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New Orleans

# Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"



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**Data Zone Page 6**

**Louisiana Black Theater Conference & Festival Postponed**


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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

# The New Normal

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# The New Normal

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) and our Changing Lives



New Orleans is second only to Seattle in per capita cases of the Corona (COVID-19) virus.

**Data News Weekly Staff Edited Report**

In the wake of the Coronavirus Pandemic, something that's changing our everyday lives and how we live it. We all are being asked to make adjustments to help prevent its spreading. We at Data News Weekly in our role as "The People's Paper" wanted to pass on

some vital information that we hope can be helpful. In our City we have seen the numbers rise from 3 last week to 171 confirmed cases with 4 deaths as of March 17. We are advising our people to not panic but take this seriously and listen to our local and state leaders for instructions and updates.

New Orleans is second only to Seattle in per capita cases of the virus. Something that's made Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards to close bars movies and restaurant dining rooms. Also causing New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell to prohibit all public and private gatherings, close all bars, nightclubs, gyms, health clubs, shopping malls and dine-in restaurants.

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### DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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## Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

These are truly tough and changing times for people not just in New Orleans but around the world. We know we will make it through this and to be armed with the best information so our citizens can make plans for themselves and their families.

**Things to Do:****Make Sure You Have Enough Food**

As schools and workplaces close people may be spending more time at home during the coronavirus pandemic, you should stock up a 14-day supply of food for every person — and pet — in your household. Focus on dry and canned goods that are easy to prepare.

The US Department of Homeland Security recommends stocking up enough food and water for two weeks before a pandemic strike.



Make sure you have enough hygienic products like soap, hand sanitizer, toilet paper, tissues, feminine care products, and diapers.



In response to the Coronavirus; this week Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards in an effort to stop it from spreading closed bars, casinos, movies and restaurant dining rooms. This move was also made by New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell.

Dry goods like rice, pasta, beans, and oats should be the foundation of your stockpile. You should also stock up on canned foods that contain liquid, such as tomatoes, beans, and tuna. The excess liquid can be used to cook dried food like rice and pasta. (Make sure you have a can opener.)

**Make sure you have enough household hygienic products like soap, hand sanitizer, toilet paper, tissues, feminine care products, and diapers.**

It may sound simple, but regular and thorough handwashing is one of the best and easiest ways to protect yourself from the coronavirus, according to the CDC.

So, remember to include hand soap and sanitizer in your home

quarantine kit.

Don't forget other hygiene items such as toilet paper, tissues, feminine-care products, and diapers if you have small children in the household.

**If possible, get a 30-day supply of your prescription medications.**

Many who take medication should have a 30-day supply of medication according to several experts.

The US Department of Homeland Security recommends periodically checking your regular prescription drugs to ensure a continuous supply in your home.

While many prescription drugs have quantity limits, you can ask your doctor to help you submit an exception form.

Take note of other medical



Cafes and restaurants sit empty.



The top tip: Wash your hands. Why? Viruses can spread from person to person via respiratory droplets. When an infected person coughs or sneezes, close contacts can be infected.

supplies you may need, such as contact lenses, contact solution, hearing-aid batteries, and over-the-counter medicines like pain relievers and cough and cold medicines. (bold)

If someone in your home uses a hearing aid, the American Red Cross advises stocking up on extra batteries. Other miscellaneous medical supplies might include glasses, contact lenses, or syringes.

Over-the-counter medicines you may want to have on hand include pain relievers, stomach remedies, cough and cold medicines, vitamins, and fluids that contain electrolytes, according to the American Red Cross.

**Two Week Supply of Water**

The US Department of Homeland Security suggests stocking up a two-week supply of water

**Remember Things to Do**

To fend off coronavirus, follow flu prevention tips

The top tip: Wash your hands. Why? Viruses can spread from person to person via respiratory droplets. When an infected person coughs or sneezes, close contacts can be infected. In addition, the virus can end up on doorknobs, elevator buttons and other surfaces. If you touch those surfaces and then touch your eyes, nose or mouth, you can become infected.

"Americans are friendly. We not only shake hands, we also hug. These are ways we can transmit the virus," says Rebecca Katz, who directs the Center for Global Health Science and Security. She recommends an elbow bump or, you can try these no-touch salutations.

Here are five more things to remember, per the CDC:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

**We Will Be Ok, but It Will Take All of Us To Be Responsible**

It's been reported that drive-thru testing will be available as soon as this weekend in New Orleans and trials are being done to develop a vaccine.

Us getting through this will take time, and key to this is US doing what is being asked of US!!

