

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

**Data**

**News Weekly**

"The People's Paper"

FREE  
COPY

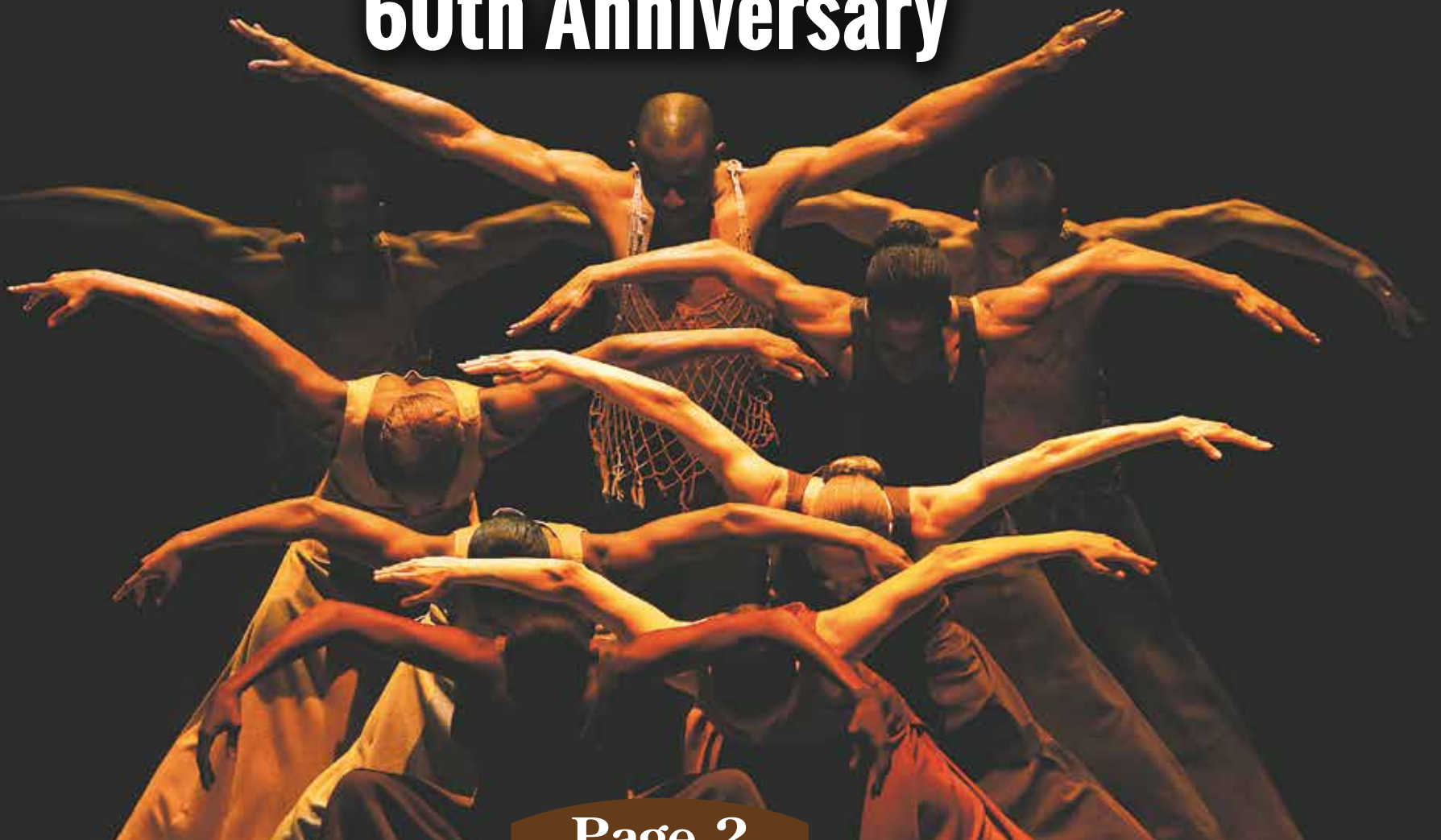
**15th Annual Audubon  
Soul Fest Highlights**

**Data Zone  
Page 6**

March 16 - March 22 , 2019 53rd Year Volume 46 [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com)

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

# Alvin Ailey Returns to New Orleans to Celebrate 60th Anniversary



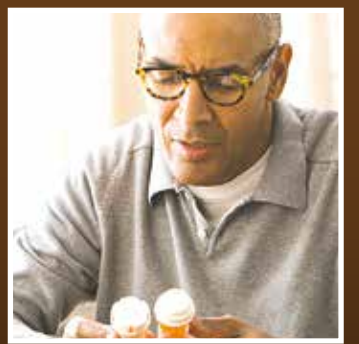
Page 2



**Newsmaker**  
**St. Mary's Salutes  
12 Notable New  
Orleans Women**

Page 4

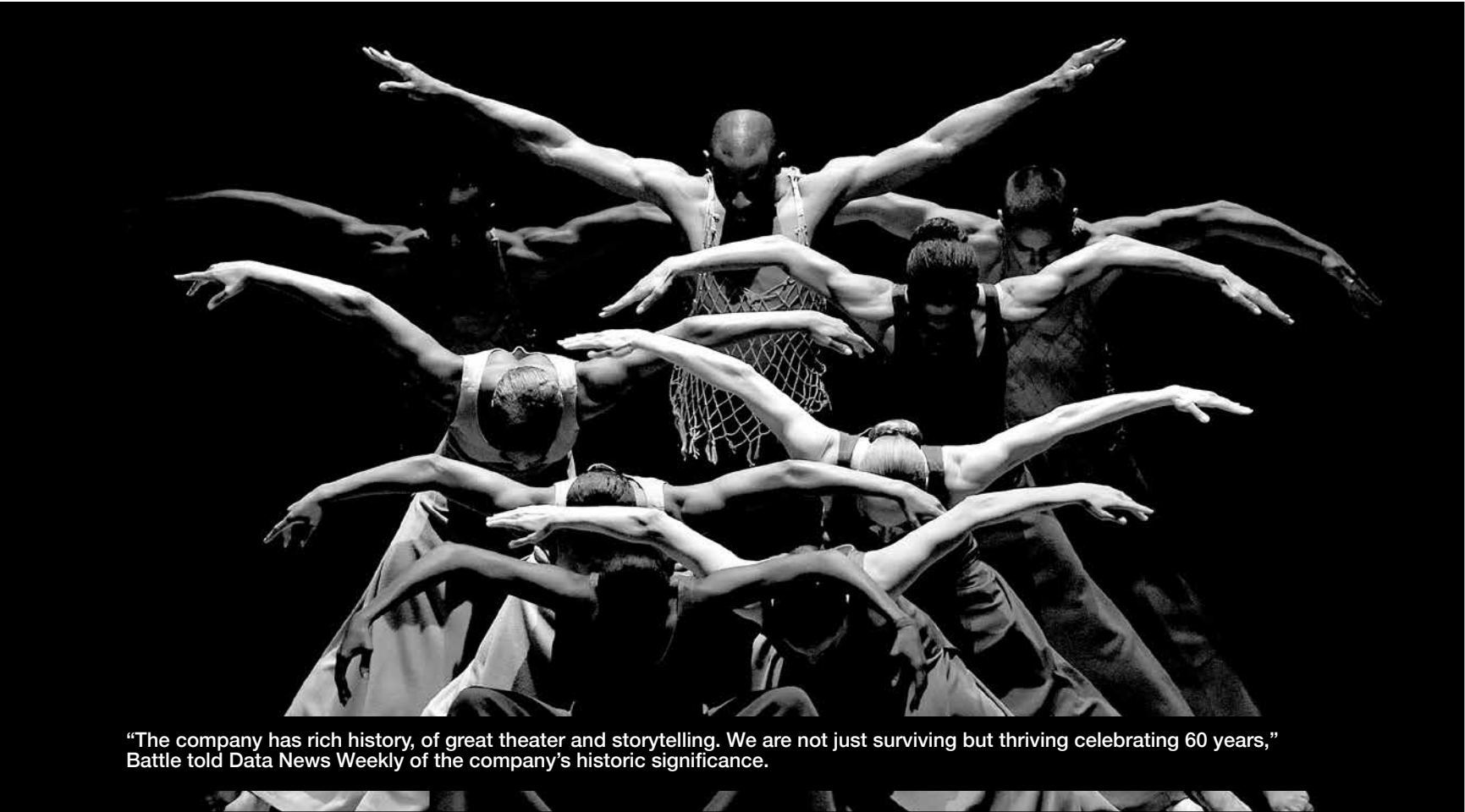
**National News**  
**Trump Backtracks  
on Medicare  
Promises**



