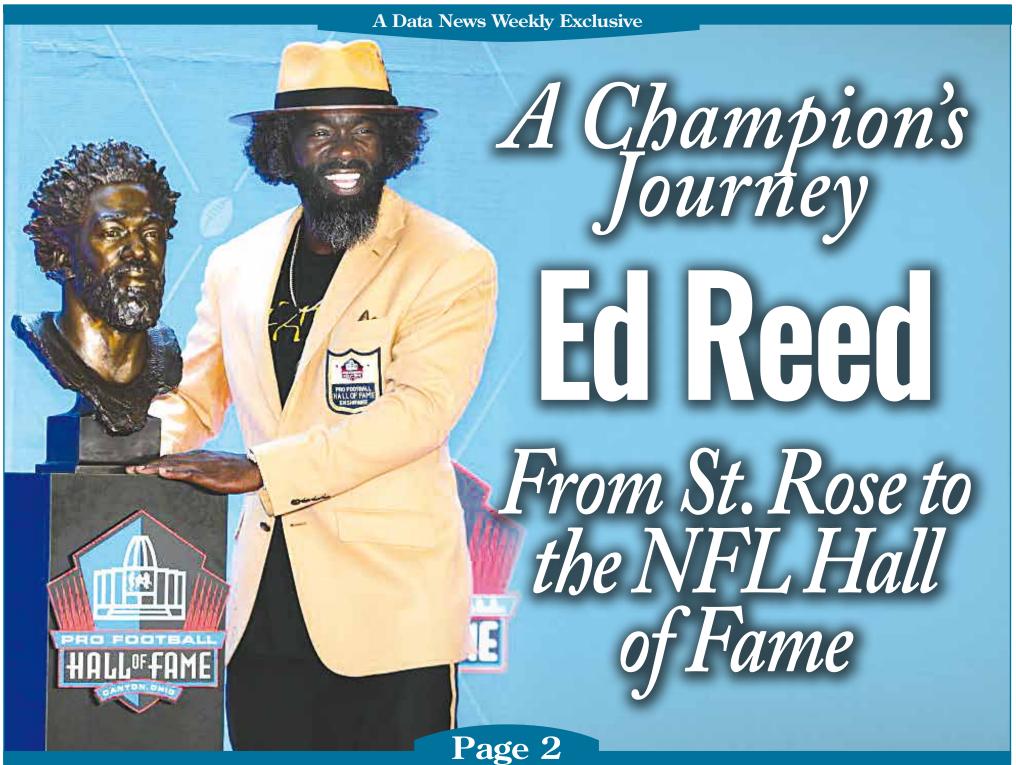
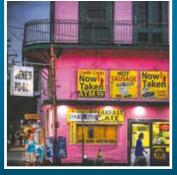




August 10 - August 16, 2019 54th Year Volume 15 www.ladatanews.com





Newsmaker
Iconic
Gene's Po-Boy
Closes

Closes
Page 4

State & LocalIt Takes
A Village

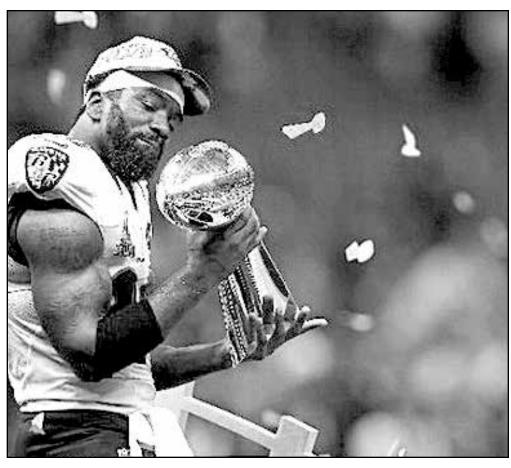


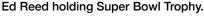
Page 5

Cover Story

A Champion's Journey

Ed Reed: From St. Rose to the NFL Hall of Fame







Ed Reed at Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

Edwin Buggage Editor-in-Chief

From Destrehan to Destiny

Ed Reed is an athlete who personifies excellence both on and off the field. Throughout his illustrious football career, he's been a champ, breaking records and winning a national title in college and then as a professional, winning the Super Bowl as a member of the Baltimore Ravens.

It is a long way from his early beginnings in Destrehan, LA., as today he joins the ranks of the greats of the NFL recently being inducted in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Building A Winning Team

Ed Reed is one who has chosen to be a role model and an inspiration to future generations. This spirit comes from his growing up in a close-knit family and community where he was encouraged to excel. Many of those who played a part in shaping his greatness were on hand in Canton for the induction ceremony.

