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NOLA's Inauguration Jazz Funeral

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Voices from #J20NOLA

New Orleans Protests Against Donald Trump



Many protestors associated Donald Trump with White Supremacy, Fascism, and Sexism.

Eric M Craig
Multimedia Editor

On Friday, January 20th two things happened for New Orleans. Around 11 a.m. Central Time, Donald Trump was inaugurated as the nation's 45th President. Around 3 p.m. that day, hundreds of New Orleanians

gathered at Duncan Plaza to voice concerns about the new president.

The #J20NOLA event was a counter-inauguration against the Trump Administration, according to organizers. #J20 protest took place all round the nation, with the hope of uniting the masses to create a strong and reputable resistance against President

Trump. The New Orleans #J20 event was sponsored by the New Orleans Workers Group and Take 'Em Down NOLA.

At the counter-inauguration, individuals raised awareness of affordable housing, minimum wage rates, worker's rights, and counter-productive poli-

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The #J20NOLA Protest was held on January 20, 2017, shortly after Donald Trump was inaugurated.



Hundreds of New Orleans residents gathered at Duncan Plaza to demonstrate their discontent of the Trump Administration.



After the demonstration at Duncan Plaza, many protestors marched in the street, voicing concerns against President Trump.



#J20NOLA featured several organizational speakers, including the current President of the NAACP New Orleans Branch.



Tracey Riley remains a concerned veteran and a concerned citizen under the Trump Administration.

cies planned by the Trump Administration.

One concerned New Orleans resident was weary of Trump's Administration but was invigorated by the protest.

"I'm standing in solidarity with so many other overlooked citizens of the country to send a loud message, saying 'yes you are our president, however we are organizing and coming together on very common binds despite the tenants that separate us,' said Tracey Riley, a 24-year veteran in the U.S. Army.

"This message is to you: You're in office, yes, but we are also organizing we are here to lawfully resist and exercise our right to make sure that the government works for us, too," she said.

Other organizers from New Orleans spoke to the demonstrators

to encourage them to resist the Trump Administration and voice concerns that affected all people.

"Is this a dream? It feels like a dream. It feels like it's not real.... This is the time we have been waiting for. We have been waiting for the moment where the forces are all the way against us, where we are left with no other choice but to harness the strength of our ancestors, and the knowledge from our worth," said Shana Johnson, on behalf of the BreakOut! which is an organization that fights against the criminalization of LGBTQ Youth in New Orleans.

Johnson said that now is the time to fight for the freedom of all people because not even Trump knows the consequences the nation will endure with him being in office.

Other demonstrators were more direct with their objectives during the protest.

"Let's be honest, who put Trump in the office? White people," on demonstrator said, as the crowd wholeheartedly agreed.

"We, of all people put Trump in, we have to take him out. White people here have to learn from the leadership of our African-American brothers and sisters...Together we will shut Trump down," he added.

Many protestors were concerned with their way of life as Trump officially took the position as the President of the United States. LaToya Henson believed Trump was out to destroy African-Americans.

"He's trying to drop the Medicaid and Affordable Housing

Programs. He's not trying to help the poor at all. People have been out on the streets for months, and since he's got into office, he's not going to go anywhere," Henson said.

"All the stuff he said on TV really has me thinking. He said that he's not going to help us and take away crucial programs. Since Obama left, it won't do us any better, it's going to do us worse," she added.

Henson was one of the many who is concerned about the Affordable Healthcare Act.

"He's talking about cutting programs. It's hard out here for poor people. I know so many people who are diabetics and are concerned about what will happen with their medical bills if the Affordable Care Act is taken away,"

Henson said.

Sonia Williams, another protestor at the #J20NOLA Demonstration, said the protest is the start for necessary changes that need to happen in the United States.

"I feel powerless, but with this protest, I feel like I have a start to effectively build myself up," Williams said.

"I have been working now to organize groups to talk to our representatives to let them know that we aren't happy with the way things are going. But there are so many different options of people. I beg anyone to call, your local newspapers, or join an organization that aligns with your interest to let people know you're not okay with how things are. It's important.

