### What to Bring:

- ☐ Valid photo ID for you and your spouse if filing jointly.
- ☐ Income documents including W-2s and 1099s.
- ☐ Social Security cards for everyone claimed.
- ☐ Previous tax returns (if any).
- ☐ Health Insurance Marketplace Statement, Form 1095-A.
- ☐ For direct deposit: checking and savings account numbers (canceled or voided check).



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