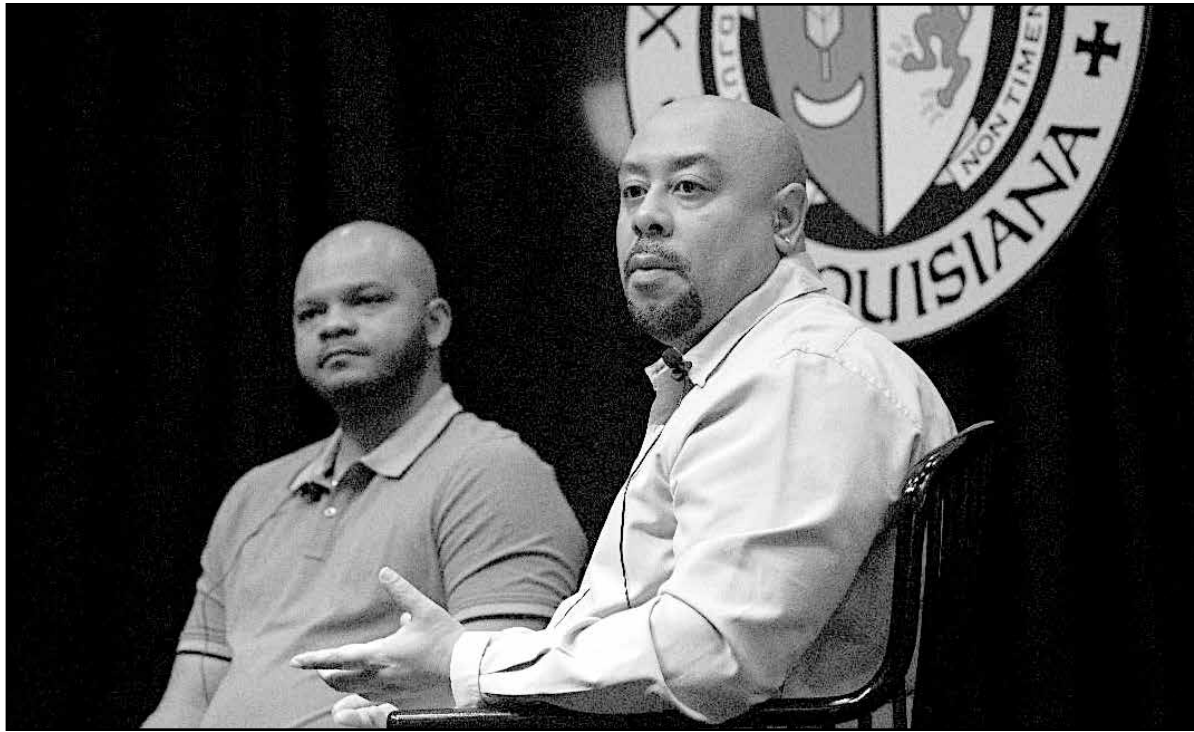


# Members of "The Exonerated Five" Speak on the Criminal Justice System

Story and Photos  
Alexa RC Green  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

Exonerated. This word echoed through as two of the exonerated men in the 1989 Central Park Jogger Case shared what their life is like as they joined White House correspondent April Ryan at a Public Lecture in New Orleans on March 11th.

Ryan opened the conversation with Kevin Richardson and Raymond Santana by taking the audience back to 1989. She shared that when the case happened, she was preparing to graduate from college while Richardson and Santana, and three others, Antron McCray, Korey Wise and Yusef Salaam, between the ages of 14 to 16, were in a courthouse confessing to a rape they did not commit. The "Central Park Five" as they were then called, were sentenced to 10 years in prison, and served a



Kevin Richardson (right) and Raymond Santana (left)

range of six to twelve years before they were released.

"Broken system, broken lives,

broken dreams and overcoming them," Ryan told the audience at

Xavier University's University Cen-

ter Ballroom, explaining how the system failed the five teenagers.

The Center for Equity, Justice,

and the Human Spirit organized the W. K. Kellogg Public Lecture because it wanted to engage in "a dialogue on the necessity of Criminal Justice Reform and to bring awareness to the disparities within America's Criminal Justice System," according to David W. Robinson-Morris, Ph.D., the Center's Director.