FQFI Announces Schedule, Performers, Changes for 2017 French Quarter Festival

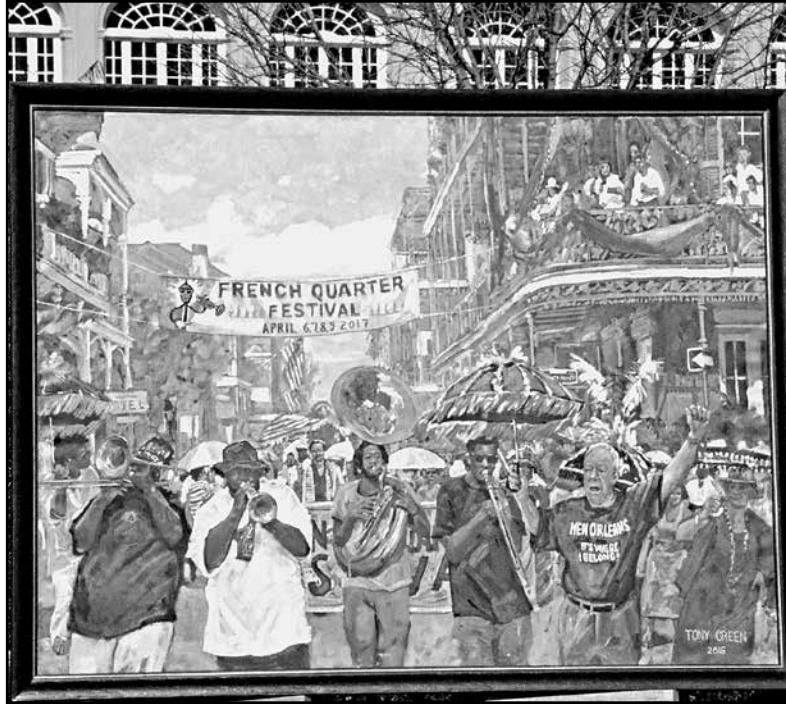
Eric M Craig
Multimedia Editor

French Quarter Festival 2017 is just around the corner!

On Tuesday, January 24, 2017, the 34th annual French Quarter Festival, presented by Chevron, held a press conference announcing the 2017 performers, venues and sponsors.

This year's festival will take place between April 6 to April 9 throughout the French Quarter. Additionally, Data News Weekly will be a sponsor of the 2017 French Quarter Festival.

The French Quarter Festival presented by Chevron is an annual festival organized by the French Quarter Festivals, inc, which is the same organization that produces Satchmo Summer-Fest and Christmas New Orleans



Artists Tony Green created the 2017 French Quarter Festival Poster.



The FQFI held its first press conference announcing performers, venues and changes to this year's French Quarter Festival.



The FQFI donated \$10,000 to the Roots of Music initiative, which is an initiative that supplies free music education, academic tutoring and mentorship to youth ages 9-14.



Data News Weekly will be an official sponsor of the 2017 French Quarter Festival.



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Style. The goal of the festival is to promote the City of New Orleans through special events and activities that highlight the city's culture and heritage. Many artist, and restaurant owners can also gain national exposure through the festival.

The annual festival showcases over 1,700 artist and over 60 New Orleans Restaurants. The French Quarter Festival is free and open to the public.

As the countdown to French Quarter Festival 2017 begins, the FQFI released some new details about the April event. To start, artist Tony Green created the French Quarter Festival's 2017 poster. Green's poster depicts a New Orleans Second line down a classic New Orleans street.

Other information highlights include Jack Daniel's stage being moved from Bourbon Street

to Tax Brewery, the festival will showcase more than 20 new and rising artists, and the Opening Night Gala returning to Antoine's.

Other special events include the French Quarter Festival Second-Line Kickoff Parade, which starts on April 6, at 10 a.m., and will take place on the 100 block of Bourbon Street and end at Jackson Square. Moreover, a panel on the Conversations about Louisiana Music, which will take place at the Louisiana State Museum's Old U.S. Mint on the 3rd floor, in the Auditorium, on April 8 and 9. Additionally, Dance Lessons, Battle of the Bands, Dancing at Disk, Pirates Alley Juried Art Show will run for the 2017 French Quarter Festival.

For a full list of performances and venues participating in the 2017 French Quarter festival, visit www.FQFI.org.

Women's March in New Orleans Attracts Thousands, Aims to Keep Trump Presidency Accountable

Deja Dennis
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Women, men, and children of all backgrounds gathered at Washington Square Park on Elysian Fields Avenue to protest President Donald J. Trump one day after his inauguration.

"Speak up, stand up, show up," State Rep. Helena Moreno told the crowd of approximately 3,000 people at the beginning of the New Orleans Women's March on Saturday, Jan. 21st around 1 p.m.

