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Data Zone Page 6


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Young Men Who Lead by Example

Page 2




Newsmaker

Dillard Presents Alumnus Poet Jericho Brown

Page 4

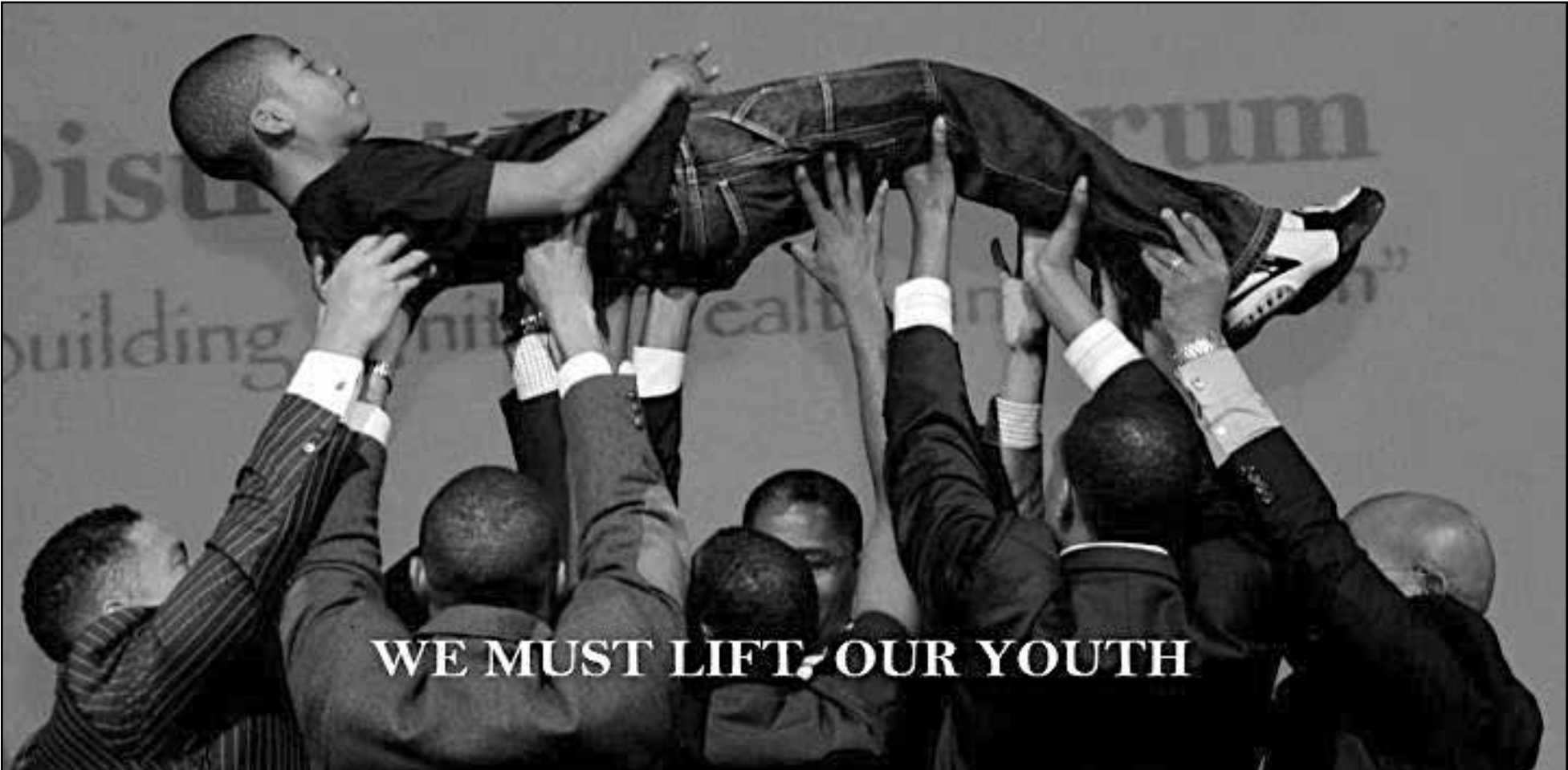
State & Local

City of New Orleans Partners with Touro



Page 5

Young Men Who Lead by Example



WE MUST LIFT OUR YOUTH

Many organizations believe that mentoring is something men should do to uplift and inspire the next generation.

