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2010

The Year of the Woman



Monique Morial



Candice Bates Anderson



Cynthia Willard Lewis



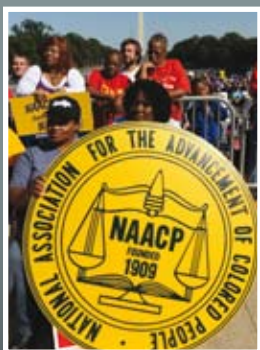
Caroline Fayard



Veronica E. Henry

The Soul of New Orleans

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One Nation Marches in DC

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Newsmaker Women's Empowerment Tour



Page 4

Election 2010, The Year of the Woman

By Cheryl Mainor

Orleans Parish Election results push local women candidates to the forefront.

In a contentious national mid-term year, cynics and skeptics have wondered if elections would be on the minds of New Orleanians enough to produce winning results for candidates. With fingers crossed that each candidate's voter turn-out efforts would be sufficient, veteran female politicians and newcomers alike, waited for the results. In many cases, their efforts were more than sufficient, they were enough to prove mandates for many women, when at the end of the day, when all ballots from all precincts involved were counted, they stood victorious or face runoffs and New Orleans voters can claim 2010 as "The year of the Woman. Here are the highlights:



Cynthia Willard-Lewis

Cynthia Willard Lewis

Winner - State Senate District 2

Only eight months since losing her bid for one of the Councilmember-At-Large seats on the New Orleans City Council, veteran Councilwoman from District E, Willard-Lewis made her mark by winning handily the District 2 seat which was once held by State Senator Ann Duplessis. The seat became up for grabs in July, when Duplessis announced her resignation to begin work within the new Landrieu Administration. Willard Lewis' win marks her return to Baton Rouge where she formerly served as a member of the State House for seven years prior to her time on the City Council. The 2nd District includes New Orleans East and the Lower 9th Ward.

Willard-Lewis, 57, led the four-candidate field with 63 percent of the vote. She was followed by Attorney Michael Darnell, School Board member Ira Thomas and Former Deputy City Attorney Edward Washington III.

Willard-Lewis, who ran with the support of a long list of elected officials, including District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro and Sheriff Marlin Gushman, held her experience in front as she made the case to voters that she would be able to "hit the ground running" upon her return to Baton Rouge. As the Senator from District 2, she says her main job will be to push for all economic districts, aiding businessmen and women with workforce dollars from the state and infrastructure dollars on the federal level." She said "The Vision is for complete restoration for all of District 2."

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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
CEO/Publisher
Glenn Jones
VP Advertising & Marketing
Cheryl Mainor
Managing Editor
Edwin Buggage
Editor
Dionne Character
Arts & Entertainment Editor
Melanie Mainor
Copy Editor Intern
June Hazeur
Accounting

Contributors
Elaine Hegwood Bowen
Dionne Character
Victor Holt
Cheryl Mainor
Marc H. Morial
James Wright

Art Direction & Production
MainorMedia.com
Editorial Submissions
datanewseditor@bellsouth.net
Advertising Inquiries
datanewsad@bellsouth.net

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Candace Bates Anderson

Candice Bates Anderson

Winner - Juvenile Court Judge, Section C

A well executed campaign and voter turn-out effort served political newcomer Candice Bates-Anderson well as won her first campaign for public office, to become Juvenile Court Judge. Bates-Anderson moved to the forefront amid a field which included three tough opponents. She battled a contentious campaign waged by two-time Juvenile Court candidate and opponent Richard Exnicios, in which he claimed on a website that she was an inexperienced lawyer and unqualified for the position, but won with 52% of the vote.

Bates-Anderson who rose to victory from political obscurity received several heavyweight endorsements which included, District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro, Sheriff Marlin Gusman, Clerk of Civil District Court Dale Atkins and a host of elected representatives. The seat was vacated when former Chief Judge David Bell resigned amid allegations of sexual harassment of court employees.



Monique Morial

Monique Morial

Winner - 1st City Court, Section A

Attorney Monique Morial, ran unopposed for 1st City Court Section A, filling the seat being vacated by 1st City Court Judge Charles Imbornone, who is stepping down after 30 years on the bench. Morial, the daughter of former Mayor Ernest "Dutch" Morial and the sister of former Mayor Marc H. Morial, is an attorney with the firm of Usry, Weeks & Matthews. In her inaugural race, she received the endorsements of political heavyweights Mayor Mitch Landrieu, Sheriff Marlin Gusman, Councilwoman Cynthia Hedge Morrell and City Assessor Erroll Williams among others.



Caroline Fayard

Veronica E. Henry

Runoff - 1st City Court, Section C

In a hard fought battle for Judge, 1st City Court, Section C two female candidates moved to the front of the field and will face each other in a runoff to name the victor on November 2nd. Political veteran Veronica E. Henry grabbed 36% of the vote and opponent Jennifer Eagan netted 31%. A third woman candidate in the contest Angela Imbornone, the daughter of recently retired Judge Charles Imbornone came in third with a respectable 27%.

The seat was vacated after Sonja Spears decided not to seek a third term amid a federal investigation centering on her residency, and whether or not she received a local salary while living part-time in a the Boston, MA area.