Page 5

# Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Returns to New Orleans

*Celebrating Its 60th Anniversary with Two Completely Different Main Stage Programs*



“The company has rich history, of great theater and storytelling. We are not just surviving but thriving celebrating 60 years,” Battle told Data News Weekly of the company’s historic significance.

**Edwin Buggage**  
Editor

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Comes to the Crescent City**

The New Orleans Ballet Association (NOBA) presents the return of the iconic Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (AAADT) for two main stage perfor-

mances on March 22nd and 23rd at 8 p.m. at the Mahalia Jackson Theater.

It’s been nearly a decade since this amazing company has been to the Crescent City. This year the legendary dance company is celebrating 60 years as one of America’s most beloved and famous companies bringing the African-American cultural experience and dance traditions to the world’s stages.

Founded in 1958 by the Legendary Alvin Ailey,

the company has performed for an estimated 25 million people in 71 countries on six continents and was named by a U.S. Congressional Resolution as a “Cultural Ambassador to the World.” The two programs are being directed by the Charismatic Choreographer and AAADT Artistic Director Robert Battle.

Robert Battle became Artistic Director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in July 2011 after being personally selected by Judith Jamison, making him

Cover Story, Continued on page 3.

INSIDE DATA	
Cover Story . . . . .	2
Newsmaker . . . . .	4
State & Local News . .	5
Data Zone . . . . .	6
Commentary. . . . .	8
Health News . . . . .	9
In The Spirit . . . . .	10
National News . . . . .	11

### 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

<b>Terry B. Jones</b> CEO/Publisher	<b>Contributors</b> Terry Jones	<b>Art Direction &amp; Production</b> Pubinator.com
<b>Edwin Buggage</b> Editor	<b>Edwin Buggage</b> Jerry A. Kenard, PhD	<b>Editorial Submissions</b> datanewseditor@bellsouth.net
<b>Cheryl Mainor</b> Managing Editor	<b>Julianne Malveaux</b> Tykiera Haley	<b>Advertising Inquiries</b> datanewsad@bellsouth.net
<b>Calla Victoria</b> Executive Assistant	<b>James A. Washington</b> Kimani Hamilton	<b>Distribution</b> On The Run
<b>June Hazeur</b> Accounting	<b>Andreanecia Morris</b> James Whigham	<b>Courier Services</b>

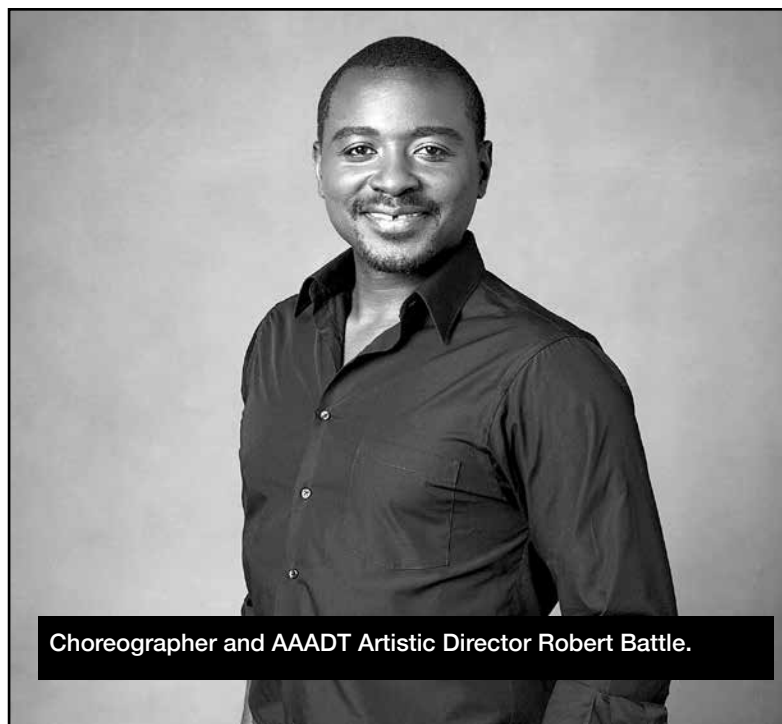
Please call 504-309-9913 for subscription information or to obtain a back issue of the paper ONLY.  
Dated material two weeks in advance. Not responsible for publishing or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.



Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



Battle says directing the company comes with a great responsibility following after the company's longtime and storied Artistic Director, Judith Jamison, (pictured above) who chose him as his successor.



Choreographer and AAADT Artistic Director Robert Battle.

only the third person to head the company since it was founded in 1958.