Edward Carter III
Data News Weekly Contributor

More local after-school programs are working to address father’s absence, a national issue highlighted by the National Fatherhood Initiative. Across the country, 19.7 million children live in homes without biological, step or adoptive fathers, according to 2017 U.S. Census Data. This correlates to 1 in 4 American children.

Studies also show that such children are four times more likely to live in poverty, seven-times more like to become a pregnant teen and two-times more likely to drop out of high school. It is why programs like Men on the Move recruit young men to fill the gaps both symbolically and educationally in after-school programs.

“Men on the Move can be described in one word and that is: awesome,” said Sr. Suzanne Brauer with

the Dominican Sisters of Peace who operate the Peace Center on 2837 Broadway St., that hosts after-school programs.

“The way the kids react to them and look up to them is priceless. As soon as the bus came, the kids all sprinted to the door waiting on the guys to come in the door. Men on the Move is by far the best volunteers that come in and I hope that we can continue this partnership we have for the youth,” Brauer said.

Cover Story, Continued on page 3.

INSIDE DATA

Cover Story	2	Commentary.	8
Newsmaker	4	Celebration.	9
State & Local News . . .	5	Fleur de Lis	10
Data Zone	6	National News	11

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

Men on the Move is a volunteer mentorship and tutoring service that comprises a network of young men who mentor young children in the community. The network's goal is to positively affect the lives of future men and women in society by proactively and effectively mentoring children through quality time. The network promotes education and responsibility while teaching self-awareness and providing respectable role models for African American youth in the city.

They support established charities like the Dominican Sisters, who in 2014 transformed a grocery store into what is now called the Peace Center. The Sisters provide outreach and a place of peace and caring for residents in the city as well as enrichment programs for children between the ages of six through 13 in the neighborhood. It's opened Mondays through Fridays, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. every week when school is in session. This gives children more time to learn and even build relationships with other kids that do not attend the same school, Brauer explained. Many of the volunteers come from students who attend local universities and who provide homework assistance, snacks, and supervise playtime for children. Men on the Move has been an active volunteer service for the Peace Center for five years and it's not just the kids who are influenced, the children also inspire the men as well.

"The kids have a huge influence



The idea of mentoring young men is something that is happening across America.



During the historic Presidency of Barack Obama, he initiated My Brother's Keeper, a program aimed at promoting mentoring.

on us," said Niles Dixon, a college volunteer for Men of the Move. "That's what really keeps the volunteers coming. I know over the past years; people would join Men on the Move for volunteer hours. But you start to notice members stay active with us because they love seeing the smile on their faces and being able to play with them as well," Dixon said.

The experience also allows the volunteers to see first-hand how male role models can improve the outcomes for children both educationally and in the self-esteem.

"I love to see the look on their faces when they finally understand the homework they do," said Bryce Watson, a project coordinator for Men on the Move. "In addition, I love how they know all of our names and want to know more about us. It keeps us motivated knowing there are people who actually look up to us," Watson said.

Men on the Move volunteers visit the Peace Center on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Having young successful Black men be able to come in and help the children gives them utmost confidence that anything is possible, the volunteers said.

"They know that we care about them and their education, so they try very hard to succeed in academics," Watson said. "I think having Black male role models for the kids gives them the inspiration to become whatever they want to be when they grow up," he added.



Reginald Robinson and Eli Stowers volunteers of Men on the Move help young men for flag football.



Hassan Niang, Timothy Bennett and Donovan Gibson volunteer at the Peace Center for Men on the Move, a mentoring after school program for children in the city.



More local after-school programs are working to address the father's absence, a national issue highlighted by the National Fatherhood Initiative. Across the country, 19.7 million children live in homes without biological, step or adoptive fathers, according to the 2017 U.S. Census Data.