Steven Murdock Sr., who grew up next door to Reed and was one of his extended family members and mentors growing up. "Our connection runs deep; he grew up one house away from my family's house. His dad and my older brother grew up together," he says while in Canton awaiting Reed's induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. "Coming up he was like a

Cover Story, Continued on page 3.

INSIDE DATA

Cover Story 2	Commentary 8
Newsmaker 4	Special 9
State & Local News 5	Entertainment 10
Data Zone 6	National News 11

DATA NEWS WEEKLY

P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347 | Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622

Cartorial data revocator sociodan incl. Ladvertioning. data revocade sociodan incl.		
Terry B. Jones	Contributors	Art Direction &
CEO/Publisher	Edwin Buggage	Production
Edwin Buggage	E. Benjamin	Pubinator.com
55 5		Editorial Submissions
Editor	Andreanecia Morris	datanewseditor@
Renetta Perry	Lauren Poteat	bellsouth.net
Managing Editor	Lauren Foleat	Advertising Inquiries
Calla Victoria	Jay Conner	datanewsad@
Executive Assistant	Effram Hill	bellsouth.net
	City of New Orleans	Distribution
June Hazeur		On The Run
Accounting	Diva Dionne Character	Courier Services

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.

little brother to me and seeing him become the man he is today makes me proud."

Lawrence Haynes III also grew up with Reed and his family and was like a big brother to him as well. He says that as a youngster Ed saw them doing things with their lives related to sports that took them out of the neighborhood and was inspired by them. He also made the trip to Canton. With pride beaming from his voice he says, "We knew he was special it is not surprising to see him reach this level of greatness. Early on he saw some of us including his Uncle Tim Reed go off to college, we all got scholarships and Ed saw us go away and do things outside of the neighborhood and it inspired him to want to do something more."

Making a Difference

Ed Reed is more than just an athlete, he's used his visibility to have a platform to speak on various social issues. During his time in Canton, Reed used his wardrobe to send a message about issues of social justice, one day wearing a T-shirt bearing the faces of young Black people killed in police-related or racial incidents.

He also used his time during his induction ceremony to speak about the recent mass shooting in El Paso. He was emotional, compassionate and thoughtful and centered on solutions to many of the ills of society and the importance living a life of serving others.

"You know mental illness is one of the biggest problems in our world," Reed said. "It really kills. So, I've got to say prayers to the families that have experienced the mass shootings the last couple of days. Just in general across this country, it's something we really need to address."

Building a Field of Dreams and Inspiring the Next Generation

Through his foundation Reed puts his money where his mouth is by giving back in New Orleans,



Ed Reed at Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony



A winning team - left to right: Gregory Baker, Tim Reed, Steven Murdock, Lamus Haynes, Brian Wesco, DeForest Cornish and Lawrence Haynes III.



Through his foundation Reed is putting his money where his mouth is by giving back to children in New Orleans, Destrehan and Baltimore.



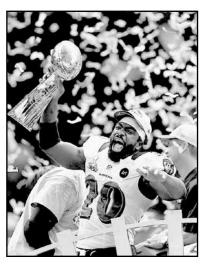
Steven Murdock and Ed Reed, "Our connection runs deep; he grew up one house away from my family's house. His dad and my older brother grew up together," he says while in Canton awaiting Reed's Induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. "Coming up he was like a little brother to me and seeing him become the man he is today makes me proud."



Steven Murdock, Karen Reed, Mother of Ed Reed and Lawrence Haynes III



Ed Reed with Father Ed Reed Sr. and former teammate and fellow NFL Hall of Fame Inductee Ray Lewis.



Destrehan and Baltimore. Recently, he took a piece of land in his old neighborhood he and his friends played on and made it a park for the young people of St. Rose.

Haynes speaks of this great gesture by his friend, "Ed has made a career out of giving back. In St. Rose where we all started in an area behind our house called it the park, now he's made it an official park. It's what we needed when we were kids this is a great thing for our community."

Inspiring Greatness

Ed Reed's life has been a success on many levels and positive proof that a rose can grow out of concrete. And with the right team around giving encouragement and support you can be a champion in life.

A sentiment that's expressed by Haynes, "Ed embodies what someone if their talents are nurtured and they have positive people in their lives. It shows it doesn't matter where you start and that anyone can achieve greatness. Ed's not only achieved greatness on the field, but off it by giving back and serving others. I am really glad to be here sharing in this special moment with my little brother Ed Reed, who is an example of the best that is in all of us."

