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New Orleans

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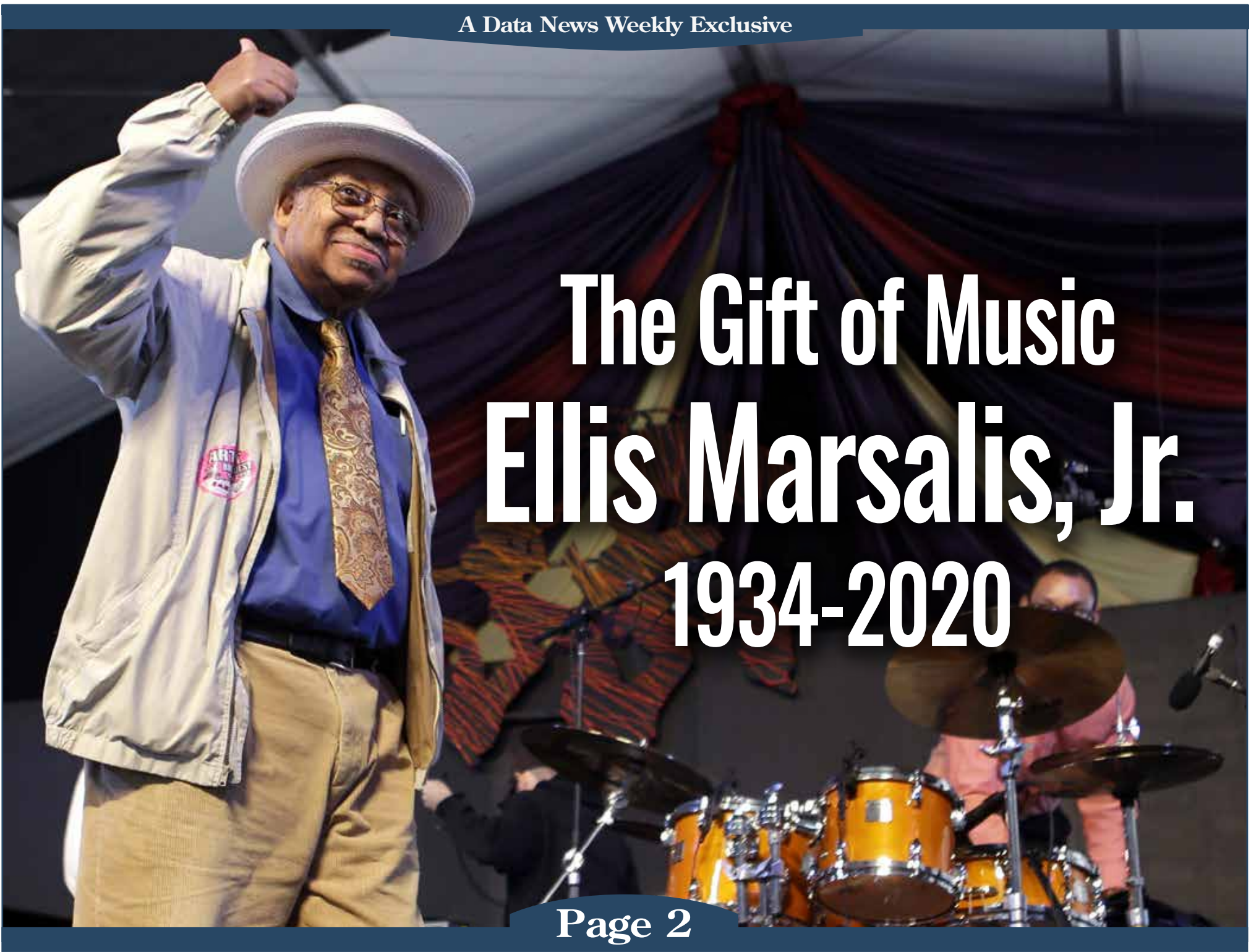
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The Gift of Music

Ellis Marsalis, Jr.

1934-2020



Ellis Marsalis, Jr. was born in New Orleans in 1934. His long and beautiful life was an amazing journey, one filled with him making great music in addition to being a great husband, father and influencing others as an educator and mentor.