Seth Alexander, a volunteer of Men on the Move, teaches a young girl how to balance legos.



Men on the Move volunteers visit the Peace Center on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Having young successful Black men be able to come in and help children gives them utmost confidence that anything is possible, the volunteers said.

Dillard Ends Brain Food Series with Alumnus Poet Jericho Brown

Kennedy Cox Data News
Weekly Contributor
Photos by Sabree Hill
(Courtesy of Dillard
University)

Poet Jericho Brown has a special connection to his alma mater. The Guggenheim Fellow spoke at the final Brain Food Public Lecture on Sept. 25, 2019. The lecture series, which started in 2013, gave the university and wider community an opportunity to hear from a variety of prominent speakers shaping the country and world in recent times. As Dillard caps its 150th Anniversary Celebrations, University President Dr. Walter Kimbrough said he wanted the final lecture to be a coming home event.

"A fitting end, a eulogy for the series, if you will, is best delivered by an alum who has a way with words," Kimbrough said.

His first poetry teacher, Mona Lisa Saloy, an award-winning poet and Dillard Professor of English, gave him the freedom to workshop and develop ideas others might have dismissed as unfinished. She encouraged Brown to write about his family, which is a theme throughout many of his poems. He spoke broadly about the importance of community to one's art and personal progress. Growing up in Shreveport, La., Brown spent time with his grandmother and parents. He talked about the importance of geographical vernacular, mentioning the New Orleans phrase "an



Poet Jericho Brown speaking to the audience at Dillard University.

em" and referring to a phrase his grandmother said as "a Shreveport thing." The linguistics that defined his upbringing shaped his writing.

"I found out there were all these words I used at home that aren't real words and I had no clue they weren't really words!" Brown said before reading a poem about the uniqueness of Louisiana.

Brown has been a fellow with the Guggenheim Foundation and the Ratcliff Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University from 2009 to 2010. Guggenheim Fellows are individuals recognized for their exceptional intellectual and cre-

ative abilities. Brown has published three books: *Please* (2009), *The New Testament* (2014), and *The Tradition* (2019), all three about the struggles of Blackness, masculinity, and sexuality. Brown read with a smooth yet assertive tone, engaging with the audience more than once. At one point, he invited three students to come to the stage and read their own work.

"These are your brothers and sisters. I hope they will be in the place that I am in and even in higher places," Brown said to the audience.

As the last speaker for the Brain Food Series, Kimbrough said the university will continue its legacy of bringing important voices to the city and its community.

"It revolutionized how people thought of lecture series: engaging, radical, and fun," Kimbrough said about Brain Food.

"The series is intellectual sustenance," Kimbrough said. "It is informational that feeds intellectual cravings," he added.

Kimbrough said the university has a century-long tradition of bringing speakers ranging from Eleanor Roosevelt to Martin Luther King Jr., to young celebrities today like Keke Palmer, among others. They said it was an encouragement to current students to go on to make their mark, by bringing an alumnus for the final lecture.

"The series is good information for me for life down the line," said Amira Gilford, a freshman biology major from Birmingham, Ala.



Jericho Brown with Dillard University President Dr. Walter Kimbrough.

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City of New Orleans Partners with Touro on Healthy Women New Orleans Initiative

City of New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS — The City of New Orleans today announced Healthy Women New Orleans, a partnership with Touro to provide health screenings and wellness resources to improve maternal health. Through this partnership, a free Community Health Series will be offered at various New Orleans Public Library branches. At each event, women will be provided with free blood pressure screenings, a consultation with a Touro Healthcare Provider, and information about a number of programs offered by the New Orleans Health Department and other City agencies.

“At the Health Department, we know the seriousness of high blood pressure. According to our 2019 Community Health Assessment, high blood pressure was one of the top five health-related issues of most concern to residents,” said Health Director Dr. Jennifer Avegno. “Because the health of our families is strongly tied to women’s health, it is so important for women to have many ways to access care and receive support to maximize personal health and wellness.”