Two decades later their story returned to headlines. In 2015, Santana tweeted filmmaker Ava DuVernay: "What's your next film gonna be on?? #thecentralpark-five #cp5 #centralpark5 maybe???? #wishfulthinking #fingerscrossed," he shared. Four years later, DuVernay followed through and worked closely with the exonerated men and later released the acclaimed Netflix mini-series, "When They See Us." The series brought to light the story once again to a new generation and also highlighted how current President Donald Trump

**Newsmaker, Continued  
on page 8.**

## Zion Williamson to Pay Salaries of Entire Smoothie King Center Staff for the Next Month

Edwin Buggage  
Editor-in-Chief

Pelicans Superstar Zion Williamson is making headlines again and this is for an amazing gesture off the court.

Williamson announced on his Instagram page that he would be paying the salaries of all Smoothie King Center Staff for the next 30 days, due to NBA's Suspension for that time period and possibly even longer due to COVID-19.

"The people of New Orleans have been incredibly welcoming and supportive since I was Drafted by the Pels last June, and some of the most special people I have met are those who work at Smoothie King Center. These are the folks who make our games possible, creating the perfect environment for our fans and every-



Williamson announced on his Instagram page that he would be paying the salaries of all Smoothie King Center Staff for the next 30 days, due to NBA's Suspension for that time period and possibly even longer due to COVID-19

one involved in the organization. Unfortunately, many of them are

still recovering from long-term challenges created by Katrina,

and now faced the economic impact of the postponement of games because of the virus. My mother has always set an example for me about being respectful for others and being grateful for what we have, and so today I am pledging to cover the salaries for all of those Smoothie King Center workers for the next 30 days. This is a small way for me to express my support and appreciation for these wonderful people who have been so great to me and my teammates and hopefully we can all join together to relieve some of the stress and hardship caused by this National Health Crisis. This is an incredibly resilient city full of some of the most resilient people, but sometimes providing a little extra assistance can make things a little easier for the community." Williamson wrote.



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# Urban League of Louisiana

## *Things We're Talking About in MARCH*

### Urban League of Louisiana

#### Urban League of Louisiana

The mission of the Urban League of Louisiana is to assist African Americans and other communities seeking equity to secure economic self-reliance, parity and civil rights. We implement our mission through programs in the areas of EDUCATION and YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, WORKFORCE and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC POLICY and ADVOCACY initiatives.



Faith Leaders and Black Men Count gathered at the Urban League Headquarters to learn more about the 2020 Census efforts. Faith and community leaders have committed to ensuring a fair and accurate count in the #2020census and making sure #BlackMenCount.

#### Urban League of Louisiana: Things We're Talking About in MARCH

The Morial Award – Two Awards, One Purpose (bold)

What We Are Doing: The Urban League of Louisiana has partnered with the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center to launch the Ernest N. Morial Small Business of the Year Award and the Ernest N. Morial Corporation of the Year Award to honor the legacy of one of New Orleans'



Former First Lady, Author, Philanthropist and Former Educator Mrs. Sybil H. Morial, Urban League of Louisiana President & CEO Judy Reese Morse and Morial Convention Center Board Commissioner Bonita Robertson.

most emblematic mayors, Ernest N. "Dutch" Morial. The awards will recognize a small business and a corporation that continue to dem-

onstrate innovative growth and economic impact, as well as exceptional contributions to the sustainability and growth of local communities

and small businesses across the State of Louisiana.

Why it Matters: Small businesses and corporations both, through their hiring and procurement practices, have a responsibility to practice equity and create opportunities that empower communities and change lives. When they are successful in this work, their efforts should indeed be applauded.

To learn more or submit a nomination, please visit [www.morialaward.com](http://www.morialaward.com)

Women in Business ScaleUp! Pitch Challenge (bold)

What We Are Doing: Our Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation will host the 8th Annual Women in Business (WIB) Pitch Challenge, featuring our ScaleUp!

State & Local, Continued on page 10.

## City Encourages Vulnerable Residents to Access Range of Resources in Response to COVID-19

### City of New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS — The City of New Orleans Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness (NOHSEP), through its emergency preparedness campaign NOLA Ready, has established a "resources" listing on its website to better inform vulnerable residents of assistance opportunities in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Residents can also stay informed by texting COVIDNOLA to 888777 to receive alerts or visit [ready.nola.gov](http://ready.nola.gov). Residents can also get news releases from the City of New Orleans by visiting the News Section of [NOLA.gov](http://NOLA.gov).