Reed in his Hall of Fame Speech summed up his feeling about how anyone can become a champion and become great, "Everyone has their own greatness. Whether you reach your own greatness depends on your environment, your structure, the company you keep and your attitude."

Continuing he said, "There will be good and bad, right and wrong. Your reaction of choice, good or bad, has consequences that affect you and those around you. No matter what, encourage those around you and yourself. I stayed encouraged and no matter what, I was focused. I tell you, each one of you, stay encouraged. Encourage each other. Help somebody. We should. We're supposed to. That's what being a human is about, leaving this place better than we got it."

Iconic Gene's Po-Boy Closes...

Customers Reflect on their Experiences

E. Benjamin Data News Staff Writer



Samantha Beaulieu: Actress and Filmmaker

"Gene's Po-Boys is a New Orleans Staple! It was "The" late night spot...especially for your out of town guests! Gene's was so New Orleans! In true NOLA Fashion, ev-



eryone who worked there had big colorful personalities and treated all customers the same; I think that's one of the reasons more "well-known" people love New Orleans. Because they can go to places like Gene's and no one's going to bother them. It takes a lot to impress us New Orleanians."



James Andrews: Musician and Singer

"I loved going there when I was a little kid. The Po-Boys were great

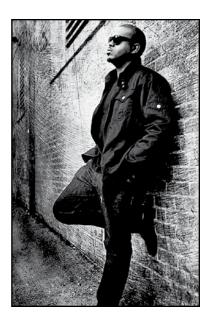


and the people who worked there were also great. It was a place that was popular with both locals and out of towners people were in and out there all the time. Yes, we loved dat place and it will be missed."



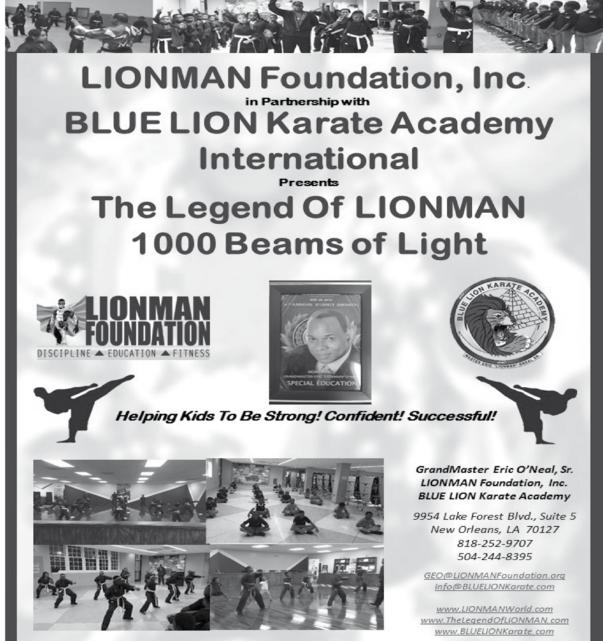
Glenn Summers: Photographer and Visual Artist

"My best memories of Gene's Po-Boys were hearing the quick wit of old man Mr. Whitey taking orders at the register then you had to come and correct him. It was a great place to go late at night to get good food and also meet people. It was symbolic of an age of New Orleans pre-Katrina that I sometimes mice."



Lenny Green: Singer, Songwriter/ Producer and Visual Artist

"Gene's was a late-night staple in NOLA! I can't tell you how many times I've eaten there to sober up. It was the last stop before going home. I remember waiting in those long... long... long... lines, but it was worth it. Their Po-Boys were always good. We will miss Gene's"



August 10 - August 16, 2019

It Takes A Village



Mayor Cantrell with Partners in "It Takes A Village" Initiative.



Mayor LaToya Cantrell speaking with young people about about alternatives to crime and violence.

City of New Orleans --

NEW ORLEANS – The Mayor's Office of Youth and Families, the Office of Criminal Justice Coordination and the Director of Strategic Initiatives this weekend at the Milne Rec Center engaged with local youths as part of the City's Inaugural "It Takes a Village" Event to provide family support and services to prevent encounters with law enforcement.

"While we are committed to enforcing the law, we are equally committed to ensuring that young people with bright futures do not have additional law enforcement involvement. This event provided youths and families with an opportunity to connect youths and families with the support services they need," said Mayor LaToya Cantrell.