Veronica E. Henry

Caroline Fayard

Runoff - Lt. Governor

Democratic New Orleans lawyer and political newcomer, Caroline Fayard and Republican Secretary of State Jay Dardenne will face off again in their Nov. 2 runoff for Lieutenant Governor. Fayard, a former White House intern in the Clinton administration, got 24 % of the vote in her first run for office while the veteran politico Dardenne received 28%. Election officials said statewide turnout was 22.4 percent. If she is successful, Fayard will fill the remaining 14-month term of Mayor Mitch Landrieu, who resigned his post last spring to become Mayor of New Orleans. Ms Fayard has had the support of former President Bill Clinton and other prominent members of the Democratic Party locally as well as nationally.

The National Coalition Launches Its Black Women's Roundtable "Healthy, Wealthy & Wise" National Empowerment Tour

Empowering Black Women, Veterans and Girls in the Gulf Coast

The Black Women's Roundtable (BWR), an initiative of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation launches its 2010 Healthy Wealthy Wise BWR National Empowerment Tour in New Orleans, LA on **October 8 - 12**, Loews New Orleans Hotel, 300 Poydras Street, New Orleans, from **1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

The Black Women's Roundtable Empowerment Tour will hit seven (7) states and the District of Columbia over the next 7 months. The BWR Tour will provide over 10,000 Black and underserved women and girls with tools that help them to live healthier, achieve economic security and sustainability, be empowered through educational and training opportunities, and access affordable technology to compete in a global economy.

"The National Coalition has a long history in the Gulf Coast Region and has been working to support our state-based affiliates in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi impacted by Katrina-Rita with recovery and rebuilding over the past 5 years," states Melanie L. Campbell, President & CEO, NCBCP & National Convener, BWR, "Now, these same communities are in crisis again due to the recent oil spill. To assist communities impacted, it was imperative that we launch our initiative in the Gulf Coast cities of New Orleans, LA, Mobile, AL, and Gulfport/Biloxi, MS."

These roundtable discussions will feature: Melanie L. Campbell, President & CEO, NCBCP & National Convener, BWR, Kellie Williams, Actress & BWR National Spokesperson, NCBCP

Lauren R. Darensborough, MPH, Manager of Strategic Partnerships for Minority and Underserved Populations, President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition



Susan L. Taylor



Dominique Dawes



Senator Mary Landrieu



Melanie L. Campbell

Dr. Beverly Wright, Founder and President, African-American Women of Purpose and Power

Stephanie Jordan, Jazz Vocalist and Certified Jazz Pilates Instruc-

tor, LA Unity Coalition

Lauren R. Darensborough, MPH, Manager of Strategic Partnerships for Minority and Underserved Populations, President's

Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition

Clayola Brown, President, A. Philip Randolph Institute

U. S. Senator Mary Landrieu,

Louisiana (invited)

Mayor Mitch Landrieu, City of New Orleans (invited)

Cynthia Willard-Lewis, Louisiana State Senator-elect (invited)

City's Growth Leads to Another Rate Decrease for Entergy New Orleans Customers

Formula Rate Plan proves to work in favor of customers



Because of the Formula Rate Plan established by New Orleans City Council in 2009 and the city's revival, Entergy New Orleans, Inc. is lowering customer rates for the third time in three years - this time by a minimum of \$14.2 million. Based on the Sept. 10 filing currently under review by the City Council and its advisors, Entergy New Orleans customers will begin to see these reductions in the first billing cycle next month.

Residential electric customers will see an approximate 4 percent decrease in bills, resulting in a monthly reduction of at least \$4.66 for typical usage of 1,000 kWh per month. Gas customers will see a 3 percent (approximately \$1.90) increase for typical usage of 50 CCF per month due solely to help meet the company's costs for sys-

tem maintenance. As a result, residential customers with combined electric and gas services will see a net decrease in bills, translating in a monthly reduction of at least \$2.76.

"Entergy New Orleans is pleased that the City Council and its advisors had the foresight and leadership to set up an annual rate review process that allows us to pass beneficial savings on to our customers in a timely fashion," said Charles L. Rice Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer, Entergy New Orleans, Inc.

"The city's growth has contributed to our company's strong financial recovery since emerging from bankruptcy in 2007. This is great news for customers and the local economy."

Entergy New Orleans believes that the 2010 electric rate reduction, which is based on 2009 financial results, is due primarily to a continued increase in the New Orleans customer base as rebuilding of the city and the return of customers continue. Since its last rate case in July 2008, the company's electric customer count had grown from 141,000 to approximately 150,000 at the end of 2009.

And sales growth for Entergy New Orleans continues in 2010, primarily because of extreme

weather conditions in the Southeast. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, customers have experienced the coldest Louisiana winter as well as the second hottest summer in history. These extreme temperatures result in customers using more power to heat and cool their homes. This continued sales growth will be reviewed again in 2011.