The website is organized by the following categories and services and will be continuously updated:

#### Food Assistance

- NOLA Public School Child Nutrition Services and Feeding Program
- Second Harvest Food Bank
- Legal Assistance
- Southeast Louisiana Legal Services

#### Unemployment Insurance

- For workers
- For employers
- Utilities
- Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans
- Entergy New Orleans
- Internet & Cellular Service
- Mental Health Support
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Disaster Distress Helpline

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# The 1st Annual Louisiana Black Theater Conference & Festival has Been Postponed Due to COVID-19 Concerns

ABCT Photos by Glenn Summers

The Center for African and African American Studies (CAAAS) at Southern University at New Orleans and the Anthony Bean Community Theater (ABCT) announce the postponement of the 1st Annual Louisiana Black Theater Conference & Festival scheduled for April 16-19 at Southern University at New Orleans. This decision was in response to concerns and uncertainty about COVID-19.

The 4-day postponed event was set to celebrate the diverse and provocative works of Black theater artists from throughout the Diaspora. CAAAS and ABCT are jointly determined to reschedule the artists, thinkers, activists and diverse audiences who are dedicated to uplifting the status and contributions of Black theater.

Also postponed is the ABCT 20th Anniversary Benefit Gala honoring and saluting local celebrities including: Irma Thomas, Sally-Ann Roberts, Oliver Thomas, Terry Jones and Adelle Gautier- all of whom have supported ABCT throughout its 20-year history.

The 1st Annual Louisiana Black Theater Conference & Festival Committee is exploring options for rescheduling the conference/festival in the Fall.

For more information, contact Elise Felix at (504) 862=PLAY (7529) or email us at [info@anthonybean-theater.com](mailto:info@anthonybean-theater.com)



(Standing L-R) Sally-Ann Roberts, Anthony Bean, Terry Jones, Oliver Thomas. (Sitting L-R) Adelle Gautier and Irma Thomas, all of whom have supported ABCT throughout its 20-year history.



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



# Famed Civil Rights Attorney Ben Crump has Written a New Book

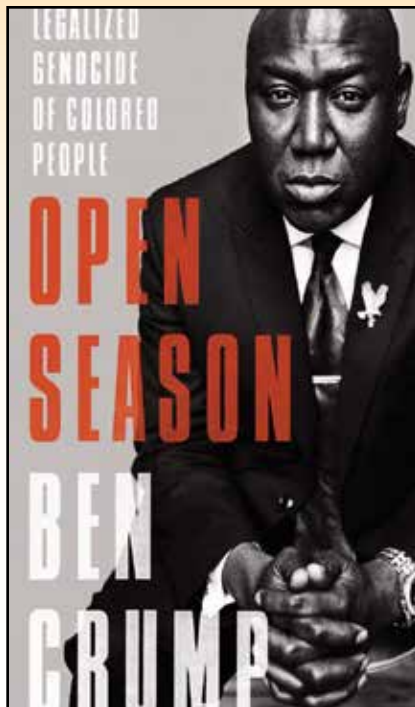
*The book Examines the Troubling History of Environmental Racism in America.*



**Stacy M. Brown**  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
Correspondent

“Open Season: Legalized Genocide of Colored People,” the 272-page book that’s already the top seller on Amazon.com in the category of Civil Rights Law, tackles how environmental racism pertains to the water crisis in Flint, Michigan, and Newark, New Jersey.

In the book, Crump explores how marginalized communities largely are overlooked by the institutions charged



with protecting them.

Crump also summarizes the state of civil and environmental rights in the U.S.

As he prepared a return to Flint, Crump vowed to avoid distractions, including a recent \$100 million lawsuit filed by George Zimmerman against the attorney and the parents of Trayvon Martin.

“The parents of Trayvon Martin and I don’t want to give any attention to this frivolous and unfounded lawsuit at all. We believe attention is what he’s seeking,” Crump stated.

“It’s so asinine that the actions of the killer of their teenage son will continue to devastate them over and over again. Every year he comes up with something like the selling of the gun. It’s just horrific what this individual does. We rather focus on something more

important, like in Flint, and this guy is only a distraction,” Crump noted.

Crump’s return to Flint, where he planned to hold rallies over two days to keep attention on the continued water crisis, comes nearly four years after he and hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons went house-to-house delivering water to families throughout the city.

“We found out that not only was there a water crisis, but Flint was a food desert,” Crump stated. “So, we have to focus on this because it’s important. We have children who have problems with brain development because they were poisoned by the government wantonly.”

While Crump’s new book digs deeper into the Flint crisis, it also explores racism across the country.

**Crump Book/Continued**  
on page 10



## AUDUBON NATURE INSTITUTE EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

### JENNIFER BRANDON CONCESSIONS SUPERVISOR

Jennifer has grown up with Audubon, beginning as a Zoo camper, then as a Jr. Keeper, and now working as a concessions supervisor while she works on her bachelor’s degree. Her favorite thing about her job is interacting with guests from all over while improving their experience with great service and great food. When she’s not with her “second family” at Audubon, Jennifer loves spending time with her “first family” and volunteering at her son’s school!