Following opening remarks by

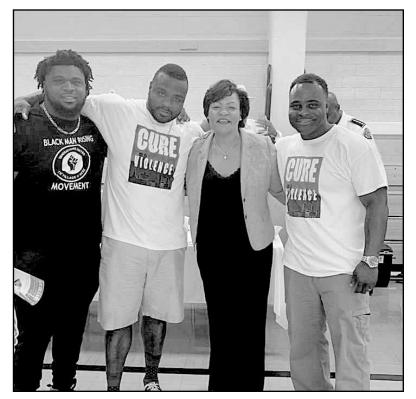
Mayor Cantrell and NOPD Superintendent Shaun Ferguson, parents and youths divided into smaller breakout sessions to engage in open and frank dialogue. Mayor Cantrell met individually with parents to offer insight on how to use services and work together to prevent future encounters with law enforcement, while youths worked with service providers in breakout

The event also was supported by the New Orleans Police Department. Judge Arthur Hunter from Criminal Court and Judge Desiree Cook-Calvin from Juvenile Court were present and supported the

"This event is part of a broader strategy by the Mayor's Office to encounter youths as early as possible to not only reduce crime but give them the tools they need to stay out of the Criminal Justice System, off the streets and instead to lead safe, productive lives," said Joshua Cox, Senior Advisor to the Mayor and Director of Strategic Initiatives. "We hope to build on this event and engage with as many youths as possible."

Youths also were provided backpacks, courtesy of Walmart as part of its back-to-school efforts in the community.

"We understand that back-toschool is one of the busiest times of the year for families which is why we're committed to making backto-school shopping easier and more affordable," said Walmart Corporate Communications Spokeswoman Anne Hatfield. "We are proud to support New Orleans youths so they can ease into their first day of school feeling prepared with brand new supplies and gear."



Mayor Cantrell with Partners in "It Takes A Village" Initiative.

Supporting providers and agencies included:

- The Center for Restorative Approaches
 - Children's Bureau
 - Covenant House
 - Cure Violence
- Daughters Beyond Incarceration
- Families and Friends of
- Louisiana's Incarcerated Children
 - Liberty's Kitchen Limitless Vistas, Inc.
 - Metropolitan Human Ser-

- New Orleans Police Juveounseling Unit
- New Orleans Public Library
- Orleans Parish Juvenile Court Teen Court
- Orleans Parish School Board
 - Roots of Music
 - Son of a Saint
 - STEM NOLA
 - Youth Empowerment Proj-

ect

Data Zone

Satchmo Summer Fest

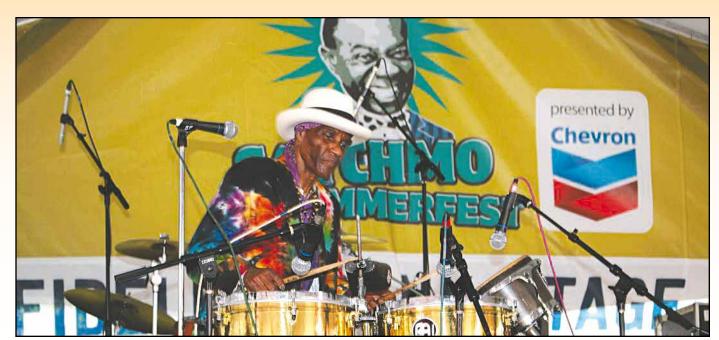
Effram Hill Photographer

Page 6

Satchmo SummerFest was an amazing event as the attendees from around the world enjoyed performances by many of the greats of New Orleans Music and Data News Weekly was There!!!



New Orleans City Councilmemberat-Large Jason Williams and Data News Weekly Editor-in-Chief Edwin Buggage.



Legendary Performer Cyril Neville making his Satchmo SummerFest Debut.



Violinist Michael Ward moves the crowd during his set that closed out Friday night at fest.



The Ward Family, Cortes, Michael, Lenzie and Cameron, enjoying Satchmo SummerFest.



The lovely ladies of Very Local New Orleans, Teniesha Biagas, Keisha Lee and Erica Tyler.



Generations of family enjoying the fest, Selena, Enjoli, Eiseanne, Alvin and Zoe Coco.



Amazing performer from the First Family of Funk, Charmaine Neville with Data News Weekly Editor Edwin Buggage.



Derek Rabb, Merle Robinson, Marian Rabb and Eula Hickman.

Data Zone, Continued on page 7. Data Zone, Continued from page 6.



Entertainer Extrodinaire, Nayo Jones with her riveting voice gave an amazing performance during Satchmo SummerFest.



Satchmo SummerFest brings music lovers from all over the world including, Luciano, Catarina, Andre and Sonia, a family from Lisbon, Portugal.



Showstopping performance by all around entertainer Kermit Ruffins.