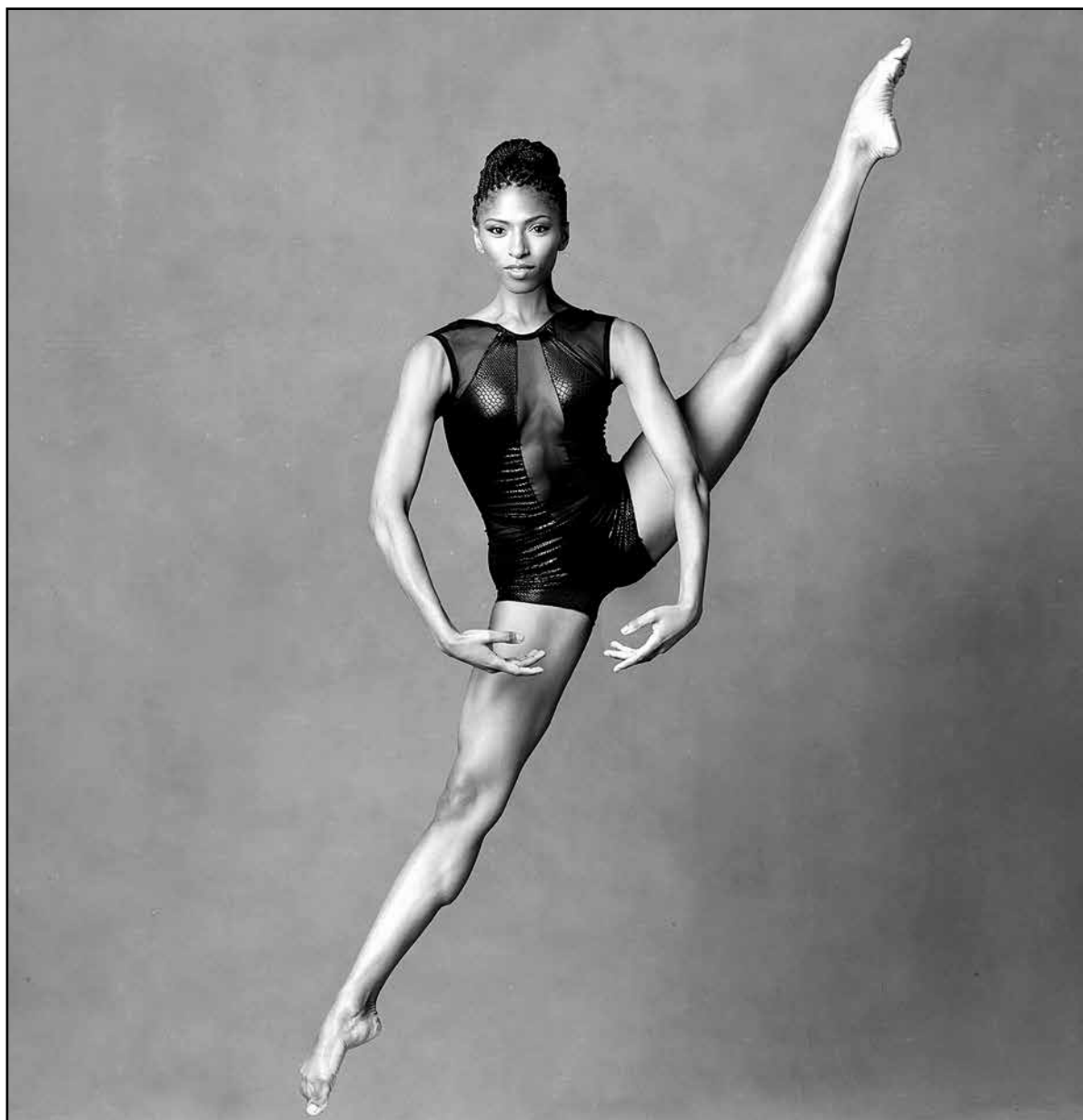
"It's an honor. It's a calling. It can be daunting at times carrying the torch of a great legacy," says Battle of his role as Artistic Director. Continuing he says, "It comes as a great privilege, but it comes with a great responsibility standing on the shoulders of Alvin Ailey and that you're walking in the path of Judith Jamison who chose me to succeed her in helping to create inspiring works for our audiences it is a dream come true."

### Two Amazing Programs Not to Be Missed

The 60th Anniversary programs consist of two completely different programs including Ailey's timeless masterpiece, *Revelations*, performed during the Friday night program. Featuring brilliant music from *Earth, Wind and Fire*, Grover Washington Jr., and Ella Fitzgerald to Legendary American Jazz Saxophonist and Composer John Coltrane and traditional African-American spirituals.

"The company has rich history, of great theater and storytelling. We are not just surviving but thriving celebrating 60 years," Battle told Data News Weekly of the company's historic significance.

Program A on Friday, March 22nd, includes *Stack-up* by Talley Beatty; *The Call* by Ronald K. Brown, *Shelter* by Jawole Willa Jo Zollar and *Revelations* by Alvin Ailey.



"The company has rich history, of great theater and storytelling. We are not just surviving but thriving celebrating 60 years," Battle told Data News Weekly of the company's historic significance.

Program B on Saturday, March 23rd will feature *Members Don't Get Weary* by Jamal Roberts, *Ella and Juba* by Robert Battle, and *EN* by Jessica Lang.

AAADT is not just committed to dance but producing work that is socially relevant and provoking, "Alvin Ailey started this company because he didn't see the stories about blacks told on the concert stage. He wanted more opportunities for black dancers."

The finale of the evening is *EN* (2018), a new work created for the Company's 60th Anniversary by the prolific and brilliant Dancemaker Jessica Lang. "EN" is a Japanese word with multiple meanings of circle, destiny, fate or karma. This celebratory ensemble work is set to an original score by frequent Collaborator Jakub Ciupinski, and is both Lang's 100th Ballet and her first creation for the Company. In her words, *EN* "reflects on the universal experience of coming full circle and, as time passes, we recognize the people we meet along life's journey who play a part in the fate and destiny of our lives."

Continuing in this tradition Battle says, "It only makes sense I look at work that matters and that is not just entertainment but something that can make you aware of things going on in society to create conversations. It is not just something to simply see but to experience and reflect on."

The story of the AAADT is amazing and the Artistic Director is asking all in New Orleans to come out to celebrate 60 years of exploring the culture of African-Americans through dance.

Single ticket prices for AAADT start at \$35. Discounts are available for groups of 10 or more and students with a valid student ID. For more information or to purchase single tickets, call NOBA at 504-522-0996, Ext. 201, or visit [www.nobadance.com](http://www.nobadance.com). Single tickets may also be purchased through Ticketmaster by calling 1-800-745-3000 or visiting [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).



# St. Mary's Salutes 12 Notable New Orleans Women

By Kimani Hamilton  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

To commemorate Black History Month, St. Mary's Academy paid tribute to twelve notable African-American women in New Orleans. The Women of Distinction Awards took place on Feb. 28th at the school on 6905 Chef Menteur Blvd. As an all-girl Catholic School, administrators said they wanted to specifically recognize Black women, who are often overlooked in events recognizing contributions to the African-American community.

The 2019 honorees included Mayor LaToya Cantrell who told the young students that both faith and hard work would allow them to fulfill their calling in life.

"I encourage you to pray, constantly for discernment, so that the Lord is truly ordering your steps and you have the ability and the foresight to follow them," Cantrell told the students in the school's gymnasium.

Cantrell shared about her career achievements that she believes she is where she is supposed to be, al-



Honorees for St. Mary's Academy's Women of Distinction Awards are recognized for the achievements on Feb. 28th in the school's gymnasium.

ways at the right time, and when she is supposed to be there. Her success would not be possible without faith, commitment, and dedication to people and the love of God, she added.