*Celebrating the Wonders of Nature*

Be a part of the Audubon Team: [AudubonNatureInstitute.org/Careers](https://AudubonNatureInstitute.org/Careers)





# Now More Than Ever, Housing is Healthcare



**Andreanecia Morris**  
Executive Director,  
HousingNOLA

We say #PutHousingFirst because, now more than ever, our communities cannot ignore the need for safe, decent and affordable housing. The City of New Orleans is under a State of Emergency, canceling numerous public events and securing commitments from Entergy and the Sewerage and Water Board to suspend utility disconnections. This

is a tremendous first step and we are grateful to the Mayor and the New Orleans City Council for their quick action.

As more people are home bound, HousingNOLA wants to help ensure they have a home and can keep their home. Jobs will likely be impacted by Coronavirus-related closures, and that would surely have an impact on a homeowner or renter's ability to pay their mortgage or rent. As Affordable Housing Advocates, our priority is minimizing the impact to homeowners and renters when it comes to their housing. While we don't know how long we will be facing this threat, we are calling on leaders to think and act long term, particularly when it comes to helping people keep their homes. This will

require responses from our city, state and federal leaders.

Last week, the First and Second District courts halted eviction proceedings and advocates urged the Housing Authority of New Orleans to forestall terminations and evictions. HANO should take further steps to expedite inspections by approving properties that meet minimal habitation guidelines. We do not want to open the floodgates and allow slum landlords to profit from Government Subsidy Programs, but apartments that might require minimal repairs before approval should be added to the program.

As the legislative session is currently underway, we are calling on State Senators and Representatives to pay special attention to

laws affecting housing. And while there has never been a dedicated revenue source for the Housing Trust Fund, NOW is the time for legislators to appropriate Emergency Housing Funding to ensure everyone has a place to live during this crisis. We need a dedicated revenue source to create a revolving loan fund that can be used in response to this and the next disaster and, after an initial capitalization of \$20 million, have the balance be distributed across the state to create affordable housing opportunities.

Additionally, while there are laws in place to stop price gouging on necessary items like water and gas, there is no law on the books to stop price gouging for another necessity: housing. We are calling

on leaders to offer relief options for renters and homeowners similar to Italy's suspension of mortgage payments or the California's discussion around banning evictions and foreclosures.

Our failure to address the city's Affordable Housing Crisis now demands quick action in light of this global pandemic. We can no longer wait years for construction of new homes and apartments, or delay policy implementation for months. We need solutions that provide housing within days so we, our family, friends and neighbors aren't forced to risk our health to keep a roof over our heads. For those who are struggling housing insecurity, we need solutions that addresses those concerns within hours.



## Employment Opportunity: NORTA Director of Office of Board Affairs and Board Secretary

The Regional Transit Authority of New Orleans is seeking a *Director of the Office of Board Affairs & Board Secretary*.

This position manages and administers the Office of Board Affairs, as a member of the RTA's Senior Management Team, under the day-to-day direction of the Chief Executive Officer. The Office of Board Affairs, in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer and Board Counsel, develops policies for the Board's consideration.

The Office of Board Affairs is also responsible for administrative tasks such as setting Board agendas and schedules, managing the Board's decision-making process, providing Board resolutions and related documentation, documenting outcomes of Board activities, and managing public input to the Board in accordance with Board bylaws and procedures. The Director serves as the liaison between Senior Management and the Board of Commissioners, its advisory bodies, and the public, ensuring that all matters are handled effectively.

Deadline: April 3, 2020.

For more information on this position,  
see [www.norta.com](http://www.norta.com).

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## Newsmaker, Continued from page 4.



April Ryan, Kevin Richardson, and Raymond Santana

played a role in shaping public outrage to the case.

Trump spent \$85,000 to run full-pages ads in four New York newspapers calling for the death penalty in the case with the headline "Bring back the death penalty. Bring back our police." Ryan said she had the chance to ask Trump the question, "Do you want to apologize to the Central Park Five, now the Exonerated Five." He responded with, "For what?" The president cited that the boys had pleaded guilty in 1989, but never acknowledged that the teens were coerced to plead guilty and later exonerated and freed.

The men recalled their experiences with the Criminal Justice System at such a young age. They highlighted how the police had set them up, how their families were prohibited from seeing them, and how they were treated in prison.