MORE ENERGY - LESS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT



Commentary

2020 Property Assessments will make New Orleans Affordable Housing Crisis Worse



Andreanecia Morris Executive Director, HousingNOLA

One of the challenges with dealing with the Affordable Housing Crisis is the fact that some people don't understand that this affects everyone. The bias many have lets them, namely middle-class homeowners, convince themselves that they are immune. HousingNOLA's data driven process has addressed tax issues from year one. Those who own their homes are not exempt from the impacts of our City's Affordable Housing Crisis. Gentrification of historic neighborhoods and increased market pressure across the city have driven increased property values every year since Hurricane Katrina. Only

7 neighborhoods include census tracts which did not see an increase in housing values between 2013 and 2017. The median home value in New Orleans has increased by twenty percent since the last tax bill cycle in 2016, according to MLS Data. There is ample data to demonstrate how vulnerable Orleans Parish Homeowners are to any significant changes in their tax rates:

- Forty-one (41%) percent of homeowners are cost burdened—with nearly a third of owner-occupied households earn an annual income that is below the median income:
- Forty-four percent of owners have paid off their mortgage or inherited their home;
- A third of homeowners are over the age of sixty-five—with 11% of all homeowners in Orleans are cost burdened senior citizens.

All this combined with the fact that 2020 is the Quadrennial Assessment, we knew to expect significant, if not unprecedented, appraisals and tax bills for the 2020 assessment.

Many were startled to see the drastic increase when they received their tax bill in July and are concerned about what this means for their households. We know that many homeowners may not have the savings or income to avoid further hardship. Even for those households earning a stable salary, the rate of cost burden shows that tax relief is needed in Orleans Parish, where many homeowners entered the market unable to anticipate the spike in taxes and insurance rates. The Constitutional Amendment authored by Senator JP Morrell in the 2018 Louisiana Legislature which was passed by state voters could possibly most likely assist these homeowners—allowing the tax increase to be phased in over three years. Unfortunately, it provides no help to small landlords who will have no choice but to pass the tax increase onto their renters-who are already overwhelmingly rent

For the thousands of elderly, disabled and low-income homeowners who rely on a fixed monthly income, payment of new tax bills may simply be impossible without assistance or relief. Further, data from the Assessor's Office shows that approximately 35% of eligible seniors are not utilizing the age freeze and only a small portion of those living with disabilities (521) are taking advantage of the disability freeze.

So, what can we do? First and foremost, every residential property owner who has experienced an increase should file an appeal before 4 PM on August 22, 2019 they can go online, http://nolaassessor.com, or one of three offices: City Hall (1300 Period, 4th Floor), Algiers Courthouse (225 Morgan Street), and Lakeview Christian Center (5885 Fleur De Lis Drive). If you qualify for one of the existing freeze programs, you also need apply before the 22nd deadline. We also implore people to check on family members, friends and neighbors who might be eligible for the various freezes.

Last year's constitutional amendment will let homeowners who can afford the increase phase it in over time—only if it's more than 50%. In October, Louisiana will vote to allow New Orleans to create a Tax Relief Program for small landlords, properties with no more than 15 units, and homeowners whose increase would just be too much to bear. Authored by Sen. Troy Carter, SB 79 the amendment will be voted on by the entire state, so we need a Plan B. The City Council can vote to roll back our millage rates—indeed if the increases we've seen result in too large an increase in the city's taxes, they will have no choice. We need to ask the City Council to Put Housing First and roll back out millage rate. If the people of Louisiana do not give New Orleans the chance to create tax programs that will help us address the Affordable Housing Crisis. Our city needs tax revenue to provide critical city services, but if the people can't pay the taxes, and the city doesn't allow partial payments, we could have thousands of unpaid tax bills. This would be the beginning of another disaster—a man made one that we would have inflicted upon ourselves.

#WhiteSupremacistTerrorism

Hashtag Takes Over Twitter After Latest Pair of Mass Shootings



Jay Conner Blogger Theroot.com

With the encouragement of our President, America has gone to great lengths to paint minorities as criminals, parasites and in some instances, terrorists. But after the latest pair of mass shootings this weekend, in which a total of 29 people were killed, the fears and frustrations of American citizens have taken over Twitter, with the hashtag #WhiteSupremacistTerrorism serving as their rallying cry.

CNN reports that on Saturday,

21-year-old Patrick Crusius gunned down 21 people and injured 29 others at a Wal-Mart swarming with cross-border shoppers in El Paso, Texas. According to NBC News, it's the deadliest shooting in 2019, as well as one of the worst in American history.

And it was also racially motivated, per CNN:

About 20 minutes earlier, a post on the online message board 8chan believed to be from the suspect laid out a dark vision of America overrun by Hispanic immigrants. The 2,300-word document, which police called a "manifesto," was attached to a post that said, "I'm probably going to die today."