“The Office of Youth and Families was uniquely designed to convene stakeholders across sectors to develop innovative solutions to complex challenges. The pursuit of health equity can only be achieved through persistently leveraging community voice and community assets,” said Office of Youth and Families Deputy Director Camille A. Alexander. “Libraries are an invaluable asset to the community that can increase accessibility to health care resources and information.”

“Touro understands the severity of maternal morbidity and mortality at both a national and local level and is committed to being part of the solution and improving maternal health for women in our community. We are honored to join the



Partners announcing the Healthy Women Initiative.

City of New Orleans in this initiative and hope to grow this partnership to continue to improve community health,” said Manny Linares, Touro President, and CEO.

“Libraries are trusted community spaces where people can be connected to credible resources. Helping parents gain access to the health care and health information resources they and their families deserve is all part of a day’s work at the New Orleans Public Library and we are proud to serve as that bridge to better health outcomes for all,” said New Orleans Public Library Interim Director Jessica Styons.

The goal of hosting these health events at public libraries is to create easy access to healthcare professionals and healthcare resources. Through this partnership, Touro and the City of New Orleans hope to identify hypertension in women and connect them to the care they need. High blood pressure, or hypertension, is the leading cause of pregnancy complications and can cause problems during and after delivery.

According to the CDC, high blood pressure is present in 1 in every 12 to 17 pregnancies among women ages 20 to 44. These complications, known as maternal morbidity, are unexpected outcomes of labor and delivery that result in short or long-term consequences to a woman’s health. Early identification and intervention are critical to preventing serious complications.

Screening dates and locations

- Saturday, Oct. 5, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. – Norman Mayer Library
- Saturday, Oct. 12, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. – Nora Navra Library
- Saturday, Oct. 26, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library
- Saturday, Nov. 2, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. – Alvar Library
- Saturday, Nov. 9, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. – Algiers Regional Library

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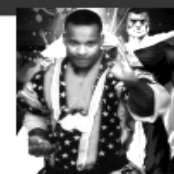
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Fashion Show Held for New Orleans Fashion Week

New Orleans Fashion Week was presented by Tracee Dundas. It was held on Saturday, September 28th at the NOPSI Hotel, 317 Baronne Street in New Orleans. Recognizing the common thread between designers and boutiques, New Orleans Fashion Week is the catalyst and driving force that unites fashion professionals in a series of high-end runway shows, presentations, pop-up boutiques, networking opportunities, and social experiences. Fashion has quickly becoming an important contributor to the New Orleans culture and is celebrated in conjunction with the city's legendary cuisine, music, art, and film.



The Urban League of Louisiana and the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus Holds its Inaugural Empowerment and Policy Conference

Louisiana Black Mayors meet with Governor John Bel Edwards.

The Inaugural Empowerment and Policy Conference, powered by the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus Louisiana Legislative (LLBC) and the Urban League of Louisiana (ULLA), is a statewide convening designed to examine systems, influence policy decisions and enact changes that will positively impact the African American community in Louisiana.

The Conference provided a platform for local, state and national thought leaders, policy makers, sector leaders, community leaders and residents to discuss, debate, and advance conversation and thinking around a multitude of issues that impact African Americans in Louisiana. Conference panelists and guest speakers engaged attendees on economic, social, and political topics.

To inform the content of the conference, ULLA and LLBC engaged residents across the state through a statewide listening tour that began in July. Community members helped to shape the conference agenda by voicing their top concerns and sharing their visions for an equitable Louisiana.



Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events

The Crescent City, (LA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated Celebratory Luncheon

On September 28th, 2019 The Crescent City, (LA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated celebrated 35 years of Friendship and Service (1984-2019) at Hyatt Regency, New Orleans, on Loyola Ave. – Celestin Ballroom. The Chapter hosted the CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE Luncheon to honor and celebrate five New Orleanians who have been catalysts for positive change in the New Orleans community. The Theme for this year's Champions for Change Luncheon was "GO BACK AND GET IT: Legacy Driven, Future Focused". This was a Sankofa moment for the Chapter. They honored the founders, celebrating their past while embracing our future.