Data News Weekly Staff Edited Report

New Orleans is a City with a great musical heritage. It is the birthplace of Jazz, a music that many would argue is one the world’s most influential and innovative art forms of the last 100 years.

Ellis Marsalis, Jr., the patriarch of America’s First

Family of Jazz recently passed away from pneumonia brought on by COVID- 19 Coronavirus.

According to his son, Ellis Marsalis III, Marsalis died after developing pneumonia. “I was with him in the hospital for six or seven hours yesterday. Branford was with him Monday; I was with him yesterday and Jason was with him today. He passed right after Jason

departed,” Ellis Marsalis III told the Associated Press.

Ellis Marsalis, Jr. was born in New Orleans in 1934. His long and beautiful life was an amazing journey, one filled with him making great music in addition to being a great husband and father and influencing others as an educator and mentor.

He is survived by six sons and he leaves a deep and

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lasting legacy touching many lives.

"My dad was a giant of a musician and teacher, but an even greater father. He poured everything he had into making us the best of what we could be," Branford said.

Four of the jazz patriarch's six sons are musicians: Wynton, a Pulitzer- and Grammy-winning trumpeter, is America's most prominent jazz spokesman as Artistic Director of Jazz at New York's Lincoln Center. Branford, a saxophonist, has won three Grammy's, led The Tonight Show Band and toured with Sting. Delfeayo, a trombonist, is a prominent Recording Producer and Performer. And Jason, a percussionist, has made a name for himself with his own band and as an accompanist. Ellis III, who is a photographer-poet in Baltimore. Their brother Mboya has autism. Marsalis' wife, Dolores, died in 2017.

He recorded nearly 20 albums and was a mentor to musicians be-

yond his own family. He was the first jazz instructor at the New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts and as the first chair of the Jazz Studies Program at the University of New Orleans.

When asked how he could teach something as freewheeling as jazz improvisation, Marsalis once said, "We don't teach jazz, we teach students."

Many of those he taught and mentored includes, all around Entertainer Harry Connick Jr., Trumpeters Nicholas Payton and Terence Blanchard, Saxophonists Donald Harrison and Victor Goines, and Bassist Reginald Veal.

Among his many awards and honors in 2008, Marsalis was inducted into the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame. He is also the namesake for the Ellis Marsalis Center for Music at Musicians' Village in New Orleans, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Tulane



Patriarch of Jazz Music Ellis Marsalis, Jr. pictured with sons l-r, Wynton, Jason, Delfeayo and Branford.



The Marsalis Family performing together at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. (Photo by Demian Roberts)

University in 2007, and along with his sons won the 2011 NEA Jazz Masters Award.

He often played at the New Or-

leans Jazz and Heritage Festival. And for more than three decades he played two sets every Friday night at Snug Harbor.

The City and world will miss Ellis Marsalis, Jr., a man who has given the world a gift of music the gift and template for living an amazing life.

State & Local News

CENSUS Must Move Forward During COVID-19 Pandemic

Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

This year, the Census Bureau is making preparations to complete the huge task of counting everyone in the U.S. The U.S. population is now over 330 million people. Interest groups had just begun to seriously push people to complete CENSUS forms and be counted.

CENSUS results decide the allocation of congressional seats and monetary resources.

People in the U.S. must be counted every ten years. The CENSUS count is mandated in the U.S. Constitution and has been going on every ten years for over 230 years. But the limitations on mobility and personal contact mandated on the national and state levels because of the deadly coronavirus have now shifted years of planning.

Almost 40 percent of U.S. households have responded online to the CENSUS since March 10th. In 2010, over 98 percent of households that



CENSUS results decide the allocation of congressional seats and monetary resources to cities and states. It is important that minorities report to the census to get valuable resources to their communities.

were sent CENSUS forms were recorded. But minorities and children were under-counted and 16 million people missed being counted.

Mail service continues and now advocates are doing what they can to encourage people to fill out CENSUS forms knowing so many Americans are in their homes and not at work. Those who do not fill out the 12-question form will be reminded with postcards. On May 27th, over

500,000 CENSUS takers are scheduled to begin tracking down people who don't fill the forms out. Federal law mandates that people must respond to the CENSUS though no one has been fined for not responding since the 1970s.