The writing is filled with white nationalist language and racist hatred toward immigrants and Latinos, blaming immigrants and firstgeneration Americans for taking away jobs

But while Americans struggled to process the latest massacre on American soil, we woke up to the news of another mass shooting mere hours later in Dayton, Ohio.

From CNN:

Nine people were killed and at least 26 injured Sunday in a shooting in a popular nightclub district of downtown Dayton, Ohio, police say.

Officers killed the lone suspect after he fired for less than a minute from a ".223 high-capacity" gun, and he had additional magazines with him, Mayor Nan Whaley said. The .223 caliber is used in rifles like the AR-15 assault rifle used in previous mass shootings.

The suspect in the Dayton shooting has yet to be publicly identified, but as was the case in El Paso, it's not exactly a secret that these catastrophic acts of domestic terror-

ism—which are far too often not recognized or treated as such—are carried out by white supremacists.

As such, the hashtag #WhiteSupremacistTerrorism is being used to demand gun reform, call out the portrayals of victims and perpetrators alike, highlight Donald Trump's degree of complicity, and provide concerned citizens a public

platform to mourn the countless lives we've lost to gun violence.

We are well past the point of "thoughts and prayers" getting the job done. The time for gun reform is now

Jay Conner is the Founder of Extraordinary Ideas and Co-Host and Producer of The Extraordinary Negroes podcast.



Home Assessment Information

QUADRENNIAL ASSESSMENT

www.ladatanews.com

Assessor **Erroll Williams**



Quadrennial Assessment How to Contest Your Home Value A Guide to the Appeal Process

22nd at 4:00pm.

nolaassessor.com

How does it impact me?

The assessor released the information for the public to review. You have a short window of time to review

the new value and contest or appeal before the rolls

close. The informal appeal process ends on August 19th and the formal appreal process end on August

Follow our graphic instructions on how to look up your

assessment & guide through the appeal process.

If you think your property was assessed incorrectly, you can file an informal appeal before August 19th.

Common appeals are for properties where a structure has been demolished, or you have a recent certified

appraisal that shows a very different value. If you have

questions about appeals, get more information at

What if I don't agree with the assessed value?

What is it?

Every four years, the Assessor's office updates the value of your property for taxing purposes. The quadrennial assessment is not a new tax, or an initiative of the Cantrell administration: this is a regular adjustment that is mandated by state law, carried out by the Assessor's office. (Quad = 4) (ennial=years)

What does that mean?

Property taxes are based on the value of the property multiplied by

[value of property] x [tax rate] = tax bill

Why would my value go up or down?

Generally, for the same reasons the value of your property would go up or down if you were trying to sell it – for example if there were major improvements, or if the real estate market in your area

Who decides the value of my property?
The Office of the Assessor, which is an elected position. It is a State office, and is completely independent from the City of New Orleans.

Informal Appeal Ends August 19th Formal Appeal Ends August 22nd at 4:00pm

Guide to the Informal Appeal Process

Look up your property at nolaassessor.com using the "Search Records" function.

Decide if the estimated market value reflects what the property would sell for today. If it's fair, you're done!

If you feel your property value is not assessed correctly, click "Show Parcel Map" from your property record to see a satellite image of your area.

nolaassessor.com

Informal Appeal Ends August 19th Formal Appeal Ends August 22nd at 4:00pm

Guide to the Informal Appeal Process

If you still think your property value is assessed incorrectly, go to the Assessor's Office for a meeting with a Customer Service Representative before or until August 19th.

Bring <u>DATED</u> photos and documents that explain why the value should be change Include a recent appraisal, homeowner insurance, or contractor repair estimate

If you think the value is still incorrect after your meeting, you can submit a formal appeal by clicking the "E-File" link on the left at nolausesor.com or in person at City Hall before August 22nd at 4pm.

Is this a tax increase?

No. This is an update of the value of your property.

Where does the money go?

Property taxes are the primary source of revenue for basic city services like ambulances, fire department, schools, parks, libraries, and code enforcement.

When does this take effect?

Once the rolls are closed, the Board of Review (which is the City Council) will certify the assessment in November for your 2020 tax bill.



Guide to the Informal Appeal Process

If you prefer, you can skip the meeting at the Assessor's Office and file a formal appeal directly online through the "E-File" link at nolaussessor.com before 4pm on August 22nd.

The Board of Review will make a decision on your formal appeal. If you disagree, you can submit another appeal to the Louisiana Tax Commission.

Are there exemptions or programs that can help me?