"Understand what makes that



Greer Mendy, founder of the Tekrema Center for Art and Culture (Photos by James Whigham)

fire burn within you," Cantrell said.

In addressing young girls, Cantrell acknowledged that while she is the first woman to be elected mayor of New Orleans, she will not be the last. She encouraged the students to stand tall, to be confident and to embrace their truth.

In addition to Cantrell, the event recognized Leah Chase, the owner of Dooky Chase Res-

taurant; Magistrate Judge Dana Douglas; Therese Badon, the Vice-President for Development for the United Negro College Fund; Certified Public Accountant and Author Kemberley Washington; Louisiana Weekly Publisher Renette Dejoie Hall; Biochemist Dr. Trivia Frazier; OperaCréole founders Givonna Joseph and Aria Mason; New Orleans Fash-

ion Week founder Tracee Dundas; Tekrema Center for Art and Culture founder and Director Greer Mendy; and high school Fashion Designer Amaya Johné Cannon.

The honorees showed up to address the young girls directly and to share life lessons. Judge Dana Douglas, who attended St. Mary's Academy, shared that no African-American had ever been the President of the New Orleans Bar Association and a Partner at Liskow and Lewis, where she spent 18 years practicing law. She also let students know that in the past, no African-American woman had ever been judge in the Eastern District of Louisiana.

"Now, fast forward to 2019, there are currently three women who sit in that court house, two of which have served as Chief Judges of that court," Douglas said.

Douglas said that along with a friend of hers, they became the first two African-American women to become Partners at Liskow and Lewis. In the history of the New Orleans Bar Association, Douglas served as the third African-American President of that association.

"Resist the temptation of people to tell you what you can and what you can't do," Douglas said.

The honorees encouraged the students to have faith in their abilities, particularly where they do not often see women in charge. Tracee Dundas, the founder of New Orleans Fashion Week described how as a child, whenever she was given a task, she would tell her father "I can't." Her father told her "I can't is not in the vocabulary. You cannot say that." From that moment on everything became "I can."

"Don't ever stop learning. Don't ever stop growing," Dundas said. "Whatever you want to achieve, yes you can. Just go for it," she added.

Leading the oldest, still operating Black-owned Newspaper in Louisiana required both conviction and perseverance for Publisher Renette Dejoie Hall.

"Please do not end your education when you graduate from college. Please continue to learn and be inquisitive," Dejoie Hall said.

In serving in positions of power, Hall told students to always remember where they came from.

"Learn your history because if you don't know what happened in the past, you've got a hard time going forward," Hall said.

## 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.



AdoptUSKids

888.200.4005 AdoptUSKids.org



# Activist Calls on Students to Protest Injustices

By Tykiera Haley  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

The room stood in silence as Michael 'Quess' Moore encouraged this generation to protest social injustices and to be the change that future generations need, as he taught university students how to speak out in a talk called "Learn to Protest" on Feb. 25th for Black History Month.

"Educate, agitate, organize," Moore told Xavier University of Louisiana students as he shared his experiences protesting. The New Orleans native urged young adults, especially college students, to become more active in grassroots movements. Moore attended another Historically Black University, Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, where he began his journey of fighting for social justice. He turned to the arts, and through his poetry, Moore has become an educator and activist for young Black people.

"We have the power to change systems, we want to always be able to spread that story as far as we can," Moore said. He explained that movements like 'Black Lives Matter' start with communities coming together, educating one another, and pressing the issue loud enough for change to be made.

Moore said that it was never too early to get involved in activism. Attending FAMU greatly shifted his perspective on social injustices because it made him more aware of the unfair treatment of African-Americans. He believes Black educators and institutions in particular are important for shaping the learning experiences of young African-American students.

"I started out majoring in business and hated it. I always found an interest in English and anything creative," Moore said. Because of his love for creativity, Moore began practicing a Nigerian Meditation that he learned while attending an HBCU. "It's a spiritual healing and I wouldn't have picked that up at a



Educator and Activist Michael 'Quess' Moore speaks on "Learning to Protest" on Feb. 25, 2019. (Photo by Tykiera Haley)

predominantly White university, learning about my ancestry in that way, or learning about the nature of racism," Moore said.

African-Americans must first learn not just about their history, Moore explained, but how to spot oppression and how to find strategies, as a people, to liberate the community from the impacts of racism.

"Black psychology is a whole ideology in its own think tank, and it helps deconstruct White Supremacy by showing how we literally think differently because we've grown in different parts of the planet and adjusted differently to those environments," Moore said.

He urged young people to study current events that the mainstream news does not always cover as often as it should, such as police shootings. He told the audience that social media is a useful tool in creating change and making progress in grassroots movements. He shared that this was particularly useful for his organization to coordinate protests around issues of police brutality, and for the removal of confederate statues.

"Dialogue is the most important

thing," said Shera Phillips, a local activist with Black Youth Project, who attended the event. "[Moore] being able to interact with [us] is my favorite part."

Phillips is an active member of the organization Black Youth Project, an organization centered on educating young African-Americans on politics while also providing resources to help them achieve success.

Moore said through the Black Youth Project's New Orleans branch, he was able to get young people involved in protests that resulted in the removal of confederate statues around New Orleans, a first for any city in the country. He said that was only the tip of the battle and there is still so much more to tackle.

"It's progress, and that's what matters," Moore said.



**SUBSCRIBE**  
TO DATA NEWS WEEKLY  
CALL 504-821-7421 TO SUBSCRIBE!





# 15th Annual Audubon Soul Fest

Photos by Terry Jones Data  
News Weekly Contributor

Music, food, and fun were served in great supply during the 15th Annual Soul Fest presented by AARP.

Thousands of visitors converged upon the Zoo for one of New Orleans' biggest celebrations of African American culture. The two-day family-oriented event featured live musical performances by local, rhythm & blues artists The Soul Mystics, and by Partners N Crime on the Zoo's Capital One Bank Stage!

Festival-goers also visiedt with representatives of small businesses, local health, education, and social service organizations.

Guests were able to purchase soul food prepared by local restaurants and caterers and enjoy a stroll through the world-class Audubon Zoo.



NOBA Presents

In New Orleans for the first time since 2010! Don't Miss it!

## ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Robert Battle, Artistic Director Masazumi Chaya, Associate Artistic Director

Sponsored by

PAN-AMERICAN LIFE INSURANCE GROUP

HYATT REGENCY NEW ORLEANS

**MARCH 22 & 23, 8 PM**  
Mahalia Jackson Theater

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater celebrates 60 years as one of America's most beloved and famous companies bringing the African-American cultural experience and dance traditions to the world's stages. With music from Earth, Wind and Fire and Ella Fitzgerald to jazz saxophonist John Coltrane and traditional African-American spirituals, this extraordinary ensemble of 32 powerhouse dancers "will set the stage on fire" (*Chicago Sun-Times*) with two different programs, including Ailey's timeless masterpiece, *Revelations*, performed only on the Friday night program.