The CENSUS Bureau is pushing to get people to respond early because tracking down those who don't respond is expensive and made more difficult because

"The truth is, there are so many within this nation who are disenfranchised from receiving adequate and affordable care due to socio-economic circumstances," said NAACP President Derrick Johnson. "This virus will have dire consequences on so many, but specifically African-Americans, who suffer from higher rates of chronic illness. When the administration is not working for communities, those communities can suffer. We want to make sure to get the information out to our communities as much as possible," Johnson concluded.

of COVID-19.

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from higher rates of chronic illness. When the administration is not working for communities, those communities can suffer. We want to make sure to get the information out to our communities as much as possible," Johnson concluded.

"We cannot forget about the census. The majority of young people across the country do not remember the other censuses that were conducted throughout their lifetimes, because the census is held every 10 years. Many weren't old enough to participate in the last one. For the first time in our lives, we will be filling them out for our own households and ensuring that we are counted in our communities," noted an article in Crisis Magazine.

April 1 was CENSUS day and advocates redoubled their push to get as many people to fill out CENSUS forms. Whether COVID-19 will impact the count will not be known until June.

NOLA Stay at Home

Part 2

Fleur De Lis
Data News Weekly
Columnist

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is something that is changing all our lives. Many of us spending more time indoors.

While physical contact is being limited, people are reaching out and becoming close by staying apart.

Using social media platforms people are posting their activities as well as things that are important to them such as family, friends and loved ones.

Data News Weekly is shining the light on some of these people with the hope to inspire our citizens that our best days are ahead of us.

So, we are asking all to stay safe and stay informed!!!



John Gourrier II



Dana G. Coleman



Taetrece Harrison Esq



Jabaca Bates and son



Torrence Taylor and son

Data Zone,
Continued on page 5.

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

Data Zone, Continued from page 4.



Greg Christian and Frank Jackson



Branford Marsalis, Eric Burt and Ellis Marsalis, Jr. RIP



Anisha Vanita

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



If I could do one thing,
I'd have a daycare
closer to work.

If you could do one thing for your community, what would it be? More daycare centers? More funding for Head Start? Completing the 2020 Census is a safe and easy way to inform how billions of dollars in funding flow into your community for hundreds of services. **Respond online, by phone, or by mail.**

Complete the census at:
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Small Black Businesses Adapt to Survive Through Covid-19

Jordan Deloch
Data News Weekly
Contributor

A month ago, business was booming. Today, with the spread of Covid-19, small Black business owners said they are having a hard time finding the light at the end of the tunnel. With constant restrictions being placed on certain businesses, the term “essential” has been the determining factor of whether businesses stay open or not and survive.

In Louisiana, Gov. John Bel Edwards has placed a mandatory stay at home order for residents. Within this mandate, citizens are required to stay indoors, except to purchase groceries and supplies, exercising, going to the hospital, and tending to loved ones. Employees of essential businesses, such as grocery stores, hospitals and some public services



Patrick Walker

are still expected to attend work if they are not sick. As a response to this, many local small Black businesses said they've been having a difficult time keeping their services running under these conditions.

“This virus has impacted my business drastically, because we're no longer able to operate. I cannot



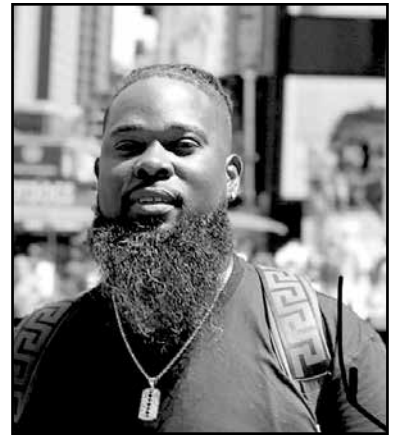
Kobie Lofton

even adjust to accommodate my business at this time,” said Kevin Joseph Sr., the owner of Fade Game Barbershop in Kenner, LA. “When all of this is over, I hope that my customers will return. However, in the meantime, make groceries from the small essential businesses and support them,” Joseph added.



Stacie Nelson

For cosmetic businesses, such as barber and beauty shops, these small businesses have been determined to be of higher risk due to the close physical contact between clients and owners. The need for social distancing also limits the amount of people in businesses at the same time and spacing out



Kevin Joseph

customers when completing transactions has meant less business overall.