Local groups like Women's March New Orleans, Our Revolution, Millennials March, and the National Organization for Women (NOW) in Baton Rouge coordinated the New Orleans March which was geared to mirror women-led marches taking place across the country. Speakers at the start of the march included Angela Adkins the President of NOW, Lawrence Dunn of Our Revolution, State Rep. Helena Moreno, Matt Shoenberger of Millennials March, and Meredith Walker the Co-Founder of Amy Poehler's Smart Girls, among others. The march started on Elysian Fields Avenue, proceeded down Decatur Street, Canal Street, Magazine Street, and continued to Perdido Street ending at Duncan Plaza. There, the crowd heard from Councilwoman LaToya Cantrell and State Sen. Karen Carter Peterson.

Organizers of the event were especially excited about the turnout. Lawrence Dunn of Our Revolution said his organization held rallies in the park before. "We've arranged 3 rallies for Bernie Sanders and filled up about a quarter of the park, but today, this park is full and overflowing," said Dunn, referring to the large crowd.

This is just what Michelle Hanks, a member of Our Revolution, said the organizers wanted to accomplish. "Numbers," she said. "We need numbers." Hanks also said she believes that the way to bring about political and social change is through the law.

The organizers and speakers of the march also hoped to reach out to young people. "Many young people think government won't listen, but only by speaking up and showing up can things be changed," Moreno



Over 3,000 women marched from Elysian Fields to Duncan Plaza on Saturday January 21st.



Women marched to hold President Trump accountable for women's right.

said of the importance of organizing. She urged marchers to get involved with local government. She told the crowd during her speech

that she was "sick and tired of Louisiana ranking as one of the worst states for women." She encouraged citizens to contact their local con-

gressmen and women and let their voices be heard. In response, the crowd repeated her chant: 'Speak up, stand up, show up.'

Several marchers said they were eager to show their opposition to President Trump and their support for minority groups who may be fearful of a Trump administration.

"I was very unhappy with the election," said Gina Minor Allen, 52. "I believe it set Civil Rights back years. My parents and grandparents suffered, and we can't go back."

She did believe however, that the march would send a message to Trump and local government. "There's power in numbers," she said.

Other marchers agreed. Matt Reese, 28, who also participated in the women's march said that he had gathered to stress the importance

of being able to publicly disagree with government. He was hoping to reach out to those who didn't vote for Trump.

"We're looking to send a message of hope; that we're all in this together." He said that as a man, he had no excuse not to fight for women's rights. "Half the country is women," he said. "They all deserve a seat at the table."

Passersby and local residents stopped what they were doing to witness the crowd of diverse protesters. The organizers hoped to build solidarity in the community, pledging that this march was the beginning of more demonstrations to come in the next four years.

"Though times may be uncertain, dark, and gloomy," said speaker Matt Shoenberger, "through love, peace, and understanding we can hope to reach our goals."

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Delaney's Armoire

Let the Good Styles Roll

Trends of the Mardi Gras Season



Delaney George
Columnist

As January closes, New Orleanians prepare to gear up for their most beloved season: Mardi Gras. Parades, balls, and casual gatherings will all be opportunities to showcase a New Orleans sense of style and culture through fashion.

Here are some of the most eye catching trends you can expect to see this Mardi Gras season and where they'll be worn most.

Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend:

Diamond chokers, headpieces, and even bejeweled gowns will blaze the floors of almost every

Style/Continued on page 10.



The Curly Corner

3 Reasons Why You Should Deep Condition Your Hair Every Week



Destiny Johnson
Natural Hair Columnist

Starting my natural hair journey has helped me to take much better care of my hair from the inside out. Prior to going natural, I thought deep conditioning was only necessary about twice a year or whenever my hair felt dry. Deep Conditioning has now become one of the key components of my hair regimen. I now use a deep conditioner weekly and my hair has thanked me. Deep Conditioning takes time and effort but it is necessary to maintaining the health of your curls. Spending that extra couple of hours to prepare a deep conditioning session for your hair is worth it and here are three reasons why.



1. Deep conditioning helps to create a barrier between your strands and potential damage. Although damage is inevitable with daily wear and tear, you can avoid huge problems with breakage and split ends with a weekly deep conditioning session. Immerse your hair in your choice of a deep conditioner plus essential hair oil such as coconut or jojoba to coat the hair and protect it from the elements.