The honorees were as follows: The Arts – Gwendolyn Victoria Rainey,

Services to Youth – Dominique Jones & Bree Anderson, Health and Human Services – Ronald V. Burns, Sr.

National Trends and Services – Will Snowden, International Trends and Services – Erica Rogers, RN/Braveheart

The message this year was delivered by the celebrated Bishop, Vashti Murphy McKenzie, who has ascended the ranks to become the first female Bishop of the historic African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. She is the National Chaplain of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and a proud Howard University graduate.

"The program was exciting and memorable, entertaining both young and old," said Dr. Beverly Wright, Co-Chair of this year's CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE Luncheon.



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2019 HousingNOLA Report Card in, New Orleans Still Doesn't #PutHousingFirst



Andreanecia Morris
Executive Director,
HousingNOLA

Five years ago, we were afraid. The 10th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina was just a year away and despite the monumental work done, we still weren't whole. We were worried because so much had been done, it might mean that we would abandon those who hadn't come home, those communities that were still devastated and the people who were the victims of New Orleans' success. We were troubled because we were constantly being

told by disconnected "experts" that the dramatic increase in housing costs meant that the city was stronger. We knew better—particularly those of us who lived in the 75% of apartments that rented for less than \$500 a month. Homeowners who had fought their way back knew that most of their homes were valued at less than \$100,000, which not only gave them the chance to buy, but a better than decent chance of passing that home down to their children. All this while the income for the average New Orleanians remained heartbreakingly below the regional average, the same as it was well before Hurricane Katrina. Five years ago, we were fearful because no one wanted to talk out loud about these hard truths.

In the Summer of 2014, the Foundation for Louisiana called the citizen planners and the Affordable Housing Industry together and

challenged us to find a path forward. We could no longer simply attempt to address the symptoms—we had to create real sustainable solutions. Thousands of regular everyday citizens committed to work with policy experts, civic leaders, business owners, public officials, lenders and Affordable Housing Developers and Advocates to begin a process that would lead to a clear and executable strategy to end the city's affordability crisis. Five years ago, HousingNOLA was born.

In order to deal with the biases associated with Affordable Housing, we have to rely on hard data. Unfortunately, the facts reveal that New Orleans is still struggling to meet the needs of our citizens. We saw a decrease in overall cost burden, but a dramatic increase in the cost burden rate for homeowners, while renters basically remained the same. This combined with the