Success of Formula Rate Plan

This electric rate reduction for Entergy New Orleans customers is proof that the Formula Rate Plan process works. Entergy New Orleans and the New Orleans City Council Utility Committee worked together to create a Formula Rate Plan during the 2008/2009 rate case. Compared to a typical rate case, the Formula Rate Plan calls

for a review of the company's financial results for the year by the City Council and its advisors, and then adjusts rates up or down as necessary. Any amount the company earns above its allowed return on equity during a year is returned to customers through lower rates in the following year. This efficient method for adjusting rates passes on savings to customers in a timely fashion.

This rate reduction makes for the third electric rate decrease in three years. Entergy New Orleans voluntarily reduced rates by approximately \$10.6 million in 2008, and then by \$35 million in June 2009 as a result of the base rate case. These reductions have been due primarily to the city's rapid re-population.

From the Editor

Correcting the Language and the Message

By Cheryl Mainor

We received a great deal of mail regarding last week's story on St. Augustine ending the practice of corporal punishment. That being said, I need to make an important correction to the story:

In reference to the article on corporal punishment at St. Augustine, the writer attributed the following statement on paddling being a counteraction to Black culture; ["Black culture which promotes violence, sex and educational aloofness."] to Father John Raphael.

Fr. Raphael's statement was misconstrued in the translation, and he in no way identified the "Black culture" rather, he was speaking of "popular adolescent

culture", which should not and does not target any racially defined group. Our apologies to Fr. Raphael for the misstep and Thank you Father Raphael for bringing it to my attention.

We appreciate the feedback from our readers, and want to encourage you to continue to respond to stories you read in our paper. We will publish as many of those responses as possible. Send your comments and letters to my attention at datanewseditor@bellsouth.net. Again, I will publish and/or address as many as I can, so keep looking in the paper for your comments. Together, we make the difference.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Mainor
Managing Editor

THE NATIONAL Coalition on Black Civic Participation

WOMEN'S BLACK ROUNDTABLE

Presents

The 2010 Healthy Wealthy Wise National Empowerment Tour Kick-Off

Helping Black Women, Veterans and Girls Live their Best Lives!

Featuring:

Susan L. Taylor Kellie S. Williams Dominique Dowes

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For more information contact NCBCP BWR at bwrunity@ncbcp.org or (504) 322-2602. Local Co-Hosts: Deep South Center for Environmental Justice @ Dillard University & Louisiana Unity Coalition

www.ncbcp.org



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Data News Weekly

7th Ward Shorty

The Real McCoy



Dionne Character, Author
Entertainment Editor & Columnist



He is too hot, too cold, too smooth to stick, a prince who escaped prison and now his destiny is to change the world through song. He raps his life, knows from whence he has come, for he once was the man on the block, who got just what he was looking for.

If you ever get a chance to sit and talk with 7th Ward Shorty, you'd find that his spirit is wise, he appreciates how far his love for music has taken him as his passion is to give back to his own community in helping the homeless and being an example after living life on the fast

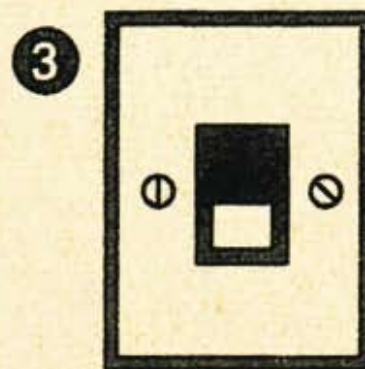
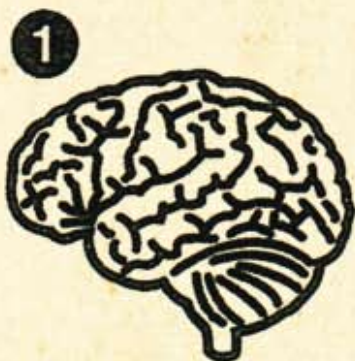
track. With hits like, On My Way Home, Mr. Man, Prosperity, The Real McCoy, I Feel It and my favorite, Where I Want To Be, you can't help but to listen and learn from a 24 year old, who invites you into his world of passages, poems and raps to some of the hottest beats produced by PLU Entertainment and Judah Clan Productions.

A lyrical genius, he has released 15 albums from the age of 13-20. His new release "Blue City" is a trip down memory lane as he wrote the entire CD while incarcerated. He recorded his first CD at the age of 13, which was a gospel project landing him on tracks with sensational gospel artists such as Trinity 5-7, Gods Anointed Soldiers, and more. Fast forward

to 2010, you can find him at The House of Blues, The Howling Wolf, and La Roux, just to name a few spots in New Orleans, on stage with some of the hottest hip-hop artists.

7th Ward Shorty has finally "Got It", he is where he wants to be, lyrically, passing the life he once lived to those of you who want to hear The Real McCoy.

TO TURN OFF LIGHTS WHEN YOU LEAVE A ROOM YOU WILL NEED:



WHAT'S
YOUR
EXCUSE?



I was born in New Orleans. My family still lives here. We have to restore the Gulf communities for the shrimpers, fishermen, hotel and restaurant owners who live and work here.