2. Deep conditioning promotes softer hair while giving you an all-week sheen that seals the deal. Hair that isn't given a deep conditioning treatment at least twice a month, may

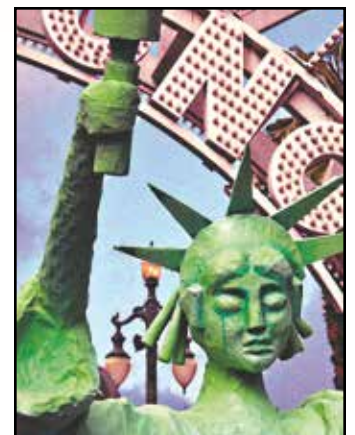
Style, Continued on page 10.

Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from Fashion & Style.

The Next Right Thing Jazz Funeral

Kichea S. Burt
Photographer

On Friday, January 20th, New Orleanians held a 2nd Line Funeral for Lady Liberty on Friday morning, approximately the same time as the travesty of an inauguration occurred in Washington DC. The Jazz Funeral progressed from Louis Armstrong Park to the Mississippi River.



Calvin Mackie's 50th Birthday Party

Glenn Jones
Data News Weekly
Contributor

On Saturday, January 21st, Calvin Mackie celebrated his 50th birthday with over 400 family members and friends from across the country at Sweet Lorraine's. The celebration started with a quaint concert, featuring Soulful Singer Gina Brown. On Sunday night, a 3-hour celebration organized by Mrs. Tracy Mackie to commemorate and celebrate the life and achievement of her husband at the People's Health Jazz Market. The party

featured music by DJ Chris Stylez, a live performance by Naydja Cojoe, an appearance by the Rap Group Partners-N-Crime and a Second Line! Dr. Mackie thanked everyone in attending for writing at least one sentence in his life's story, which is still being written each and every day. A portion of the cash bar was donated to STEM NOLA, an organization founded by Dr. Mackie to expose, inspire and engage the New Orleans community in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).



Today's Activists Can Learn from King's "Creative Disruption" Tactics



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

When Dr. Martin Luther King envisioned the Poor People's Campaign in 1968, he envisioned all kinds of people descending on our nation's capital, bringing demands to federal agencies. He envisioned people pushing for affordable housing, for quality education, for better health care, for minority business development programs, and more. He envisioned them demanding these things, and occupying government offices until these things were produced. Unfortunately, Dr. King's death and the curse of disorganization prevented the Poor People's Campaign from be-

ing exactly what Dr. King imagined. But it still made a difference, and people still refer to its conception as brilliant.

The Poor People's Campaign was a paradigm shift in our manner of protest. It wasn't just marching, and it wasn't just protest. It also involved the creative disruption that would come if thousands of people sat in federal offices and demanded change. Can this kind of creative disruption be useful in the age of Trump? After all, Mr. Trump has already told us what he thinks of most of the American people. His nomination of Senator Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) as Attorney General is a flash of the middle finger to men of color, especially the Black men who have been tossed around as cavalierly as the term "law and order." It is a slap in the face to the immigrants and women who have already seen what Sessions stands for. And it is not as if other Trump appointments are better.

Indeed, not a single Trump appointment passes the centrist smell test or suggests a willingness to

reach across the aisle. Indeed, Trump seems to do little more than create a cabinet of billionaires who are as far removed from the way ordinary people live that the public policy they attempt to create will be little more than self-serving.

None of them seems to understand the concept of public service. They don't think they should have to release their financial information, and they shrug off the notion of conflict of interest. Contrast them with Dr. King who only got a big paycheck when he won the Nobel Peace Prize, and he gave "every penny" of the \$54,000 that he won in 1964 to the civil rights movement.

Dr. King was extremely clear about those he identified with. He once said:

"I choose to identify with the underprivileged,

I choose to give my life for the hungry,

I choose to give my life for those who have been left out of the sunlight of opportunity...

this is the way I'm going.

If it means suffering, I'm going

that way.

If it means dying for them, I'm going that way,

because I heard a voice saying DO SOMETHING FOR OTHERS."

Our President-Elect has also heard a voice, but the voice he heard said: "Do Something for Me, Myself, and I." Absent a sense of service or of social/public consciousness, Mr. Trump seems to believe that his own personal richness makes America great again (hate again, sick again). His swaggering dismissal of anyone who dares ask a question that challenges suggests that he thinks he is ascending a monarchy, not leading a democracy. And the tone-deaf lemmings that surround him, some (like Kellyanne Conway) called "Trump whisperers" must be whispering sweet nothings, because the behavior modification so many expected has not yet happened.