They also discussed how the trauma they faced in prison is still affecting them today and even their families. Kevin Richardson's wife, Johansy Richardson, spoke on her husband's healing process from her point of view.

**Newsmaker, Continued**  
on page 9.



# Do Right or Go Home “My Truth”



**Cheryl Smith**  
Publisher of I Messenger Media  
L.L.C., Texas Metro News/  
Garland Journal & I Messenger

is not promised. I remember taking my Godmother to vote for Sen. Barack Hussein Obama for president... While she was not with us to witness the inauguration, she was proud to vote and also hear the results of the historic election. She felt strongly about voting and she wasn't intimidated by the abundance of McCain/Palin signs we saw around Cairo, GA.

All elections are very important and sadly many still forego the process. On numerous occasions, I have been asked if Texas Metro News would endorse candidates.

We are moving to that point, despite opposition that says the Black press should not endorse because

You don't have the luxury (resources) of the mainstream press;

Your readers don't listen to sound reasoning because many choose personalities over issues;

Candidates take it personally and won't advertise with you if you endorse their opponent; and

## Politicians are dishonest.

Well, what are some good reasons for endorsing?

You know the real dirt – the good, bad and ugly;

People trust you; and

Who better to tell the truth, accurately and fairly?

There are people who want to hear from the Black Press. They get information on so many topics, but they thirst for more on the controversial and sometimes volatile subjects. No, they aren't begging for gossip or salaciousness. What they want is someone to break down some of the senseless stuff we witness and put into perspective.

## Which brings me to my truth!

The Black Press has to be vocal! We have to return to those days of fearlessness where we called out people who were wrong and stood

up for those who were right. Yes, times have changed. Remember the days, when you told someone to go sit down because they had no business even thinking about running for office.

Today you are supposed to keep your mouth shut to keep the peace. But who benefits from your silence? Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

There was a time when Black people looked to the Black press for that friendship because we weren't getting love anywhere else. Those soldiers without swords not only shared the news, they spread the truth and let the hit dog holler.

Now some of the messages could be sharp and downright hurtful. But they were for the greater good. There will come a time when there will be endorsements from this publication, and other I Messenger Media outlets. We're going to come correct. We will do our research and rest knowing we won't be for sale!

Advertising with us is the right thing to do, whether we endorse you or not. You should want to

reach our readers! If we don't endorse you, we will tell you why.

When you choose not to advertise with us, you are speaking volumes. When you don't pay or try to devalue us; you are sending a message. Some publishers want to let readers know when this happens.

As attempts are underway to build a respected and quality publication, we are getting ourselves together for that day when we can withstand any assaults that come from our efforts to educate, enlighten and inform.

We began this journey by establishing a publication with journalism at its core. We're a team of award-winning journalists, journalism educators and communications/ media professionals who have what it takes to produce a stellar publication and we're continuing to build.

Many are students of ethics and communications law. Others while well-versed in the Associated Press Stylebook also realize the importance of our own style and nuances that speak to our realities, our struggles, our lives.

We're constantly looking for more talent, interns, volunteers

and seasoned professionals. We're embracing technology and collaborating with others to maximize our resources; while building and sharing.

We must, in the spirit of the Black Press credo, plead our own cause. We want to tell our stories. We want to be the voice for the voiceless. We have more resources today to give more folks a voice, but we still have to take into consideration that there are many who still find their voices muted.

And just because someone has a platform does not mean they have taken the steps to be adequately prepared to use that platform for the benefit of others. You might find someone totally abusing the platform, themselves and society. You have to know the difference!

We stand on the shoulders of men and women who make us feel the need to come strong and that's what we are working on. We feel a moral obligation. We're providing that strong base so when we do endorse, readers will trust and believe, and take us to the polls with them! If you believe in yourself enough to run for office, make sure you always do the right thing!

Newsmaker, Continued from page 8.



Johansy Richardson, Kevin Richardson's wife speaking on her husband's healing process

“Kevin has days where I'll go downstairs, and he is in the man cave, he breaks down. I find him crying,” Johansy said. “As his wife, I wonder why he is crying... He tells me I'm still healing; I'm still trying to process what happened why they did this to me.”

Both Richardson and Santana shared that they now work on issues of Criminal Justice Reform, including work with The Innocence Project and police departments across the country to make sure others do not end up in the same situation as them.

“You have to get in the system to change the system,” Richardson said.

“Proper revenge is to be successful,” Santana added.



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# Booker T. Washington Lady Lions wins Girls Louisiana Class 3A Basketball Title

Crescentcitysport.com

Booker T. Washington High School has a rich history in the City of New Orleans. Recently, their renaissance hit a new high Saturday night at Burton Coliseum.