Maybe! There are tax freezes for elderly, disabled, and veteran homeowners – to see if you qualify, check out the eligibility requirements on nolaassessor.com

On October 12, there will be a vote on a statewide constitutional amendment that would allow Orleans Parish to develop programs that can provide additional relief to keep housing affordable. If approved, additional programs might be available in the near future. (Proposition #4)

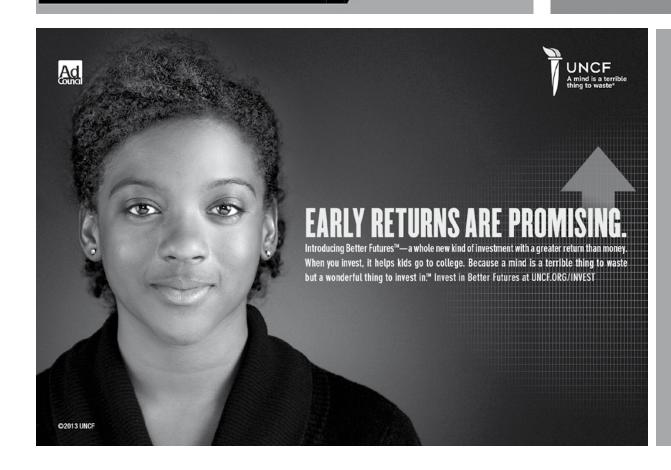
In 2018, voters approved a bill that would automatically phase in any assessment-related property tax increase greater than 50% for properties with a homestead exemption (if no other major improvements have been made), which happens after the rolls are closed and certified by the Board of Review. More information will be available later this year.

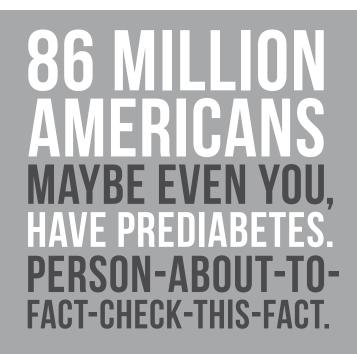
nolaassessor.com

What about my homestead exemption?

If your property is your primary residence, the first \$75,000 of value is not taxed. If you own your home and live in it full time, check to see if you have a homestead exemption.

[value of property - \$75k] x [tax rate] tax bill for owner-occupied home





Do**I**HavePrediabetes.org









Entertainment

New Orleans Funk in Hollywood, The Mint LA



Diva Dionne Character Entertainment Columnist

Los Angeles – CA The Capitol of Entertainment, bright lights and beautiful faces, tacos trucks on street corners, fresh cut fruit sprinkled in cayenne pepper, the smell of cannabis in the air, palm trees and in the center of it all, the music of New Orleans.

The Mint LA, is one of the oldest venues hosting many of New Orleans musicians, like The George Porter, Jr., Trio, Leo Nocentelli and Zigaboo Modeliste, all former members of The Meters known to Californians, who already know, we're bringing that gumbo to the stage, that funk, that driving force of rhythm which was created in the 1960's by The Meters and The Neville Brothers who shaped the sound of Funk.

Today, that sound is now being



New Orleans Funk Legend George Porter and Diva Dionne Character.

driven by a new generation introduced to us by Ian Neville and his band (Dumpstafunk), taking what was passed down from his father, Art "Poppa Funk" Neville, an original member of The Meters, who

gave us soul through his fingertips. In my interview with Ian Neville and Ivan Neville, who accompanies on organ, it is apparent that these musicians will be carrying on the Legacy of Music created by two



Diva Dionne Character shows off her immaculate style.

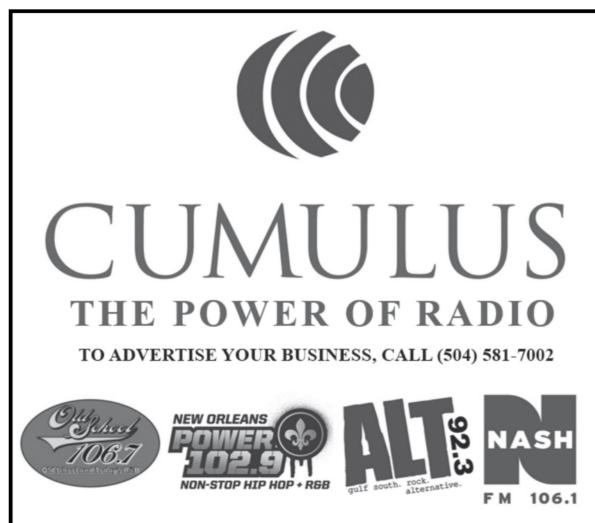
great bands they've known all of their lives, which is somehow intertwined into one force when these bloodlines hit the stage together.