Still, we who are progressive play ourselves cheap when we respond to his smug tweets. We play ourselves cheap when we moan and

whine. The time for whining is over now. This is the time for a paradigm shift in the way we respond to institutional stupidity. This is the time for us to consider creative disruption whenever, wherever, and however. What does that mean? Let's channel the energy of the Poor People's Campaign. Let's show up in those federal offices. Let's carry demands; let's ball up our fists. Let's get it on!

The last two times Dr. King's birthday was celebrated, it was days before Barack Obama, our first publicly identified Black President (there were other folks, but it wasn't so public), took office. I loved the way that the 44th President took his oath holding Dr. King's Bible. I'm not sure which Bible Mr. Trump is going to hold, but it is probably a Bible that is missing the book of Matthew, and the exhortation (Matthew 25:40) about the least of these. This is why the President-Elect will need creative disruption to remind him that his job is to share the American dream, not the American nightmare.

It Was the Presidency of the United State, Stupid



John Slade
WBOK 1230AM

Well, it's done. Donald J. Trump is the 45th President of the United States. Many thought it wouldn't happen but it has. It really didn't hit me until inauguration night when Obama had become a private citizen again—just what was lost, and then came the misty eyes. Now, having said that, let me go off on some of the people who made this happen.

The corporatized media, who gave away over two billion dollars

in free advertising to Trump. He was great television, you said. He bring in the ratings, you said. The New York Times sat on a story about Trump's possibly election-altering scandals. But yet, story after story about emails. Notice how you haven't heard any stories on the emails since the election? Now, in the Age of Kelly Ann Conway's alternative facts, the television and major print media are supposed to convince us that they're shocked? What did they expect? John F. Kennedy? Part of me hopes that Trump takes them apart because it would serve them right. Rating and clicks aren't everything. Perhaps, think of the people you serve instead of just profits alone. Yes, this is a complicated subject, but I believe I've distilled it here.

The 53 percent of White women who voted for Trump: They think

along with the boyfriends and husbands, that Trump will get jobs, jobs, jobs. No, no, no. Because with tax cuts, large manufacturing concerns will stay in America and automate. The United States will increase manufacturing but need less of the White women and their significant others. Plus, for those White women who swear they are not racist, why wasn't Trump's racism a deal breaker? For those White women who swear their not with the male chauvinism, why wasn't Trump's primitive chauvinism a turn off? I suspected that if you put too much social and economic pressure on White people sometimes they crack and their high sounding words are tossed to the wind.

The nonvoters and the third smugness: On the day after Trump's election, there were riots and protests in parts of the country

and even here in New Orleans. A lot of these protestors were White and they were shocked and angry that Trump won. Okay, but when it was revealed that some of them didn't vote and had the nerve to be angry, well that was too much for this observer. Plus, they were smashing things too? Only voters have any right to even consider smashing things. I remember during the day of the Louisiana primary I talked to a Bernie Bro and I asked, "You voted for Sanders of course." Well, he said to me he wasn't even registered to vote. Another on was registered but not as a Democrat. This is why Bernie lost: Not by cheating, but by the Clinton campaign. Then there were idiots who were proud to say I can't vote for Hillary because I don't like her, the emails, the crime bill, she is too corrupt and the ever popular chestnut that

there is no difference between the parties. If that's true, why be scared of Trump at all? Then, the third party people and their nonsense. They hated both candidates so it was either Gary Jonson or Jill Stein who spent the days after the election making like the recounts she funded were going to save us from Trump. She conned people frightened of Trump and lined her pockets while at the same time covering her but on the Ms. Stein, you helped Trump win themes. She did help Trump win and did any of the people who donated get a refund since Trump is now President?

TO all the Black people in swing states who didn't vote for a president at all: That was the biggest mistake, ever. It was for the president of the United States,

Commentary, Continued on page 9.

Doc Griggs Corner

Colds Don't Need Antibiotics



Dang, Thanh , Kirchain,
William PharmD,
Eric Griggs, MD.
Data News Columnists

These simple questions can be your biggest clues to figuring out whether the sniffing or congestion is from a cold or sinus problem. So, let's explore each of these different causes.