- Iris Cross, BP Community Outreach

Making This Right

Beaches

Claims

Cleanup

Economic Investment
Environmental
Restoration

Health and Safety

Wildlife

No oil has flowed into the Gulf for weeks. But we know this is just the beginning of our work. BP has taken full responsibility for the cleanup in the Gulf and that includes keeping you informed.

Restoring Gulf Communities

We can't undo this tragedy. But we can help people get back on their feet. We have been working with impacted communities since day one.

Partnering with local governments and community organizations, my job is to listen to people's needs and frustrations and find ways to help. We have 19 community centers and teams in four states, listening and helping.

Restoring The Economy

BP is here in Gulf communities with shrimpers, fishermen, hotel and restaurant owners, helping to make them whole.

More than 120,000 claim payments totaling over \$375 million have already gone to people affected by the spill. We have committed a \$20 billion independent fund to pay all legitimate claims, including lost incomes until people impacted can go back to work. And none of this will be paid by taxpayers.

BP has also given grants of \$87 million to the states to help tourism recover and bring people back to the Gulf beaches.

Restoring The Environment

We're going to keep looking for oil and cleaning it up if we find it. Teams will remain in place for as long as it takes to restore the Gulf Coast.

And we've dedicated \$500 million to work with local and national scientific experts on the impact of the spill and to restore environmental damage.

Thousands of BP employees have their roots in the Gulf. We support over 10,000 jobs in the region and people here are our neighbors. We know we haven't always been perfect, but we will be here until the oil is gone and the people and businesses are back to normal. We will do everything we can to make this right.

For general information visit: bp.com

For help or information: (866) 448-5816

restorethegulf.gov

Facebook: BP America

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YouTube: BP

For claims information visit: bp.com/claims

louisianagulfresponse.com

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Sheriff Joe Arpaio - A Modern Day Bull Connor



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

To Be Equal#39

"I don't believe you would have so warmly commended the police force if you had seen its angry, violent dogs literally biting six unarmed, non-violent Negroes...if you would observe their ugly and inhuman treatment of Negroes here in the city jail." Martin Luther King, Jr.

In April of 1963, while confined to jail in Birmingham, Alabama for leading peaceful civil rights demonstrations in what was then "the most segregated city in America," Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote an open letter challenging a group of local ministers and the nation to speak out against the brutal, segregationist tactics of the infamous Birmingham police commissioner, Bull Connor. Forty-seven years later, in Maricopa County, Arizona, the nation is confronted with another police official who seems bent on defying the Constitutional rights of non-white, law-abiding citizens.

For more than a decade, Maricopa County Sheriff, Joe Arpaio has been the subject of numerous investigations and lawsuits for inhumane treatment of prisoners and over-zealous enforcement of immigration laws which many claim amount to out-right racial profiling.

Since March, 2009, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has been investigating Sheriff Arpaio for violations of the Civil

Rights Act which forbids discrimination in programs receiving federal funds. DOJ has requested documents and interviews to ascertain whether the aggressive search and seizure tactics of Arpaio's office during its pursuit of illegal immigrants, violated the civil rights of law-abiding Latino citizens. For 18 months, Arpaio has refused to cooperate with the probe and on September 2nd of this year, the DOJ filed suit against Arpaio. Maricopa County stands to lose \$113 million in federal funds if Arpaio does not produce proof that he is not engaging in racial profiling.

Arpaio's obstinate refusal to cooperate with a DOJ investigation is virtually unprecedented. According to the Justice Department, Arpaio is the first local law enforcement official in 30 years to refuse to provide documents in a federal civil rights inquiry. Arpaio's actions follow a long-standing pattern of abuse of power and anti-immigration behavior. In 2008, a federal judge ruled that Maricopa County jails failed to

meet constitutional standards. Moreover, Sheriff Arpaio has publicly admitted that for years he has been employing many of the tactics contained in Arizona's controversial new immigration law, which the Justice Department has said illegally conflicts with federal statutes and undermines the nation's foreign policy.

Sheriff Joe Arpaio is becoming a symbol of rising anti-immigration fever throughout the nation. He is a throwback to the days when powerful and arrogant police officials openly blocked racial progress and defied federal law. Arizona ACLU Legal Director Dan Pochoda has said, "Sheriff Arpaio does not have the right to profile people because they look Latino regardless of their immigration status. His job is to uphold the law, not violate people's rights." We agree. Joe Arpaio calls himself the "toughest sheriff in America." But his abusive law enforcement and anti-immigration tactics make him look more like a modern day Bull Connor.

Reader Responds to St. Aug Ends Paddling Story (10-2-10)

Dr. Larry Napoleon, Jr.

Dear Editor:

What outsiders need to understand is that, at St. Aug, discipline and manly accountability are as much a part of the curriculum as are the academics. St. Aug is about more than just academic preparation. Academic preparation is a huge part (ultimately the main part) of the school's mission but building strength of character is an integral part of that process. In my opinion, discipline, strength of character, and a spirit of perseverance are what ultimately carry a man through in life. Cultivating that persona is a large part of what makes St. Aug different and sets it apart from other institutions.