**Tickets are selling fast for both performances! Secure your seat today!**

TICKETS BEGIN AT \$35.  
ASK ABOUT STUDENT / SENIOR / GROUP DISCOUNTS.

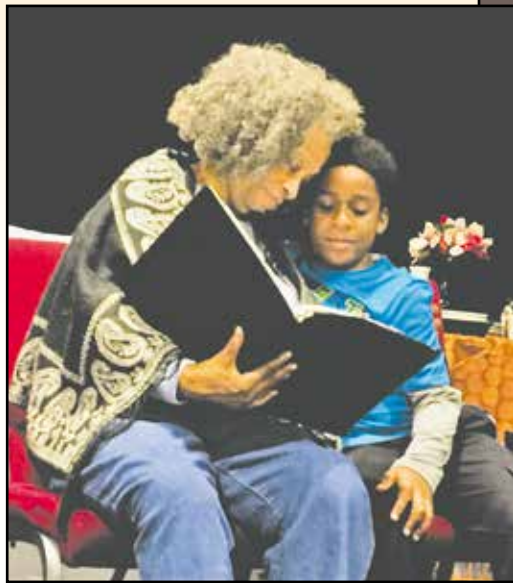
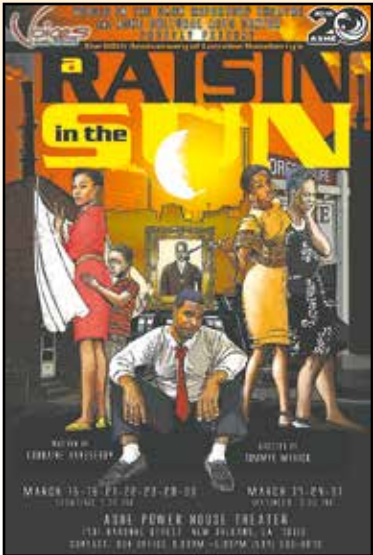
TO ORDER, CALL **ticketmaster**  
800.745.3000 TICKETMASTER.COM

**504.522.0996**  
NOBADANCE.COM





# Ashe' Cultural Center and Voices in the Dark Reperatory Theatre Company Present *A Raisin in the Sun*



## Data Staff Report

With a powerful lineup of shows, including an American classic, an original outdoor drama and a regional premiere, Voices in the Dark Repertory Theatre Company begins its 27th season by attempting to answer the daunting question asked in Langston Hughes' iconic poem ...*What Happens to a Dream Deferred*. Opening March 15th on the 60th Anniversary of the original production, is Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*. Directed by Ms. Tommye Myrick,

the show stars award winning film, television and stage actress Ms. Carol Sutton as the matriarch of the Younger family.

*A Raisin in the Sun* revolves around an African American family, the death of its patriarch Leah Younger's husband of 45 years, Walter Lee Younger, Sr. and the insurance check he left behind.

Making his stage debut, Michael C. Forest plays the fiery, frustrated Walter Lee, Jr. who wants

to be an entrepreneur so desperately that he risks the small fortune of his family in pursuit of his dream. Con-

stance Thompson plays Walter's pregnant wife of eleven years, while Ebony

Johnson portrays Walter's younger ambitious and socially conscious sister who, despite their meager means, wants to become a doctor.

Set on the South Side Chicago in the mid to late 1950's, *A Raisin in the Sun* is a powerful family drama that epitomizes the desperate pursuit of the American dream by those of the working class, the underserved and the disenfranchised.

The cast includes Martin Bats Bradford as Joseph Asagi, Christopher Rob-

inson as George Murchison, Tracy B. Mann as Bobo, Jim Holmes as Karl Lindner, and introducing master Ellington Benoit Tilton as Travis Younger, Walter's ten-year-old son.

*A Raisin in the Sun* runs March 15 -31 at Ashe Power House Theater, 1731 Baronne St., New Orleans, LA 70113.

For ticket information and reservations Box Office (504) 569-9070 Ashe Cultural Center 10:00am.-5:00pm.

On-line ticket reservations: [www.ashecac.org](http://www.ashecac.org) Group Sales Call (504) 333-6748 or email: [voicesinthedarkrep@gmail.com](mailto:voicesinthedarkrep@gmail.com)

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

## Connect to the Source

Data News Weekly, your one stop for what's happening in New Orleans.



[ladatanews.com](http://ladatanews.com)



# WBOK 1230AM

**A BAKEWELL MEDIA COMPANY**

**Real Talk for Real Times...**

1639 Gentilly Blvd. New Orleans, LA 70119 (504)942-0106

[www.wbok1230am.com](http://www.wbok1230am.com)

# Let's Clamp Down on Tobacco and Vaping Product Access for Young People



**Julianne Malveaux**  
NNPA Columnist

By Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA Newswire Columnist

Nearly half a million people die every year from complications from smoking. About a tenth of them never put a cigarette to their lips — they die from exposure to second-hand smoke. Death from tobacco is, according to the Centers for Disease Control, the leading cause of preventable death. But too many people, enticed by advertising, think that smoking is so “cool” that they embrace it. And the tobacco industry spent more than \$9 billion on smoking advertising, or about a million dollars an hour.

For too many, cigarettes are a desperate addiction, encouraged by pernicious advertising. The addiction hits folks of color — Black and brown folks — hardest. We are more likely to be exposed to heavy advertising, more likely to

become addicted, and more likely to die from complications of smoking addiction. Public policy can help ameliorate this challenge, perhaps, by further restricting who can buy tobacco and when. Because addictions start early, public policy can help by supporting efforts under way to limit the sale of nicotine to those who are under 21.

Instead, unfortunately, some would prefer to restrict the sale of vaping products in particular to keep them out of the hands of children. Why not just further limit the sale of all tobacco products? The companies that manufacture vaping products, like the market leader Juul, are to be commended for attempting to protect young people from the deleterious effects of their products. But their recently accelerated activism is only one small step toward ensuring that young people are protected from the harmful effects of smoking, and they cannot do it alone.

Very recently, the head of the Food and Drug Administration, Scott Gottlieb, resigned for “family reasons” (don’t you love it when white men suddenly discover their families when they are in hot water). At the same time, we learned that too many chains, like Walmart, Kroger and Walgreens, along with

gas stations, are breaking the law by selling cigarettes and other nicotine products to young people.

But here’s the deal. It doesn’t make sense to regulate the sale of nicotine products, like vaping, without looking at the sale of nico-

those who make it easy for them to access these products.

But the law does not protect. Instead, legislators selectively go after some products, while protecting others. If legislators understood the damage that nicotine and tobacco

scrutiny, even outlawed. To their credit, vaping companies are owning their role in possible addiction and standing for a ban on selling any nicotine products to children.

Part of this is personal for me. I’ve written before about my mom’s smoking addiction, which has led to her developing COPD and emphysema diseases in her ninth decade. But it’s more than the personal. It’s about the ways that public policy can protect young people, even as they make poor choices.