What is the common cold or flu? The cold and flu are upper respiratory tract infections that are caused by viruses. Antibiotics cannot be used to fight the cold or flu because they can only kill bacteria not viruses. There can be a real danger to taking antibiotics when they are not needed. The overuse of antibiotics can lead to bacterial resistance and its ineffectiveness when we really need it. The common cold usually lasts seven to ten days and goes away with plenty of rest and fluids. You have to let the cold run its course. To give you relief in the meantime, some of the following over-the-counter choices are: cough syrups, pain relievers (such as Tylenol or Advil), or multi-symptom cold relief medicines (such as DayQuil). The cold and flu share common symptoms. However, you will feel a lot worse with the flu. A fever is very common with the flu and you will also experience more

You woke up this morning feeling terrible! You have a runny nose, sore throat, and even started sneezing. Now, you find yourself standing in the pharmacy aisle with a sudden feeling of uncertainty over which over-the-counter remedies to pick. A common question that we face is: "Which medicine should I buy? However, in order to find fast relief, you must first ask yourself a few of the questions below:

1. Do you have a fever (more than 102oF or 38.9oC)?
2. Do you have a headache? Do you feel any pressure around your nose or eyes?
3. How long have you had your symptoms?



seasonal and can last much longer than the typical ten days of a cold. The following facts can help you determine whether its allergies: sore throat that is often caused by a runny nose, rashes and/or itchy eyes, sneezing, coughing, and congestion. You might have noticed that fever and body aches are not listed as signs of an allergy. Unlike a cold, allergies will not go away on its own. Allergies require treatment or the removal of the sources that trigger the sinus problems.

It is important to recognize the difference between a cold versus the flu versus allergies so we are not taking any unnecessary medications.

aches and pains and extreme fatigue or weakness. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the best way to prevent the flu is to get the flu shot every year.

What are allergies? Allergies can occur when your body recognizes that something is not part

of you. This foreign trigger can include: pollen from trees, grasses, or weeds, dust mites, animal fur, mold, or foods (such as tree nuts, milk, and eggs). How long your symptoms last is one of the biggest clues to figuring out whether it's a cold or sinus problem. Allergies can be

References:

<http://www.vicks.ca/care-center/treat-relieve/articles/cold-flu-allergy-symptoms/>
<http://www.slideshare.net/Chris-Beckman/cold-flu-or-allergy>
<http://www.healthline.com/health/allergies/allergies-or-cold>

Commentary, Continued from page 9.

Stupid. There is now no one in the White House for any real elected or nonelected Black leaders for them to meet with or holler at. No one. Court picks are out of our hands. You don't like Clarence Thomas? Well you can forget replacing him with as livers. The Presidency is bigger than governor, Congressman, mayor and Dog Catcher. I won't even bother with the eight percent of Black people who voted for Trump because they are los and gone. Bye Felecia as they say.

It was the highest office in the land, folks, and you blew it. War? Maybe. Trade war? Maybe. Depression? Maybe. Scandal? For sure. More overt racism in your face? Why, that's already happening. It was the Presidency of the United States, stupid. Now who are black people and progressives gonna call? Maybe the Ghostbusters.

MCDONOGH 35

The National McDonogh 35 High School Alumni Association is reaching out to all graduates as it begins the celebration of the school's Centennial Celebration (1917 to 2017).

If you are a graduate or if you know of someone who graduated from the school, contact the alumni association at mcdonogh35alumni-association@yahoo.com, mcdonogh35alumniassociation.org, or write to McDonogh 35 Alumni Association, P.O. Box 50306, New Orleans, LA 70122, ATT: Alumni Association.

Submit New Orleans school items to Orleans@nola.com. Include contact information.

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Mayor Landrieu, Governor Edwards Announce 2017 Public Safety Investment

Data News Staff Edited Report

Today, Mayor Mitch Landrieu joined Governor John Bel Edwards, NOPD Superintendent Michael Harrison, Louisiana State Police Superintendent Col. Mike Edmondson, and FBI Agent in Charge Jeff Sallet to introduce a nearly \$40 million package of public safety and homeland security investments that will help fight crime. The package of new Citywide Technology Investments, new police cars for added visibility and new ABO Regulations will enhance security in hot spots throughout the City and harden critical assets that are vulnerable to terrorist-like incidents.

"Public safety continues to be our top priority," Mayor Landrieu said. "The best way to continue to fight crime is to improve manpower,

crime deterrence and our apprehensions with investments in technology and visibility. In the wake of attacks in Nice, Berlin and Israel, we also have to ensure we bolster our homeland security preparedness. With the help of Governor Edwards, the Convention Center, City Council, Legislators and other stakeholders, we are confident this package will increase security for New Orleans residents, workers and visitors."