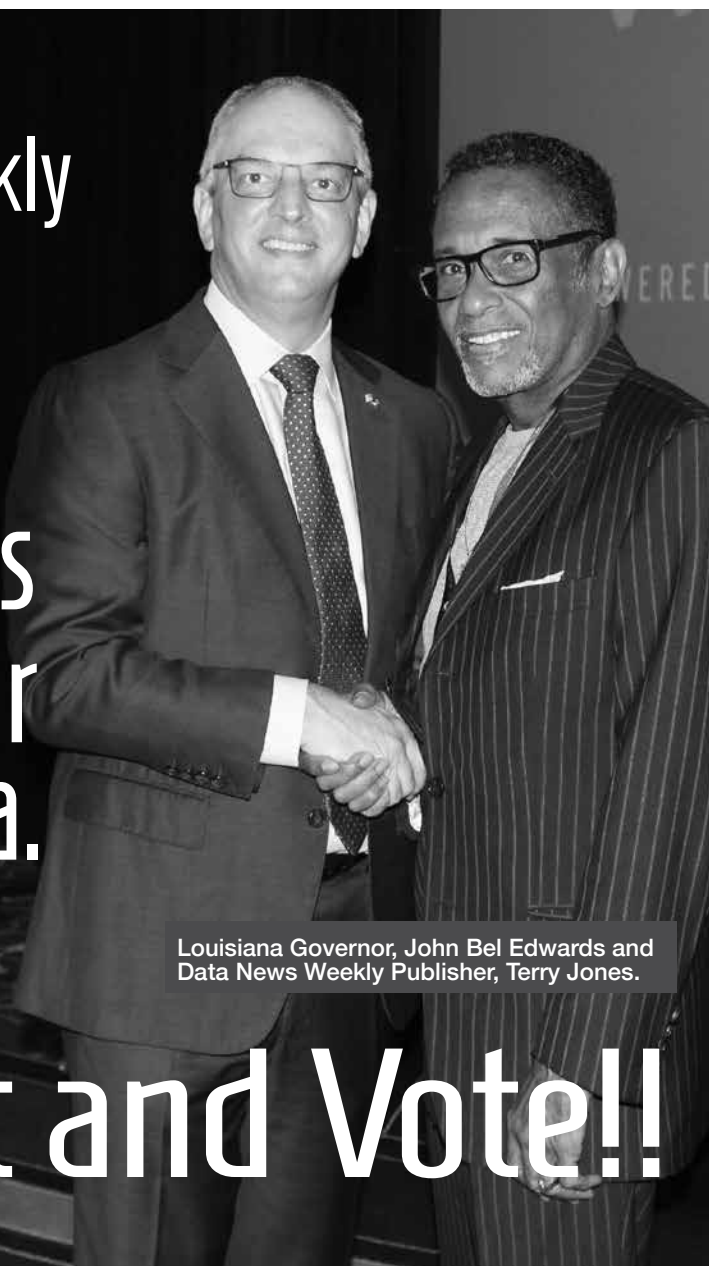
net loss of Affordable Housing opportunities for the second year in a row means that our collective efforts earn a "D." Despite the challenges, HousingNOLA reported several collective highlights in the 2019 Report Card including extending the age of foster care, securing over \$1 million to target effort in the Claiborne Corridor and the Mayor's Office of Community Development allocating \$3 million to create dozens of first-time homeowners.

Through its efforts, HousingNOLA highlights data that educates residents so they will demand policies that impact renters and homeowners through strategic and equitable investments. Over the next year we will have to split our focus and increase private market investments in Affordable Housing while demanding more of our city and state housing agencies.

The data also reveals that there is a pressing need to increase first time homeownership opportunities for African Americans and HousingNOLA will be making this a signature issue for 2020.

We began a remarkable journey that would lead to the creation of a groundbreaking plan in 2015. Much has changed over the past five years, but too much is the same. One thing that has changed, we are no longer afraid to speak our truths. We are no longer worried about demanding more of our elected officials because we know that, unlike the rest of the country, New Orleans has everything it needs to respond to the affordability crisis and set this city on a decidedly different path. Over the next year, we will continue to push because the only thing we are afraid of is what New Orleans will look like in the next five years if we don't succeed.

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Community Book Store Owner Vera Warren-Williams Celebrates 60th Birthday

By E. Benjamin

Vera Warren-Williams is the owner of the Community Book Center, that's been a staple in New Orleans for 36 years.

It is a book store as well as an event space that feeds the soul of the community with information and inspiration.

Recently, at the Ashe' Cultural Center, people from around the community came out to celebrate her 60th Birthday. Calling it "Simply 60" this was more than a party, but in the spirit of the life work of Vera Warren-Williams, a moment to reflect and work to better the community as well.

There was a screening of Toni Morrison's documentary, "The Pieces I Am".

In addition, there was a group who walked with her raising money for her Alma Mater, Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) "60 Strides Run/Walk."

To cap off this party with a purpose, cash as well as supplies were collected for the Bahamian recovery effort.

It was a beautiful weekend that celebrated the birthday of Vera Warren-Williams, a selfless giver who continues to work to empower the New Orleans community to aspire to reach higher.





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Black and Gold on a Roll

The Who Dat's Hands Dak and Cowboys their first loss of Season

Fleur De Lis
Data News Weekly Columnist

What's up people? This is Fleur De Lis, giving you the news of all things NOLA.

Again, all of the N.O. is talking about the Black and Gold and how they showed what a true team victory looked like. Doing their thing against the Dallas Cowboys, who were favored to win, but we wound up putting an L in their column.