Follow the money, goes the trope. Who benefits from youngsters buying tobacco and nicotine products? Why do legislators protect them? Why would legislators crack down on vaping, but not cigarettes? Who benefits? If we follow the money, we have to monitor the lobby. Who has power in this game?

We always need to follow the money when we look at the ways that some products are offered to the market and others are restricted. We always need to follow the money when we realize that there are always beneficiaries in a society that has predatory capitalism at its roots. We don’t need more children being exposed to addiction. We shouldn’t outlaw vaping products

**Commentary, Continued  
on page 9.**

“...the law does not protect. Instead, legislators selectively go after some products, while protecting others. If legislators understood the damage that nicotine and tobacco products do to people, especially young people, they’d be rushing to outlaw them.”

tine products, like cigarettes. Children (yes, despite their protests, I think of anyone under 21 as a child) shouldn’t be purchasing alcohol or tobacco. Period. End of conversation. They aren’t grown. They are susceptible to addiction. The law should protect them and penalize

products do to people, especially young people, they’d be rushing to outlaw them. Instead, because tobacco is big business, the industry is protected. Furthermore, products that attempt to ameliorate the harmful sides of smoking, like vaping, are subjected to unreasonable

## Increasing Homeownership Rate Among Women Puts Housing First



**Andreanecia Morris**  
Executive Director,  
HousingNOLA

We know that homeownership matters to individuals, to communities, and the entire nation. We know that besides the stability it provides owners, especially those with young families, homeownership is the undeniable foundation for building generational wealth. In

fact, the wealth generated through homeownership that has allowed families to achieve social and economic mobility among Whites and the lack of access to homeownership that have left people of color behind. During Women’s History Month, it’s important to reflect on those wealth building opportunities because New Orleans is one of the few places where single women are outpacing single men when it comes to homeownership.

In a report released by Lending Tree in December 2018, the mortgage company analyzed annual Census Data and found single women own 27 percent of homes, whereas single men own 15 percent in New Orleans. An investment in a house is often one

of the smartest financial ventures one can make. Homes typically increase in value, build equity, and provide a nest egg for the future. Selling a home for profit gives first-time homebuyers an opportunity to purchase homes in high-quality neighborhoods, areas that will provide closer access to goods and services, as well as the proliferation of financial gains in the form of rising property value.

This is good news for women in general, but we must also factor in race. In its Tricentennial Report released last year, the Data Center found 54% of Whites are homeowners and only 42% of African-Americans own their home. New Orleans is a city where the majority rent and are African-American

which means that single women are benefitting but women of color are not. We need to address this inequity and insure that women of color have access to the same opportunities that other women enjoy here in New Orleans. The City of New Orleans recently announced plans to allocate \$3 million to create soft second opportunities after almost two years of no investment in creating homeownership opportune is. By focusing on first-time homebuyers, especially low-income buyers, New Orleans can and should invest in its residents, who will pump their prosperity back into the local economy.

Generally, housing costs should be more predictable and

stable than renting, solely because the costs are based on the fixed-rate mortgage. However, with climate changes and rising energy costs, more homeowners are spending more than 30% of their total income on housing costs. If everyone, not just our public officials, worked together to #PutHousingFirst we would see a dramatic decrease in housing insecurity. During Women’s History Month, I urge you to consider the benefits of homeownership for women and women of color in particular and make a personal commitment to #PutHousingFirst, because the future of our city, and our state, depends on the stability of its homeowners—particularly women homeowners.



# Health Statistics for Black American Men

## *Concerning Health Statistics Observed Among Black Men*

By Jerry Kenard, PhD  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

Black men in the United States suffer worse health than any other racial group in America. For example, as a group, Black men have the lowest life expectancy and the highest death rate compared to both men and women of other racial and ethnic groups.

Discrepancies in health statistics for the more than 17 million Black men, when compared to others, highlight a great need to better address their causes. There are a number of reasons that can be pointed to as causes for the issues of poor health among Black men. Racial discrimination, high rates of incarceration, unemployment, a lack of affordable health services, poor health education, cultural barriers, poverty, access to health insurance, and insufficient medical and social services catering to Black men all negatively affect the quality of life and health.

Here are some of the sobering health statistics for Black men in the U.S.

### Black Male Health Statistics

- Black men live 7.1 years less than other racial groups.
- They have higher death rates than women for all leading causes of death.
- They experience disproportionately higher death rates in all the leading causes of death.
- 40% of Black men die prematurely from cardiovascular disease as compared to 21% of White men.
- They have a higher incidence and a higher rate of death from oral cancer.
- Black men are 5 times more likely to die of HIV/AIDS.

### Other Health Statistics

- 44% of Black men are considered overweight
- 24% are obese
- Black men suffer more preventable oral diseases that are treatable
- A higher incidence of diabetes and prostate cancer
- A high suicide rate. It is the 3rd leading cause of death in 15 to 24-year-olds

### 10 Leading Causes of Death Among Black Americans (2013)

- Heart disease (24% of total deaths)
- Cancer (22.4%)
- Unintentional injuries (5.8%)
- Stroke (4.7%)
- Homicide (4.5%)
- Diabetes (4.1%)
- Chronic lower respiratory diseases (3.3%)
- Kidney disease (2.6%)
- Septicemia (1.9%)
- Influenza and pneumonia (1.7%)

### Homicide a Leading Cause of Death Among Black Men Ages 15-34

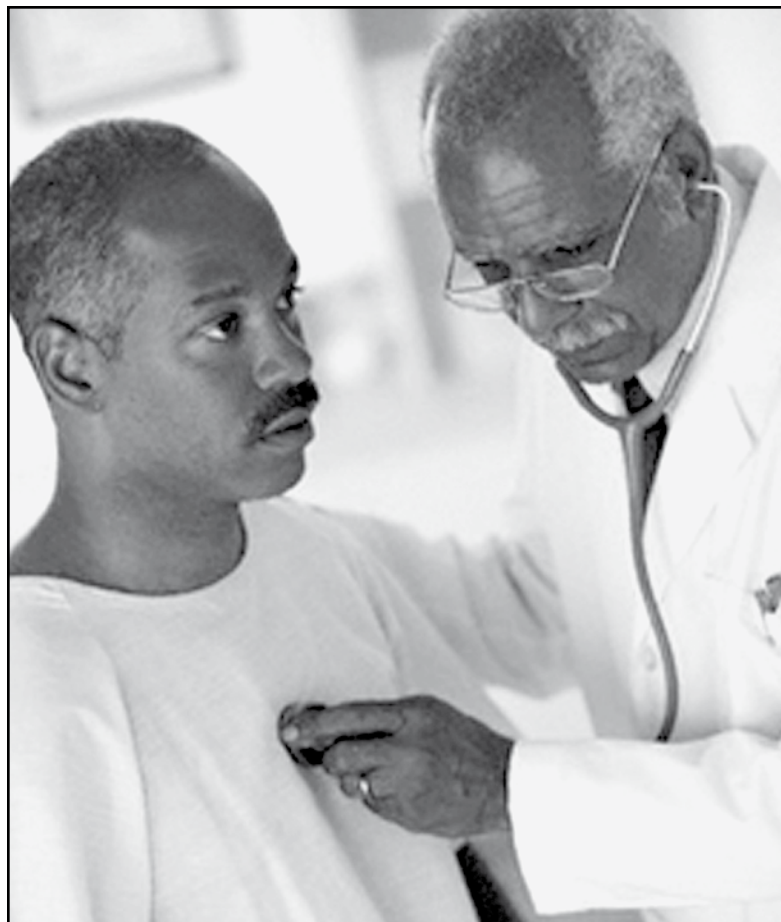
In the category of leading causes of death, when broken down by age group for Black males in the U.S., more disturbing statistics are revealed.