The Lady Lions basketball team claimed its school's first state championship since it re-opened four years ago, winning the Class 3A title 44-36 over Mansfield.

Booker T. Washington (25-13) rallied from a nine-point second-quarter deficit behind a ferocious defense in claiming the first girls basketball title in school history.

BTW held Mansfield to 4-of-28 shooting in the second half and 18.9 percent shooting for the game and forced 20 turnovers.

Sophomore Imani Rothschild, who led BTW with 13 points and six of the Lady Lions' 11 steals, was named the game's most outstanding player.

Kassie Dolliole and Mikira Kirton each had nine points, while



Booker T. Washington Lady Lions celebrates winning the LHSAA 3A Girls Basketball Championship. (Photo by Dennis Babineaux/Special to the American Press)

leading scorer Ra'nae Tumblin was scoreless for the first 29 minutes but finished with six.

In the first quarter, defenses dominated as there were as many

turnovers as points scored – 10. BTW went 2-for-8 from the floor, which was slightly better than Mansfield's 2-for-11, as the teams were tied 5-5.

Booker T. Washington closed the second and third quarters with a flurry to take a 29-27 lead into the final eight minutes.

Mansfield (26-6) opened the sec-

ond quarter on an 8-0 run, holding Booker T. Washington scoreless for nearly five minutes. The Lady Lions finally got things going late in the period, including a pair of three-pointers and two free throws by Kirton, to eliminate a nine-point deficit and tie the game at 19-all at the half.

The defenses dominated again for much of the third quarter, with each team scoring only four points in the first 5½ minutes, but a put back by Dolliole and two free throws by Rothschild capped a 6-0 run to give the Lady Lions the lead.

The Lady Lions defense dominated the fourth quarter, holding Mansfield to 2-of-14 from the field and forcing five turnovers, while the offense continued to do enough, hitting 4 of its 7 tries from the floor and making 7 of 15 free throws.

This is good news for a school that is continuing its great legacy in New Orleans.

Data News Weekly added to this report.

## State & Local, Continued from page 5.

Program graduates. Sponsored by Iberia Bank and AARP, the event on March 23rd will feature four extraordinary women entrepreneurs who will pitch their plans to grow and scale their businesses for a chance to win \$10,000 in funding.

Why it Matters: Past winners and finalists of the WIB Pitch Challenge have gone on to successfully grow their businesses in the Greater New Orleans Area. 99% of ALL businesses in this country are small businesses. When small businesses succeed, our communities succeed!

To attend this free event, register at NOEW.org.

## 2020 Census- Be Counted!

What We are Doing: The Urban League of Louisiana created VOICE (Voicing our Information for Census Equity), an initiative to encourage participation in the 2020 Census, especially for the African American community and other communities of color with special attention to families with young children and opportunity youth.

Why it Matters: The Census will directly impact our communities every day for the next ten years – it

determines the allocation of nearly 7 Billion dollars a year for federal programs that serve children, communities, and families, and it determines our congressional districts and number of representatives, directly impacting our power and access to fair representation.

Want to participate? Visit [www.urbanleaguela.org/voice](http://www.urbanleaguela.org/voice)

## 2020 New Orleans Guide to High Schools . . . and Beyond

What We are Doing: This month the Urban League of Louisiana's Parent Information Center will release the 9th Edition of The New Orleans Guide to High Schools, created in response to the need for a resource that would aid students and parents in their journey to finding the right high school. The guide lists details on every public, private and Catholic High School in the city. Every seventh and eighth grader in the city will receive a guide, as well as local libraries and health clinics.

Why it Matters: This comprehensive guide assists parents and students in making informed decisions when selecting high school options in New Orleans. The Guide

contains information on every high school admissions process, average ACT scores, and the percentage of students who graduate and attend college. Parents can now spend less time researching information and more time deciding which schools will offer the best fit for their child.

To learn more, visit [www.urbanleaguela.org/ULPIC](http://www.urbanleaguela.org/ULPIC)

## Career Pathways Program for Out of School (Opportunity) Youth

What We are Doing: The Office of Workforce Development is offering a Career Readiness Program for out of school/opportunity youth ages 16 – 24. This program is designed so that youth can achieve work readiness, financial literacy, paid work experience, and work-based learning opportunities.

Why it Matters: In New Orleans alone, over 7,000 young people between the ages of 16 and 24 are disconnected from school and work. Efforts like this one work towards bringing this number down to zero.