This week's victory was not a high scoring affair as the Saints did not score one touchdown as the game was won on the foot of four field goals by Saints Kicker Wil Lutz.

In winning, the Saints are showing that they are one of the league's best teams, despite being without their field general Drew Brees, who will be back leading the team in a few weeks.

It is surprising to some, but our Saints are showing signs of great-



New Orleans Saints Quarterback Teddy Bridgewater (5) drops back to pass in-game against Dallas Cowboys where Saints won and are now leading the NFC South with a 3-1 record. (AP Photo/Butch Dill)



New Orleans Saints strong safety Von Bell (24) tries to return a fumble recovery against Dallas Cowboys. (AP Photo/Bill Feig)



New Orleans Saints Kicker Wil Lutz (3) kicks one of his four field goals as Thomas Morestead (6) holds in Saints 12-10 victory over the Dallas Cowboys. (AP Photo/Butch Dill)

ness, playing the game like true champions finding different ways to win.

This story of the Saints overcoming the odds and the naysayers is an inspiration for all of us who are members of the Who Dat Nation. And got folks in the Big Easy believing this may be our year to not only get to but win the Super Bowl.

With a few weeks left before Drew Brees returns, Teddy Bridgewater and company are getting the job done on the offensive side of the ball. Of course, it may not be done in Drew Brees fashion, but we take it how it comes, for a win is a win.

Also, Cam and company on defense are showing they can get it done. This week they shut down Cowboys Quarterback Dak Prescott and their high-powered offense, wherein the end they only put 10 points up on the scoreboard.

After Drew Brees' injury, many would not have expected us to be where we are; the Saints are on top of the NFC South with a record of 3-1.

Next week will be facing their division rivals the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. A team that is only one game behind us in the NFC South, so I believe we will be ready and hopefully put up another win.

Today as members of "The Who Dat Nation" as all the country knows we are the best and most supportive fans in the league and ready to cheer on the Black and Gold and rep for our team and City as they are on a roll.

Until next time this is Fleur De Lis with all things NOLA...Signing Off!!

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Oprah Winfrey Donates \$1.15 Million to The United Negro College Fund

NewsOne Staff

Media Mogul Oprah Winfrey is investing in the futures of students who attend Historically Black Colleges and Universities. According to The Charlotte Observer, Winfrey announced that she would donate \$1.15 million to the United Negro College Fund in an effort to help HBCU students alleviate their financial burdens.

The monumental announcement was shared during the 17th Annual Maya Angelou Women Who Lead Luncheon that was hosted in Charlotte on Saturday. The luncheon, created in memory of the late poet and civil rights activist, honors women who are making impactful changes in their local communities. The United Negro College Fund—a 75-year-old organization that is dedicated to funding scholarships for Black students who want to further their education—aimed to raise \$500,000 during the event and ended up raising \$1.15 million. During her speech at the event, Winfrey shared that she would match the amount of money raised bringing the organization's fundraising efforts to \$2.3 million.

"We do want to make this the world record-breaking event," she said before a crowd of nearly 1,200 attendees. "I believe in the



After graduating high school Oprah attended Tennessee State, an HBCU on a full scholarship she won in a public speaking competition. She majored in Speech Communications and Performing Arts. She continues to support HBCU's and their mission.

power of education. There is nothing better than to open the door for someone." Winfrey then went on to share leadership skills and talk about the importance of building a lasting legacy.

Charitable contributions like the one made by Winfrey are needed as research shows that HBCU students are hit the hardest by student loan debt. According to the United

Negro College Fund, the lack of financial resources causes HBCU students to take out student loans at higher rates which eventually leads them to have higher debt than their peers. A study conducted by the organization showed that one in four HBCU students borrows at least \$40,000 to attend college.

Several people have stepped up to reverse this trend. Last year

Songstress Beyoncé awarded eight HBCU students with scholarships and launched a capsule clothing collection to benefit the United Negro College Fund. In May, Billionaire Robert F. Smith announced that he would pay off the student loan debt for the entire 2019 graduating class at Morehouse College and recently shared that he would do the same for parents of the graduates.

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