For young Black men between the ages of 15 and 34, the number one cause of death in 2013 was homicide.

A further breakdown of deaths by age group among young Black men due to homicide:

- Ages 15-19, homicide accounted for 47.8% of total deaths
- Ages 20-24, 49.9% of total deaths
- Ages 25-34, 33.5% of total deaths

Compared to the statistics of all males in the U.S. in these same age categories, homicide was the third leading cause of death with drastically different percentages of total



death attributable to homicide:

- Ages 15-19, homicide accounted for 18.3% of total deaths
- Ages 20-24, 17.9% of total deaths
- Ages 25-34, 11.3% of total deaths

### 2016 Report on HIV Risks for Black Men

In February of 2016, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a report assessing the lifetime risk of HIV in the U.S. by state, as well as by key at-risk populations. The report revealed surprising statistics for Black men in the U.S.

Among Black heterosexual men, there was a 1 in 20 lifetime risk, compared to a 1 in 132 lifetime risk for White heterosexual men.

But even more shocking was the lifetime risk for gay Black men: 1 in 2—50% of gay Black men have a lifetime risk of HIV.

This is a very concerning statistic that is not easily explained, as the very same factors that affect the overall health statistics of Black men in the U.S. described above also play a complex role in this statistic as well.

Jerry Kennard, PhD, is a former writer for Verywell Health covering men's health and sex. He is a chartered Psychologist and an Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society. He's the author of "Overcoming Worry and Anxiety," and was head of Psychology at York St. John University.

Commentary, Continued from page 8.

without outlawing the sale of tobacco to children. I appreciate some manufacturers for joining many others in standing up against companies like Walmart, Walgreen's and the others that are making big dollars selling tobacco and nicotine products to children. It needs to stop. Now. Legislators need to step up and protect our children from this destructive addiction!

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](http://www.amazon.com) for booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit [www.juliannemalveaux.com](http://www.juliannemalveaux.com)



# CUMULUS

## THE POWER OF RADIO

TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS, CALL (504) 581-7002



Old School  
106.7  
Old School and Today's R&B



NEW ORLEANS  
POWER  
102.9  
NON-STOP HIP HOP + R&B



ALT  
92.3  
gulf south. rock. alternative.



NASH  
FM 106.1



## Spiritually Speaking

## Bring the Sin and Deal With the Consequences



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

As believers we really have a lot on our plates. From our perspective however, that doesn't mean we are challenged beyond our capacity to fulfill God's destiny for us. It just means life still happens to us. It just does so with a purpose; God's. The more we understand and internalize that, the more we see and appreciate the individual blessings in our lives. What I'd like to call your attention to now is a statement of

fact from Jesus' mouth to your reality. I'm still hanging out in dealing with that forgiveness thing. This time it's not forgiving yourself that I'm talking about. It's God's forgiveness and grace about the sins we commit.

Nowhere in the bible can I find an expectation by God that you won't sin after you are saved. To the contrary, the expectation is that you will. God's grace and Jesus' blood have taken care of that for you and me. We just need to keep the appropriate perspective regarding sin and through prayer let God know your confession is genuine. The point I want to bring to your attention is when Jesus says your forgiveness is not happening. Luke 17:1 says "Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come." This one here stunned



me and I thought I'd pass it along to you. "...but woe to that person through whom they come." This kind of redefines friendship and fellowship don't you think?

This statement does not remove anything from the sinner, but it does put a huge burden on the one who brings the sin and convinces his Christian family member to partake. The consequences of this act

appear to be catastrophic. You guys know I believe for anyone to actually hurt you, they, he or she, has to be close enough to you to kiss you. Can you say Judas? My point is you cannot plead ignorance on this one. God will not let you. Woe is waiting. The verse continues to illustrate how you should respond to one who sins against you. Yep. You still gotta forgive. The verse is also very

clear as to your role in the family of Christ. Don't bring sin to the party and try and convince others it's okay to partake. Eve did that and we all know how that turned out.

So remember this. You are forgiven and you are to forgive. I don't believe I follow a God of confusion. This is pretty simple. But let's not get it twisted. This is a trap as in entrapment. Don't fall for it. Don't ask your friends to wallow in your 'oh woe is me.' That's an indication of lack of faith or, lack of belief that Christ did indeed fulfill scripture. When you feel this happening to you, remember the fight is fixed and you win. The alternative is Jesus' 'oh woe is you.' As always it's still your choice. It always has been. May God bless and keep you always.

James A. Washington is Publisher of Dallas Weekly Newspaper. He can be reached by email, jaws@dallasweekly.com.



**Make your emergency plan today.**

Visit [Ready.gov/communicate](https://www.ready.gov/communicate)



## Mayor Cantrell, NewCorp, Inc., NOLA Business Alliance and Partners Unveil \$5 Million BuildNOLA Mobilization Fund

### Data Staff Report

On Monday Today, Mayor LaToya Cantrell, NewCorp, Inc., and the New Orleans Business Alliance joined business and philanthropic partners to announce a new \$5 million Mobilization Fund that will provide critical access to capital for entrepreneurs of color and women to participate in public infrastructure projects, create more jobs and grow our local economy.

NewCorp, Inc., (NewCorp) a local Community Development Financial Institution, will manage the Fund. NewCorp has a long record of accomplishments supporting entrepreneurs through increasing available credit, investment capital and financial services. Specifically, through the Fund, NewCorp will review applications, provide technical assistance, grant credit lines, and ensure loan repayment. The City of New Orleans acts as a conduit for many applicants to the Fund, often

identified through the City's BuildNOLA small business technical assistance program.

"The BuildNOLA Mobilization Fund is a big win for the people of New Orleans, and for businesses owned by entrepreneurs of color and women – who will get needed access to capital that enables them to perform on public contracts," said Mayor LaToya Cantrell. "This is what it looks like when we stand together with our business community to move this City forward. We're creating jobs, we're investing in our people, and we're making it possible for small businesses to get their fair share."

"Access to capital and opportunity is a major barrier to economic competitiveness amongst small contractor businesses in general and in particular to businesses owned by people of color. The Mobilization Fund not only seeks to remove this barrier, but more importantly to provide the efficacy of alternative

strategies and sources of capital to serve under-served communities and businesses that are forced to operate outside of the mainstream capital market place. If we, the primes, the financier, and the small disadvantaged businesses get this right, it will change the trajectory of small contractors and enhance the earnings and expertise of the primes," said Vaughn Fauria, President and CEO, NewCorp, Inc.