"New Orleans is not only a great



The \$40 million package will include new Citywide Technology Investments, new police cars for added visibility and new ABO Regulations will enhance security in hot spots throughout the City and harden critical assets that are vulnerable to terrorist-like incidents. Photo by Infrogmation of New Orleans.

place to live and work but a major tourist destination and we must do all that we can to provide first rate protection for the enjoyment of everyone," said Gov. John Bel Edwards. "This partnership between the City and State is critically important. This isn't just about the French Quarter, this is about the entire City of New Orleans, and I am grateful for the hard work put into this effort by the mayor, as well as State and City officials."

NOPD Superintendent Chief Michael Harrison said, "All of these efforts are part of our ongoing commitment to make our neighborhoods safer. Under this new plan, we are expanding the resources to our officers and bolstering our preparedness. I am confident that this package will help strengthen the tactical efforts of the New Orleans Police Department and our partners."



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Curly Corner, Continued from page 6.

be drier and frizzier than it should. 3. Deep conditioning weekly can also promote healthy hair growth. The deep conditioner cannot "grow" your hair but the process can limit breakage and therefore add to growth. Your hair is always growing but it needs to be strengthened to continue reaching gorgeous lengths.

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Destiny's Armoire, Continued from page 6.

ball this Mardi Gras season. Expect to see ladies doused in fine diamonds from head to toe. A diamond headpiece is an accessory of the past being brought back into style, providing an illuminating spark to any ensemble or hairstyle. Diamond studded chokers provide a lovely accent on any solid colored dress, and with a diamond studded gown, any woman could consider herself the jewel and light of the room.



Green, Purple, and Gold:

From glittered hats, to fur boots, New Orleanians will be stepping into parade season in traditional Mardi Gras colors. The classic Mardi Gras glitter hat is a tradition for some, being diverse enough to be paired with almost any ensemble. And one can't forget about the Mardi Gras boas. Boas bring a fun and exciting flare to any parade goer outfit. The multi colored fur Boots have recently become a trend and have been the shoe of choice since.

The ebullient Mardi Gras boots give every lady that extra spice to a dull outfit and the right amount of New Orleans spirit.

With a closet full of trends like these, any woman is sure to make her mark on this Mardi Gras season. Most trends and styles can be found in common fashion areas like the River Walk mall, Magazine Street shops, or any local boutique or storefront. For more information on these trends and styles email Delinke@yahoo.com

NNPA Receives \$1.5 Million Gates Grant for Education Campaign

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

When civil rights icon Dr. Benjamin Chavis was named president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), he remained true to form, touting the Black Press as the uncensored, objective and unflinching media voice.

On that sun-soaked day in June 2014 in Portland, Oregon, Chavis proclaimed his eagerness to deliver “trusted, sustainable and innovative relationships for the NNPA.”

It didn't take long.

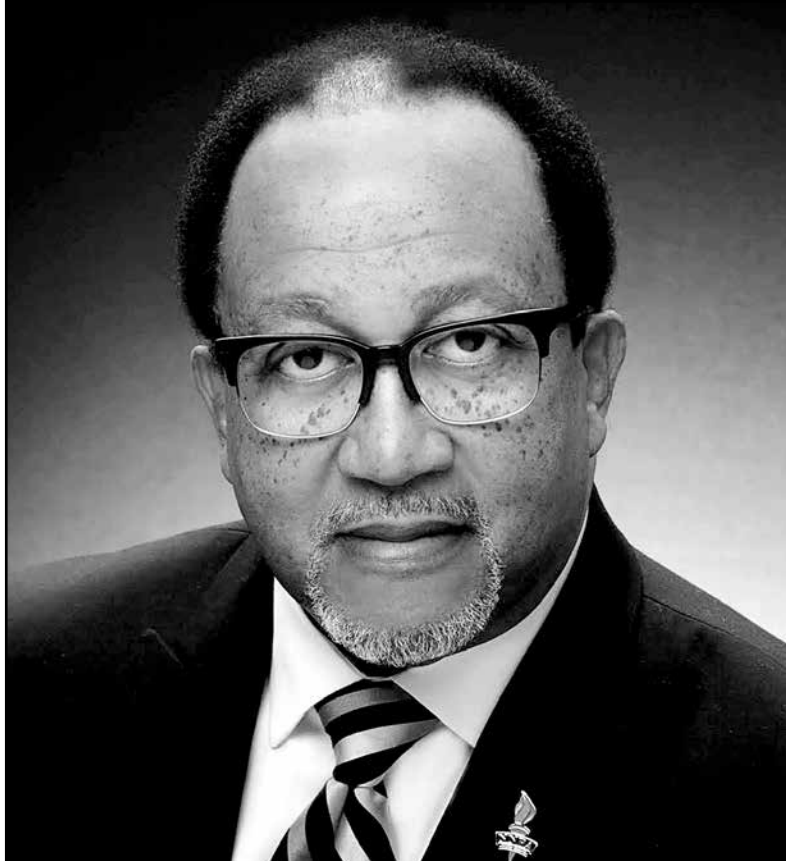
Under Chavis' leadership, the organization has increased its visibility and has continued to carve out a name as a trusted and respected news source.