Creators and other people in the entertainment business have also been hit heavily as the city has postponed festivals and cancelled

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Small Business Paycheck Protection Program

The Paycheck Protection Program provides small businesses with funds to pay up to 8 weeks of payroll costs including benefits. Funds can also be used to pay interest on mortgages, rent, and utilities.

Fully Forgiven

Funds are provided in the form of loans that will be fully forgiven when used for payroll costs, interest on mortgages, rent, and utilities (due to likely high subscription, at least 75% of the forgiven amount must have been used for payroll). Loan payments will also be deferred for six months. No collateral or personal guarantees are required. Neither the government nor lenders will charge small businesses any fees.

Must Keep Employees on the Payroll—or Rehire Quickly

Forgiveness is based on the employer maintaining or quickly rehiring employees and maintaining salary levels. Forgiveness will be reduced if full-time headcount declines, or if salaries and wages decrease.

All Small Businesses Eligible

Small businesses with 500 or fewer employees—including nonprofits, veteran's organizations, tribal concerns, self-employed individuals, sole proprietorships, and independent contractors—are eligible. Businesses with more than 500 employees are eligible in certain industries.

When to Apply

Starting April 3, 2020, small businesses and sole proprietorships can apply. Starting April 10, 2020, independent contractors and self-employed individuals can apply. We encourage you to apply as quickly as you can because there is a funding cap.

How to Apply

You can apply through any existing SBA 7(a) lender or through any federally insured depository institution, federally insured credit union, and Farm Credit System institution that is participating. Other regulated lenders will be available to make these loans once they are approved and enrolled in the program. You should consult with your local lender as to whether it is participating. All loans will have the same terms regardless of lender or borrower.

A list of participating lenders as well as additional information and full-terms can be found at www.sba.gov. The Paycheck Protection Program is implemented by the Small Business Administration with support from the Department of the Treasury. Lenders should also visit www.sba.gov or www.coronavirus.gov for more information.

Commentary

We Can't Find a Cure for the Coronavirus Without Ending Homelessness



Andreanecia Morris
Executive Director,
HousingNOLA

How can we tell people to stay home, when they don't have homes? How can we tell people they're safe today and make no plans for their future? These are the predictable and obvious consequences of our collective failure to address the housing crisis and allow housing insecurity to seep into every income bracket. The COVID-19 Crisis is being amplified by our New Orleans' Affordable Housing Crisis and immediate action must be taken. HousingNOLA's Advocacy Partner, the Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance (GNOHA) has called on local, state and federal leaders to #PutHousingFirst when creating solutions.

Here in New Orleans, the city and state announced that the Hilton Garden Inn in the CBD has begun to transform into housing for the homeless. This is a tremendous and welcome first step, but we must remember that in last year's Point in Time count, we had almost 1200 homeless individuals and over 50,000 households were housing insecure on March 1, 2020. The State of Louisiana and City of New Orleans must allocate funds for immediate rental assistance so landlords can continue to provide housing for renters, and to secure occupiable units like hotels and short term rentals (Air BNBs) for the homeless as shelter-in-place and social distancing policies extend.

We can no longer consign the homeless and housing insecure to our pre-COVID-19 Shelter System. We should fervently institute the programs which fully utilize the tireless efforts of case managers and the rapid rehousing programs that connects individuals and families to welcoming landlords. All programs moving forward, must cover the

costs to ensure that the frontline property staff, who will be working to ensure the habitability of homes during this crisis, are also safe.

Recently, Congress and the president approved an emergency spending package in response to COVID-19. The final version includes billions that can be used to stabilize the homeless and housing insecure. New Orleans has more than 35,000 vacant units in the parish, including over 7,000 vacant apartments that are empty because they are overpriced. This is an unprecedented emergency and should be handled as such. For the past five years we have been calling on our leaders to act proactively, and NOW extraordinary measures MUST be taken! We need immediate, mid-term, and long-term solutions at the local, state, and federal levels, and we must act quickly! The virus cannot be contained if families are transient and must move from unstable rental units, to cars, friend's homes and other temporary living situations.

NNPA President Pens Op-Ed Urging for the Protection of Black Americans during Pandemic

Stacy M. Brown NNPA
Newswire Senior
Correspondent

National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., authored an op-ed for *The Hill*, a major daily publication that's known to influence policy in the nation's capital.