As the city's official economic development agency, the New Orleans Business Alliance is charged by Mayor Cantrell with growing the small business ecosystem in New Orleans. Since 2018, the Business Alliance worked with philanthropic leaders to secure the funding for this important initiative.

Businesses interested in the BuildNOLA Mobilization Fund should contact Peter Brooks at NewCorp, Inc. by calling (504) 208-1700 or emailing [peter@newcorpinc.com](mailto:peter@newcorpinc.com).



# Trump's Budget Proposal Takes the Ax to Medicare

## Data Staff Report

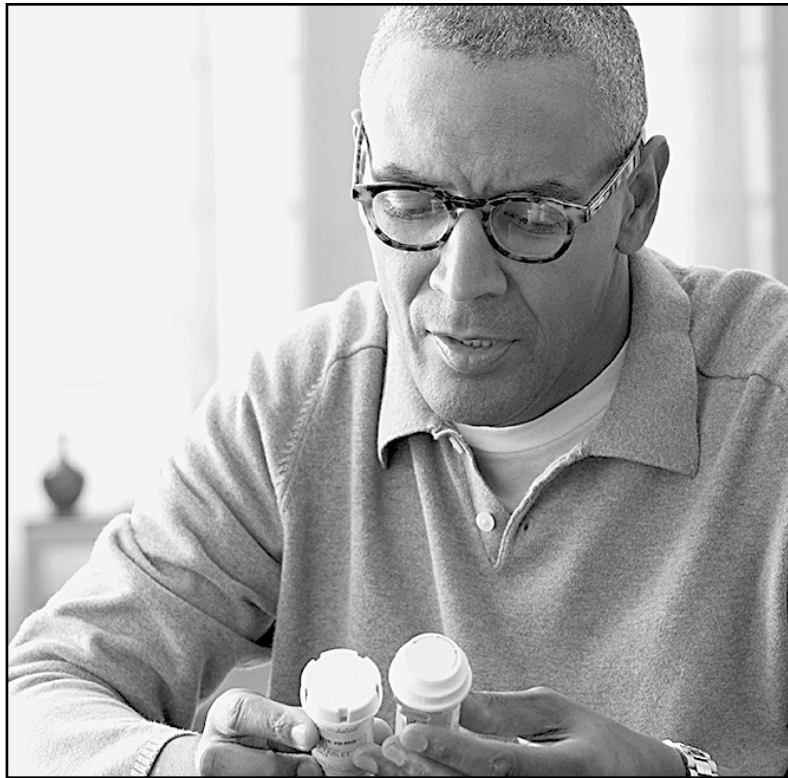
Retirees with high prescription drug costs might want to keep an eye on President Trump's hoped-for changes to Medicare.

The president's proposed 2020 budget, released Monday, calls for allowing Medicare to negotiate lower prices with pharmaceutical companies and would cap how much beneficiaries pay out-of-pocket under Part D prescription drug coverage, among other provisions. Yet it also would get rid of some help that beneficiaries receive for their medicines.

On top of eliminating help with generic drug costs for low-income Medicare recipients, the budget would stop allowing manufacturer discounts to count toward a beneficiary's out-of-pocket costs during the so-called coverage gap under Part D.

"If those discounts are no longer counted, it means people would spend longer in the coverage gap and spend more out of pocket," said Mary Johnson, Social Security and Medicare policy analyst for The Senior Citizens League. "Those discounts currently are 70 percent of the cost of a drug."

Medicare Part D's coverage gap, or "donut hole," is the time between a drug plan's coverage limit (\$3,820



Throughout the 2016 Presidential campaign, then candidate Donald Trump, pledged that he would not make any cuts to Medicare. This week, President Trump, presented his proposed budget, which includes deep cuts to Medicare as well as Social Security and Medicaid.

for 2019) and the threshold for qualifying for catastrophic coverage (\$5,100 for 2019), which is when your share of the cost drops.

While Medicare beneficiaries now pay 25 percent for brand-name drugs during that gap — the same share before reaching the drug

plan's limit — they also have been able to count manufacturer discounts toward their out-of-pocket costs while in the gap. That helps them reach the catastrophic phase of coverage faster.

Some retirees with lower income get extra help to cover the cost of

their medicine. Others, however, have too much income to qualify for assistance but nevertheless struggle to pay the cost of their prescriptions — which can lead to drastic choices.

"They start cutting tablets in half to stretch out their medicine, or use credit cards to pay," said Elizabeth Gavino, founder of Lewin & Gavino in New York and an independent broker and general agent for Medicare plans. "For some, it's a choice of taking medicine or buying food."

Adding to the potential woes for those already struggling is the impending expiration at the end of 2019 of an Affordable Care Act provision that limited annual increases in the threshold for catastrophic coverage. Over the past nine years, yearly increases have totaled \$550 altogether.

In 2020, however, the threshold is projected to jump by \$1,250 to \$6,350 from \$5,100 this year, according to the 2018 Medicare trustees report. Beyond that, the increase is expected to average \$450 each year through 2027, at which point the out-of-pocket threshold would hit \$9,450.

"That's a huge amount of money for future retirees or people retiring today who will be paying that much more," Johnson said.

## DATA CLASSIFIED

Call 504-821-7421 to place your classified ad.

## Job Opportunity

### Freelance Writers Wanted

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

Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

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

We can't wait to hear from you!

This space can be yours for only \$80

**CALL NOW!!!**

**504-821-7421**

follow us on

**twitter**   
@DataNewsWeek

This space can be

yours for only \$80

**Call Now!**

**504-821-7421**

**NO ONE GETS  
A DIPLOMA  
ALONE.**

If you're thinking of finishing your high school diploma, you have more support than you realize. Find free adult education classes near you by texting FINISH to 97779 or by visiting [FinishYourDiploma.org](http://FinishYourDiploma.org).

 **DOLLAR GENERAL**  
LITERACY FOUNDATION

Message & Data Rates May Apply. Reply STOP to opt out. No purchase necessary. Terms and Privacy: [advertising/About-Us/Privacy-Policy](#)



# Renewable energy is part of New Orleans' bright future.



At Entergy New Orleans, we know a diversified energy portfolio is essential to a vibrant city. That's why we're also investing in renewable energy to better serve our customers.

## **New Orleans Solar Power Plant**

- This 1-megawatt facility is helping us evaluate the feasibility of utility-scale solar and the extent to which battery storage can help compensate for the intermittency of sunlight.

## **Commercial-Scale Rooftop Solar**

- This 5-megawatt solar pilot project is taking advantage of previously unused commercial rooftops and putting solar energy in action.

## **Residential Rooftop Solar**

- This pilot program puts solar panels on the rooftops of low-income customers' homes and gives them a \$30 bill credit, rain or shine.

Our investment in renewable energy is another way we're planning for future generations. Learn more about our solar projects at [entergyneworleans.com/solar](http://entergyneworleans.com/solar).