I am not saying that the using board, alone, is the way to accomplish this. I am saying, however, that the board, as a part of a larger system of no-nonsense accountability and discipline, has been valuable to many young men who have walked those halls on A.P. Tureaud Avenue. Those people who consider the board to be some form of random and arbitrary violence that is indiscriminately doled out to unsuspecting kids are wrong. When I "got the board" -- and I definitely got my fair share -- it was never random or arbitrary. It was

never indiscriminately doled out. And I most certainly was never some innocent kid who was wrongly paddled. I was in violation of some rule. I was verbally reprimanded and then I faced the music. In the end, I straightened up, got back to work, and tried to avoid the same fate later. It's no coincidence that you are paddled less as the years go by. It's because we learn what is expected and what is not tolerated and, generally, we shape up.

As a father of two young boys, I understand the concern of parents who want to be assured that their children are not being mistreated or abused. I never felt like that was the case while I was at St. Aug. I understood what was going on and why I was being paddled if that was the situation. I was being molded, as a young man, to be serious about what I was expected to be focused on, and being taught the very real nature of action and re-action... decision and consequence. I am a better man for it...not perfect, but better. Additionally, this is but one small part of the St. Augustine experience. Overly focusing on paddling is a misrepresentation of what St. Aug is about.

As with any other membership, or attendance at any other institution, enrollment at

St. Aug may not be for everyone. I get that. It's a tough road to travel...but more often than not, arrival at the ultimate destination validates the decision of those who stick it out. If given the chance to do everything over, I, for one, would be sitting right there

on A.P. Tureaud Avenue all over again. And if I still lived in New Orleans, chances are that my sons would be as well.

Sincerely,

Dr. Larry Napoleon, Jr.

Purple Knight, Class of 1994



Informed Consent – Blacks Must Ask Strong Questions

By Elaine Hegwood Bowen
NNPA Special Correspondent

PART IV: "Clinical Trials: A Legacy of Shame and Fear Addressed in 2010"

(NNPA) - In 1966, a Massachusetts researcher Henry K. Beecher, M.D., published an essay discussing proposed federal rules concerning human experimentation. In this essay, he wrote that even though at times ethical breaches were evident, he doubted that "consent in any fully informed sense" was obtainable. He argued that "the presence of an intelligent, informed, conscientious, compassionate, and responsible investigator offered the best protection for human research subjects." But this could hardly be accurate, given that a researcher wouldn't entirely act on behalf of the trial participant.

At the recent 2010 Bioethics, Health Disparities and Clinical Trials Fellowship held at the University of Maryland School of Medicine's National Bioethics Research Center and hosted by renowned researcher Claudia Baquet, M.D., (Meharry Medical College) a wealth of information around research trials and informed consent was shared with journalists representing the National Newspaper Publishers Association. The journalists also discussed reasons that Blacks are reluctant to participate in research trials, as well as reviewed the origins of safeguards that protect all trial participants.

Informed consent is the process of learning about a research study. It is necessary to protect the safety, rights and welfare of



Dr. Claudia Baquet

participants; to ensure that participation in research is always voluntary; and provide information about the research study so a person can decide whether or not to participate.

It usually starts as a discussion between the potential participant and the study team, and it's a continuous exchange of information – including strong questions - while a participant is involved in the study. It is essential for the protection of human subjects in research, and it is always voluntary. The Principal Investigator of the research project is ultimately responsible for obtaining informed consent from participants.

The participant has to understand the language, and the terms of the research have to be simple, as opposed to scientific or medical. The eight essential elements of informed consent are: research

purpose and procedures; risks and discomforts; potential benefits; provisions for confidentiality; voluntary participation and right to withdraw without penalty; alternative procedures or treatment; management of research-related injury; and contacts for additional information.

Other additional elements could include the prospect of unforeseeable risks; circumstances under which participation may be ended by the investigator; additional costs to the

subject, if any; consequences of a decision to withdraw; significant new findings to be provided; and number of subjects participating.

It must be noted that the well-being of the participant should be at the heart of any research; as opposed to any gains or so-called "bragging rights" or notoriety for the Principal Investigator.

However, research isn't always a process of taking blood samples or poking around a participant's body. It could be a simple written survey or the tracking of a participant doing a particular task over time, i.e., exercise.

Chicagoan Audrey Clay, a 55-year-old financial analyst, has been involved in a research study that tracks women who are going through menopause. The study's duration is between 10-15 years, and Clay says she was glad to sign up. "I have been in

the program for 12 years now, and I have learned so much about menopause, weight gain, mood swings and other change-of-life issues." While Clay is familiar with the Tuskegee Study, she says her project was different, in that no shots or medicines were given. "The clinicians measure our fat ratio and BMI, as well as monitor blood pressure, but they are mostly tracking data."

As for the question of informed consent, Clay says she fully understood the perimeters of the study when she signed up and that she also understands that she can end her participation at any time. This is in part because well-documented bioethics violations – such as the Tuskegee Study, the injustices against Henrietta Lacks, and the atrocity of the Willowbrook State School in Staten Island, N.Y., where mentally ill children

were given "milkshakes" with hepatitis - have prompted various protections for participants.