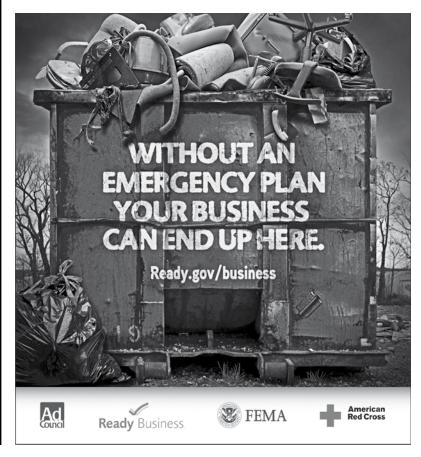
New Orleans Music is an inspiration to musicians from all over the globe. It is something no one can ever take away from us, something in the water that seems to fit perfectly with the bright lights of Hollywood, my home away from home at The Mint LA, where I get to host, interview and catch up in the greenroom.

New Orleans is losing many of its greats from the golden age of music, but the original sound of "funk" created in New Orleans, continues to live on with a new generation of musicians.

See more interviews at www. characterhollywood.com.

Also, Dionne Character can be reached at characterinhollywood@





National News

Sickle Cell Strong

Sickle Cell Disease Advocate Marie Ojiambo

Lauren Poteat NNPA Newswire Washington Correspondent

It's been more than 100 years since sickle cell disease was first discovered in America.

Today, the rare hereditary blood disorder continues to affect millions of people throughout the world.

Sickle cell disease – or SCD – affects approximately 100,000 Americans and occurs among about 1 out of every 365 African-American births, according to medical experts.

Nearly 1 in 13 African American babies are born with the sickle cell trait, which medical experts said means that an individual has inherited the sickle cell gene from one of his or her parents.

During its annual convention, the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), a trade organization that represents African American-owned newspapers and media companies throughout the U.S., partnered with Pfizer Rare Disease (Pfizer) to host a forum on this rare disease.

"I was diagnosed with sickle cell disease at the age of 1," said Marie Ojiambo, a consultant for Pfizer, during the forum moderated by NNPA President and CEO, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

"And always wanted to be a support system and advocate for



While she champions research and viable medications and solutions, Ojiambo also emphasized the importance of being regularly tested.

research, for other young women, going through the same thing," Ojiambo said.

"Because of this, I always felt like it was important for me to not only introduce myself by my profession, but also as a sickle cell warrior," said the Kenyan native.

"When I competed in the Miss Africa USA pageant back in 2014, I made sure that my pageant platform, represented the same personal goals I had for myself and advocated for, sickle cell disease awareness," she said.

Dr. Chavis emphasized, "The NNPA is grateful to Pfizer for introducing Marie Ojiambo to the Black Press of America. Ms. Ojiambo is an excellent role model for millen-

This space can be yours for only \$80

CALL NOW!!!

504-821-7421

nials, and in particular for young African and African American women, who are interested in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields of study. Marie Ojiambo's outstanding success as a research scientist is truly inspiring as she did not allow the challenges of Sickle Cell Disease to prevent her from achieving her professional career goals."

According to the National Center for Biotechnology Information, the sickle cell disease trait is most commonly found in places like Africa, India and Southeast Asia.

However, it is not exclusive to one race.

Also, as the Hemoglobin disorders follow the malaria belt around

the globe, those who have the trait are relatively protected from malaria

Although most who carry the sickle cell trait remain healthy, medical statistics show that if two healthy people who carry the trait join to conceive a child, there's still a one in four chance with every pregnancy that they would have child with active SCD.

Ojiambo, who graduated from St. John's University's College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in New York and who specializes in preclinical Pharmaceutical Research, is also the founder of the Sickle Strong Initiative—a Kenyan-based NGO whose mandate is to raise awareness around sickle cell disease and advocate for better health care opportunities for patients suffering from the disease in Kenya.

While she champions research and viable medications and solutions, Ojiambo also emphasized the importance of being regularly tested.

"Both of my parents were carriers of the sickle cell trait and so when they came together, I received the disorder," Ojiambo said.

"It is so important to know your status and to get tested regularly," Ojiambo continued.

"Take part in clinical trials and work to make sure you have access to primary care physicians and a good hematologist."

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 freelence 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

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 and datanewseditor@bellsouth.net.

We can't wait to hear from you!

This space can be

yours for only \$80

Call Now!

504-821-7421