Now, the NNPA, a network of 211 Black-owned media companies, has received a \$1.5 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support a three-year, multi-media public awareness campaign focusing on the unique opportunities and challenges of the recently enacted Every Student Succeeds Act – or ESSA.

“The NNPA is pleased to partner with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to raise public awareness throughout the United States about the ESSA,” Chavis said. “Bridging the academic achievement gap in education K-12 in particular for African-American students and others from disadvantaged communities is of critical importance over the next several years.”

Chavis noted that, in 2017, the Black Press in America will celebrate 190 years in publishing and there's no more important issue than the education of students from communities who cry out for the highest quality education.

“The ESSA law was established to help increase the effectiveness of public education in every state,” said Chavis. “Our task is to inform, inspire, and encourage parents, students, teachers, and administrators to fulfill the intent and objectives of ESSA with special focus on those students and communities that



Dr. Benjamin Chavis, the President and CEO of the NNPA, says that by raising awareness of ESSA policies, the NNPA seeks to empower parents to advocate for these policies for their students and communities.

have been marginalized and underserved by the education system across the nation.”

Under the ESSA, states will adhere to more flexible federal regulations that provide for improved elementary and secondary education in the nation's public schools.

The law also ensures that every child, regardless of race, income, background, or where they live have the opportunity to obtain a high-quality education. ESSA, which reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary School Act (ESEA) and replaces No Child Left Behind, received bipartisan support and was signed into law by President Barack Obama on December 10, 2015.

The regulations are administered by the U.S. Department of Education and will go into effect later this month, on January 30.

With the Gates Foundation grant, NNPA will engage its 211-member publications in more than 70 markets across the country in a cam-

paign designed to heighten public awareness of ESSA, and to focus on efforts and policies aimed at closing the achievement gaps for students of color and low-income students, Chavis said.

By raising awareness of ESSA policies, the Washington, D.C.-headquartered NNPA seeks to empower parents to advocate for these policies for their students and communities, he said.

Additionally, for opinion leaders, this is a tremendous opportunity to support policies and issues that will make a difference in closing the achievement gap, Chavis said.

“The ESSA grant is critical to improving education for minorities,” said Dr. Elizabeth V. Primas, the project manager for the NNPA/ESSA grant and director of Literacy and Acceleration at the Friendship Public Charter Schools. Primas has a lifelong history of achievement in teaching and leadership within D.C. public schools.

“Despite past laws, many minori-

ties have been left behind,” said Primas. “NNPA will be instrumental in ensuring that all stakeholders are aware of the components in the ESSA law that will increase the number of students that are college ready.”

Specifically, the NNPA will research state efforts to ensure success for all students, gather feedback while conducting forums, and maintain multiple platforms to keep the community informed, she said.

“For the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to give the grant to NNPA to fund a 36-month multi-media public awareness campaign focused on the unique benefits and challenges of ESSA to the African-American community, means that the Gates Foundation understands and appreciates the value, reach, and influence of NNPA,” Primas said.

NNPA Chairperson and Washington Informer Publisher Denise Rolark Barnes said she is proud that NNPA will be counted on to get the word out about ESSA to the NNPA's 20 million newspaper readers and those who Follow and Like the Black Press USA on social media.

“We look forward to inciting interest and action around ESSA and making it a household name throughout the community,” Rolark Barnes said, noting Obama's words when he signed the bill into law.

Obama said: “With this bill, we reaffirm that fundamentally American ideal – that every child, regardless of race, income, background, the zip code where they live, deserves the chance to make of their lives what they will.”

In a statement, Senator Patty Murray (D-Wash.), Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, and Congressman Bobby Scott (D-Va.), ranking member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, said passing ESSA was a “critical step in our work to make sure all children have access to a high-quality public education, no matter where they live, how they learn, or how much money their parents make.”

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