In 1974, the U.S. National Research Act was passed by Congress. It created the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research, which identified basic ethical principles to govern research. This act also established the modern Institutional Review Board System (IRB), which is a group or committee that is given the responsibility to review research projects involving human subjects. The board is comprised of both scientific and non-scientific members. And no human subject may be involved in any project until the project has been reviewed and fully approved by the Institutional Review Board



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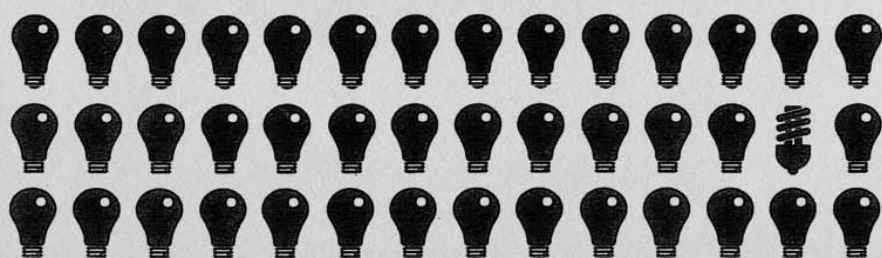
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WHAT'S
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DOTD celebrates completion of St. Charles Avenue roadway repairs

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Wednesday to celebrate the completion of roadway repairs on historic St. Charles Avenue from Nashville to South Carrollton Avenue. The ceremony was held at Temple Sinai Reform Congregation where DOTD Secretary Sherri H. LeBas was joined by federal, state and local officials. The repairs to St. Charles Avenue are part of the South Louisiana Submerged Roads Program.

"St. Charles Avenue is vital to the city as a major transportation and tourism route, and I am excited to be here today to celebrate the completion of such an important project and recovery effort for the City of New Orleans. The Submerged Roads Program requires the coordination of numerous agencies to repair and improve our infrastructure. I would

like to thank DOTD's federal and local partners for supporting this initiative and working together to repair South Louisiana's hurricane-damaged streets," said Secretary LeBas.

The \$2.6 million repair project, which began in July 2009, included patching, resurfacing and the construction of wheelchair-accessible (ADA) ramps at intersections along the route. In addition, the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board and the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission coordinated with the Submerged Roads Program to include sewer and waterline work and curb repairs during construction to minimize impacts to the public.

"I'm happy to be here today celebrating the end of construction on this vital and historic thoroughfare in our city," said Mayor Mitch Landrieu. "These improvements add so much to the quality

of life for residents, elementary, high school and college students, area business owners and visitors alike. I applaud this collaboration across Federal, State and local agencies as we recognize the importance of safe and appealing streets throughout New Orleans."

The South Louisiana Submerged Roads Program is repairing and resurfacing more than 55 streets damaged as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in Orleans, Jefferson and St. Bernard parishes. The

program is 100-percent funded by the Federal Highway Administration's Emergency Relief Program at an investment of \$100 million.

For more information regarding the South Louisiana Submerged Roads Program, call the public information line at 1-800-574-7193.

New Independent Poll - Richmond Leading Cao By 11 Points

In a recent poll by Public Policy Polling, State Representative Cedric Richmond is leading Joseph Cao by 11 points:

Cedric Richmond (D): 49%

Joseph Cao (R, Inc.): 38%

Undecided: 13%

Tom Jensen, Director of Public Policy Polling, says the poll shows it would take a political earthquake for Cao to win. Not only does Cao trail Richmond by double digits, far more undecided voters are Democrats (61%) than Republicans (12%). Cao has to erase a gap with those who have

already decided, but needs to win undecided voters – most of whom are Democrats.

Public Policy Polling is best known for putting out highly accurate polling on key political races across the country.

The poll was conducted before President Obama's commercial touting Cedric's commitment to New Orleans and the community, along with stellar legislative experience.

Toviewthepoll:<http://www.dailymkos.com/polling/2010/10/2/LA-2/9/veCYR>

Mayor Landrieu, Chief Serpas Unveil Nopd's Cops, Clergy & Community Coalition

Tuesday, Mayor Landrieu and NOPD Superintendent Ronal Serpas were joined by over 100 faith-based and neighborhood leaders to launch the New Orleans Police Department's Cops, Clergy and Community Coalition (CCCC).

"This faith-based community coalition will serve as a uniting force and catalyst to rebuild faith, restore citizen trust and enhance quality of life services in the NOPD," said Mayor Landrieu. "We need all hands on deck to address the unacceptable and unnatural cycle of death and violence on the streets of New Orleans. This coalition will help us organize in that direction."

This new police department initiative aims to foster a cohesive partnership within the community and will be led by NOPD Community Coordinator Captain J.P. Bryson and NOPD Faith-based Coordinator J.C. Dyson.

"Community policing is a vital strategy in our goal to significantly reduce violent crime," said NOPD Superintendent Ronal Serpas. "We have all seen the power of community support and participation in the criminal justice system. This coalition will serve as an integral resource clearinghouse

for community policing, crime prevention, problem-solving and collaboration strategies."

The objective of the CCCC is to create lasting partnerships between district police officers and faith-based institutions, churches, pastors, neighborhood and community organizations, and the business community. These partnerships will help develop the relationships key in maintaining true community policing and will be integral in restoring community trust.