Anyone interested in this program can register at [www.urbanleaguela.org/cppyouth](http://www.urbanleaguela.org/cppyouth)

## Crump Book Continued from page 7.

In one section of "Open Season," Crump talks about one of the incidents that inspired him to continue his work as a civil rights attorney.

"When we were in Ferguson, Missouri, in the aftermath of the killing of Michael Brown, who was shot and killed in broad daylight, there were these young Black Lives Matter activists who refused to let them sweep Michael Brown's life under the rug," Crump stated.

Crump continued:

"If this water crisis in Flint would have happened in a white community, it would be a national catastrophe. Lightning would strike and thunder would boom. I mean people would go to jail. "But, because it's a majority-minority community, it's almost as if Americans don't know it happened. They say, 'it doesn't affect me, just those black and brown people, so it doesn't matter.'"

"Open Season: Legalized Genocide of Colored People" is available at Amazon.com and other outlets.

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# LAPD's Latest Controversy

## *Forging Information on Minority Traffic Stops*

By Isabell Rivera  
Our Weekly Newspaper,  
Contributor

Just days into the New Year, and the Los Angeles Police Department already has a fire to put out. According to the LA Times, the LAPD's elite Metropolitan (Metro) Division is being accused of allegedly forging information collected at random stops, falsely portraying innocent Black and Latinx citizens as gang members.

More than 12 officers are being investigated for entering wrong information to boost statistics. The sources claim that in one case, a body camera shows a different scene than the initial field interview cards. Some of the investigated officers have already been suspended from working the field.

A 2019 investigation by the LA Times found that the Metro Division stops Black and Latinx drivers five times more often than their White counterparts. Another investigation followed in October and discovered that across the entire LAPD – not just Metro Division – Black and Latinx drivers are being searched at rates 4-to-1 and 3-to-1, in comparison to White drivers, although officers found more contraband among White drivers.

According to the Racial and Identity Profiling Advisory (RIPA) Board, the LAPD is almost double the disparity of the other eight largest policing units in the state of California.

South LA civic leaders, such as the PUSH LA "Reimagine Protect and Serve" coalition, demand that Chief Michel Moore remove Metro completely.

"We are calling on LAPD Chief Michel Moore to pull the Metro Division out of South Los Angeles immediately and take the steps toward eradicating it entirely for this corruption and past division-wide racist policing," Community Coalition President and CEO Alberto Retana declared in a statement on behalf of PUSH LA. "There additionally needs to be serious consideration to ending the gang database."

PUSH LA "Reimagine Protect and Serve" is a cross-sector coalition



According to the Racial and Identity Profiling Advisory (RIPA) Board, the LAPD is almost double the disparity of the other eight largest policing units in the State of California. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)

tion of 15 social justice organizations dedicated to ending racist policing in Los Angeles.

"The division is corrupt, racist, abusing its power, and purposefully distorting information," Retana continued in his statement on behalf of PUSH LA. "They're certainly not protecting and serving, a mantra that has long since lost truth for communities of color across Los Angeles and the United States."

After the investigated reports, Metro said they'll cut back on random vehicle stops and searches. Moore also agreed that Metro's methods were not effective and costing innocent drivers who felt they had become targets of racial profiling. Metro is said to use other strategies to catch wanted suspects in connection with burglaries and shootings.

Moore explained in a released statement the reasoning for the investigation and responded, "An officer's integrity must be absolute. There is no place in the department for any individual who would purposely falsify information on a department report."

Recently, the LAPD released a statement explaining the investigation and what has prompted it.

In early 2019, a mother in San Fernando Valley was notified by the LAPD in a written letter that her son is allegedly a gang member. Believing that this must be a mistake, she took the matter to her local precinct, and reported the incident to a supervisor.

According to the statement by the LAPD, the reviewing supervisor stated, "body worn video and other information, finding inaccuracies in the documentation completed by an officer."

As a result, the mother was informed that her son's information will be removed completely from the data, and an internal investigation will be launched that involves the three officers who collected the data.

"Over the course of several months, Internal Affairs investiga-

tors have continued their investigation resulting in identifying additional inaccuracies in the documentation on field interview cards completed by those officers as well as others," the statement by the LAPD declared. "Given the serious nature of the alleged misconduct, all involved officers have been assigned to inactive duty or removed from the field."

According to the Police Protective League, those discrepancies on a restricted number of field interview cards are known to them, and the department will take a closer look. The department also supports Moore's decision with confidence, stating that they "will oversee a thorough and fair process to determine the facts and to also ensure that any impacted officer is accorded his or her due process rights."

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