Chavis's op-ed focused on the NNPA Coronavirus Task Force and Resource Center, which is helping to shine a spotlight on the health disparities that the African American community face daily.

The task force includes publishers, editors, physicians, nurses, corporate partners, sponsors, associates, and supporters of the Black Press of America.

The national resource center is designed to provide timely and accurate information to stakeholders and the African American community.

"Minority and low-income Americans suffer from a significant lack of access to quality health care. They are also more likely not to have health insurance and are often



"Minority and low-income Americans suffer from a significant lack of access to quality health care. They are also more likely not to have health insurance and are often hit with surprise medical bills they cannot afford," Chavis wrote in the op-ed. The coronavirus is no different, he noted.

hit with surprise medical bills they cannot afford," Chavis wrote in the op-ed. The coronavirus is no different, he noted.

"Many Black Americans will not get tested for coronavirus — whether they have symptoms or not — due to the fact that they cannot easily access medical facilities, and/or they are worried they will

not be able to afford the medical services," Chavis stated.

The NNPA president also noted the rise of Democratic Presidential Candidate, Joe Biden, and how the Black vote will play a vital role in the November general election.

"I believe it is time now for our concerns to be taken a bit more seriously by policymakers in Wash-

ington, starting with the dramatic challenges associated with the coronavirus pandemic," Chavis wrote.

Because of the coronavirus, unemployment rates among African Americans continue to rise, and Chavis said that surprise medical bills had been a significant problem in the American healthcare system. For years, politicians have debated how to handle them, he added.

"Nationwide closures and loss of income caused by the coronavirus will force many black families to choose between paying for rent and food or paying for health care," he stated.

"Unfortunately, politicians in both parties are trying to use coronavirus relief legislation to jam unrelated policy proposals through Congress. One such proposal is to include surprise medical billing legislation that puts the cost burden on patients and providers, rather than insurance companies."

For more information about the NNPA Coronavirus Task Force and Resource Center, visit www.BlackPressUSA.com.

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events. Local artists have begun broadcasting performances from their homes, either through social media or on television.

"Before quarantining, I would have around fifteen gigs a month, however, now it's impossible to do that with no business," said Patrick Walker, also known as DJ PJ from Harvey, LA. "I've actually taken the time to go live on Twitter and Instagram just to help people get through this tough time. Just to DJ for free helps me, by allowing me to practice and get to people on a one on one basis. They can reply, comment, and watch, and I am able to promote my business," Walker added.

For some businesses, the Internet has been very helpful in keeping both customers and business owners satisfied. People are able to practice social distancing and still purchase the goods that they want and need by visiting business websites to place orders. To some small business owners, this has presented both positive and negative results.

"I've really been focusing on e-commerce instead of doing in-person transactions. I usually do pop-up shops, but I know that that cannot happen right now," said Kobie Lofton, the creator of Neighborhood Flexer, a clothing brand in New Orleans. "I planned on releasing a spring collection next month, but because of the virus, it's looking like it will have to be a spring

and summer collection. I am willing to make sacrifices and changes to my business if I have to, to ensure that my business is successful," Lofton added.

Local eateries and catering companies have been drastically affected by Covid-19 in many ways, owners said. While restaurants are able to offer take-out and drive-through options, catering services are having a harder time maintaining their prior volume of customized orders.

"I've had to adjust my business to accommodate to the new rules of the government by almost completely shutting my business down. It is hard to cook for people if we cannot be around them," said Stacy Nelson, the owner of Creative Flavors Catering with Chef Stacy in Donaldsonville, LA. "My catering

business is very hands-on, and it is impossible to provide the customer service I have worked so hard to build with my clients due to no weddings, funerals, and social gatherings. I cannot continue to operate under these conditions," Nelson added.

Nelson believes that although it is hard to keep clients during the pandemic, small businesses can still be supported.

"To support small businesses, I would suggest buying gift cards and saving them for later, ordering food and other items ahead of time to avoid waiting in long lines, shopping online, and sending nice notes or some kind gestures to show your support and dedication. We're all in this together," Nelson added.

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Job Opportunity

Freelance Writers Wanted

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for freelance 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 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.

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