CCCC members hope to establish their places of worship as safe havens to report crime in partnership with Crimestoppers. These faith-based institutions will also invite police officers to meet church members and will encourage citizens to attend NOPD's district-based COMSTAT accountability meetings.

Neighborhood and community leaders will also build on existing relationships to improve events such as the annual Night Out Against Crime, Cops for Kids summer camp, and various Neighborhood Watch programs.

Mayor Landrieu has made reducing crime his top priority since taking office in May. On his

second day in office, Mayor Landrieu invited the US Department of Justice to partner with him in reforming the NOPD's patterns and practices. Shortly thereafter, following a national search, Landrieu hired Ronal Serpas to lead the NOPD as Superintendent. The Justice Department is now on the ground in New Orleans, bringing important new resources to the NOPD. Chief Serpas has reorganized the NOPD's top-heavy structure, installed civilian experts to vital leadership positions, launched Project Safe Neighborhoods with other criminal justice agencies to combat illegal guns, opened COMSTAT accountability meetings to the public, and released a detailed plan for restoring public trust in the NOPD. Mayor Landrieu and Chief Serpas also regularly walk the city's neighborhoods with NOPD officers.

The launch of the CCCC comes days after the NOPD apprehended two suspects in the murder of 2-year-old Jeremy Galmon following an outpouring of community support and tips.

"We know that we can only do this with community support," closed Mayor Landrieu.

Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office Receives Program of the Year Award from National Commission on Correctional Health Care

The Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office (OPSO) is proud to announce its receipt of the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCCHC) Program of the Year award for its Disaster Planning Program.

The NCCCHC, upon the recommendation of its Accreditation Committee, has selected the OPSO to receive this year's award. This prestigious award is presented each year to only one facility selected from among the 500 prisons, jails and juvenile detention and confinement facilities that participate in NCCCHC's nationwide accreditation program.

The accreditation surveyors and committee were impressed with how the OPSO staff consistently demonstrated excellence in health service delivery and correctional health care professionalism, and noted the improved outcomes as a result of this program. The Sheriff's Office's Disaster Planning program was singled out for praise. Lessons learned from

Hurricane Katrina resulted in creation of an excellent large-scale disaster plan, as demonstrated by the efficient evacuation of the jail's population during Hurricane Gustav in 2008.

The award will be presented at a ceremony on Oct. 11, in Las Vegas, Nev., as part of the National Conference on Correctional Health Care. Some 2,000 people from across the country will be in attendance.

"Accreditation by the NCCCHC is difficult to achieve. The Sheriff's Office is one of only three correctional facilities in Louisiana to obtain this certification of excellence and the only one to receive this particular award this year," said Orleans Parish Sheriff Marlin Gusman. "Our Medical Division was an instrumental part of this process, and this achievement demonstrates the hard work and dedication each of them puts forth every day to provide medical care for more than 3,400 inmates."



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Jobs Remain No. 1 Priority for One Nation Marchers

By James Wright

Photos by Victor Holt

Special to the NNPA from the Washington Informer

Hundreds of thousands of people from across the country converged upon Washington, D.C., to participate in a rally to let the U.S. Congress and the White House know that job creation and fixing the ailing economy should be the number one priority.

The One Nation Working Together rally at the Lincoln Memorial was designed to counter the Tea Party movement's rally in Washington in August and to caution Americans that a Republican-controlled Congress would turn back the hands of time. Members from various progressive organizations and unions traveled by bus, train, airplane, and on foot to let national leaders in Washington know that political squabbling will do little to heal people's economic pain in the aftermath of one of the longest recessions since World War II.

"I came here to support the cause of the march," Derrick Griffin, 43, said. "Our leaders here in D.C. should be about saving jobs and trying to put forth the change we voted for in 2008," the Fort Washington, Md., resident said.

Event organizers estimated that 175,000 people gathered on a slightly breezy, but clear day to show a united front. They came from all walks of life and economic circumstances. Participants included the employed and unemployed, union workers and environmentalists, civil rights leaders and civic leaders, war veterans and peace activists, student leaders and those from the gay, lesbian, transgender community.

Speakers at the event included the Rev. Jesse Jackson of the Rainbow/Push Coalition, National Urban League President Marc Morial, NAACP President Benjamin Jealous, Rev. Al Sharpton of the National Action Network – all of whom stressed the need for jobs and emphasized the urgency of the situation.

The crowd congregated on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and fanned out onto the grounds of the Washington Monument. There were throngs of people on both sides of the Reflecting Pool as well as those who hunkered down around the World War II Memorial.

Political and civil rights orga-



Rev. Al Sharpton was among the many speakers during the event.

nizations set up tables that displayed their wares and various organizations passed out literature. Throughout the four-hour event, organizations joined in by marching around the grounds for their respective causes while others listened to the speakers.

Most of the marchers donned colored Tee-shirts that announced their cause or organization and sat together throughout the event. For example, members of the Communications Workers of America donned red Tee-shirts with white printed messages on both the front and back of their shirts. The group congregated on the south side of the Reflecting Pool.

The marchers may have been from different parts of the country, but the common thread among all who attended focused on their financial pain and the lack of jobs. Jeffrey Dunkin, 53, traveled from New York City to attend the march and to show support for fellow New Yorkers who are suffering in his home town. "I want to help people that have lost their jobs," said Dunkin, who lives in Brooklyn. "Things do not look good in New York City and I know a lot of unemployed people. I hope this march will help secure more jobs for the unemployed because things are not looking good."

Deborah Maxwell, President of the New Hanover County, N.C. NAACP, said she and about 20 others from her branch, primarily residents of Wilmington, traveled to Washington to call for more action from the federal government.

"It is important that we fight for

jobs, justice, and education and that is why we decided to come from Wilmington to [Washington, D.C.]," said Maxwell, 54, and a resident of Wilmington. "Some of us have come at a sacrifice because [we] are still dealing with issues regarding the recent floods. Still, others are in distress because of job loss," said Maxwell, adding two of her members recently lost their jobs working for the local government and their job prospects are grim despite Wilmington's strong tourism economy.

Maxwell isn't alone. Individuals from other states also feel the sting of the recession.

Harrisburg's situation mirrors that of the District of Columbia in terms of firing teachers and school personnel. Harrisburg is the capital of the Keystone State and its 47,472 population is 54 percent Black. The Harrisburg School District consists of 8,401 students and approximately 1,200 faculty and staff.

Trea Buck, a high school Science Teacher in Harrisburg, said that 57 teachers have been laid off since the 2010-2011 school year started. "I am here for my fallen brethren. Our school system has had to undergo a lot of cuts," said Buck, 39, and a resident of Harrisburg. "Teachers who were emergency certified were cut and many of us will have to be furloughed at some point. Plus, our school system administration was cut in half," he said.

Buck joined a large group of National Education Association members at the Reflecting Pool during the rally. Buck said that she traveled to Washington to

advocate not only for her fellow colleagues, but for the next generation. "What are we going to do for the children," she said, "How are these cuts going to support our future?"

A weak economy and a struggling school system have plagued Detroit for years. Members of the Metro Detroit Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta traveled to the District to voice their opinions during the rally.

"We came to show our support for President Obama and to stand up for jobs, justice, and education," Mardi Woods, President of the Chapter, said. "We also have a get out the vote effort to make sure our voices are heard on Nov. 2."

Woods, 42, and a resident of Farmington Hills, Mich., outside of Detroit, said that the Motor City has been hit hard by a high rate of home foreclosures and job layoffs. She said that the layoffs, particularly in the school system, have adversely affected her members. "Many of our members are educators and Deltas are at the table when these things happen," she said.

The Detroit Public School System laid-off nearly 1,000 school personnel last August due to budgetary problems. However, the action was stopped when money was located due to retirements. The school system has 84,000 non-charter school students and about 15,000 administrators, faculty and staff. The entire school system has a total of 138,000 students enrolled in both public and charter schools.

Robert Bobb, who served as the City Administrator of Washington, D.C. from 2002-2006 and was an unsuccessful candidate for the presidency of the D.C. Board of Education, is the current Emergency Financial Director for Detroit Public Schools. Bobb was appointed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm, D-MI, in 2009 to manage the school system's muddled finances. The massive layoffs were proposed by Bobb last spring because of declining enrollment and the costs of running the system.

Woods said she supports Bobb "because he is trying to do the right thing for the children of Detroit."

A number of youth groups also attended the rally. They contend that young people care about what is going on in the country.

Leilani Irvin, a senior political science major at Benedict College in Columbia, S.C., said that young people have been particularly hurt by the struggling economy. "I know of many of my former school mates, who graduated in May, are still looking for jobs," Irvin, 21, said. "This is a crisis with youth. I read where 27 percent of college graduates cannot find a job and I don't think my employment prospects for the spring will be better."

There is a belief that the retired are not affected by the economic downturn, but Kenneth Davis, a retired autoworker from Detroit disagrees. "I came to this march because too many people are suffering," Davis, 54, said. "As a member of the United Auto Workers Union, those of us who receive retirement benefits had to give up our dental [coverage]. That is not right that we are giving up concessions to the auto companies while their profits are going up."

Davis said that he received an e-mail recently that said Chrysler's profits were up 65 percent from last year. He said that he knows of fellow retirees who are experiencing economic difficulties, such as foreclosures. At one time, they could get help from the union "but that is not possible now because everyone needs help," Davis said.

Many of the participants could not get close enough to the front of the Lincoln Memorial or even close enough to the four Jumbotrons to hear the speakers. Martina Beauford of Baltimore, Md., saw the crowds huddled near the front of the Lincoln Memorial from her bench close by the Washington Monument and decided to stay put. While she could not hear what was going on, she felt the vibe that was coming from the event. "I am here to make a statement on everything that is going on with people's pay, health benefits and lack of job security," Beauford, 42, said. "This is my first march and I like it because it is exciting and different."

Beauford, a Maryland Department of Corrections employee said she felt a connection with everyone at the rally. "We are all hurting," she said. "This is why it is important for all of us to come together because everyone in all 50 states is hurting."

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