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**Bayou  
Classic  
Schedule  
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November 30 - December 6, 2013 48th Year Volume 31 [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com)

*A Data News Weekly Exclusive*

**Bayou  
Classic  
Celebrates  
40 Years**



*The Soul of New Orleans*

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# The Bayou Classic Celebrates 40 Years



Pictured above are the Southern University Jaguar and the Grambling Tiger Bands. These two foes, face off each year in the highly anticipated "Battle of the Bands", which has become as much of a tradition as the Bayou Classic Football game itself. For an in depth schedule of events, see page 6.

By Edwin Buggage

## The Classic Turns 40

The Bayou Classic, in what is now its fourth decade in the Big Easy, continues to be an important event. Showcasing the best in HBCU football, in ad-

dition to the much anticipated Battle of the Bands and halftime show, that's always a treat, it has come a long way, growing since the initial game held in 1974 from being a football game transforming itself into a several day event and it has become akin to Essence Fest in being "Another Party With A Purpose." Today, more than just a football game 40 years later;

it is a nationally televised spectacle, showing people the greatness in the power and the traditions that is the HBCU Experience. It is five days of events featuring a parade, fan festival, a golf tournament, empowerment seminars, the highly anticipated "Battle of the Bands" with The Grambling "Marching Tigers" and the Southern "Human Jukebox" competing in

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## DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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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.



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a "Battle of the Bands" an event held the night before the game in the Superdome. And of course the big game and events for fans and plenty of parties both day and night; so the 40th Anniversary of the Bayou Classic promises to be bigger and better than ever and again show that New Orleans is a first rate destination to hold large events.



Gerelda Williams (above) lives in Dallas, TX post Katrina, but makes the journey home to New Orleans for the Bayou Classic.

MVP Quarterback and former Grambling Head Coach Doug Williams. Furthermore, there is a rich and storied history of many greats who attended HBCU's who went on to impact the game of football. During the days of segregation, HBCU's were the places many of the pioneers of the NFL and today many greats of the NFL have hit the gridiron and learned



"The Bayou Classic is vital to the City not simply for its economic impact, but also its emphasis on public service and giving back," says State Rep. Wesley Bishop, (above) who is also Associate Vice Chancellor of Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO).

### The Black Super Bowl

"This is a great rivalry between these two schools that I like to call The Black Super Bowl, for it is watched by so many people and is more than just a game, but is something that gives the audience that might not be exposed to HBCU's a look at the great traditions and realize how viable and valuable these institutions are not just to the African-American community, but to the world," says Alger Taylor, a 1999 graduate of Southern University in Electrical Engineering. He is a native New Orleanian, presently living in Georgia and sometimes comes home to enjoy the festivities. "It is a great time for the City where people can come to party and the schools compete for who's going to have the bragging rights and there is a great spirit of togetherness of African-Americans in an atmosphere that is positive."

### HBCU's and the Tradition of Excellence

The rivalry between the two schools dates back to 1974, when the legendary Eddie Robinson coached at Grambling State University and made it into a powerhouse program in the Southwestern Athletic Conference. Over the years many great players came through both schools, most notably NFL Superbowl XXII

the game. Today more than 1,200 players from Historically Black College and Universities have played in the NFL, and approximately 150 of those have made it to the Super Bowl. Some of the greats included Walter Payton, Michael Strahan, Donald Driver, Steve McNair, John Stallworth and Art Shell who would eventually break other racial barriers by becoming one of the first African-Americans to become an NFL Head Coach and later hold an executive position in the league.

### The Bayou Classic Making both Dollars and Sense

The Bayou Classic brings in approximately 200,000 people into the City with an estimated economic impact of 30 million dollars on the City. The schools will also raise \$1.3 million in scholarships. "The Bayou Classic is vital to the City not simply for its economic impact, but also its emphasis on public service and giving back," says Wesley Bishop, Associate Vice Chancellor of Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) that is part of the Southern System and is the only Historically Black College System in the country with five campuses. Bishop is also a Louisiana State Representative serving District 99 that is located in parts of New Orleans East and the Lower Ninth Ward.

Continuing he says, "This game shows the world the importance of HBCU's and is a great recruitment tool to let people know that our schools continue to be relevant in the 21st Century and that a 40-year-tradition is still going strong."

### The Bayou Classic: The Other Party with a Purpose

As always, Bayou Classic draws celebrities from the world of sports, entertainment and business, medicine and many other professions that show African-American achieving success at the highest level and this year is no exception. For the big 4-0 Doug E. Fresh will be in the house performing live for the all new Bayou Classic Pre-Game Show. Also scheduled to appear is Comedian Kevin Hart and Movie Producer Will Packer. Other special guests include: the 18th United States Surgeon General Dr. Regina Benjamin, President and CEO of the US Black Chamber of Commerce Incorporated,

Mr. Ron Busby Sr., Comic Steve Brown and American Idol Finalist Paris Bennett and Burnell Taylor who will perform the National Anthem on game day.

### A Black Family Reunion and Recommitting Ourselves to Being Our Very Best

In addition to showcasing HBCU's and helping the local economy, the Bayou Classic has come to be a place where people come to reconnect with family, friends, old classmates and loved ones. "When I come to the Bayou Classic I get to see people I haven't seen in a long time or don't get to see every day, it is a great time to reconnect and that is something I love about coming in the City for the game, because it is more than a game it is like one big Black family reunion," says Alger Taylor.

In post-Katrina New Orleans, the Bayou Classic as well as other events in New Orleans have come to serve as times for pilgrimage of sorts, for the many residents of

the City that no longer live here. It is a time to give thanks and to say yes we have survived and continue to thrive. Just as the Bayou Classic continues, so does the everlasting, resilient spirit of African-Americans in New Orleans. Gerelda Williams, is a New Orleans native, now living in Dallas Texas since being displaced by Hurricane Katrina, but still loves her City and what the Classic has come to mean for her and many others, "I sometimes choose this time to come home because I have so many great memories of the City I love, it is a time to celebrate on so many levels, it is to celebrate HBCU's that have been so important in our history, it is a celebration of family and getting to see the people and places and just soak up the energy of a City that's like no other. And as the Bayou Classic has had staying power in New Orleans celebrating 40 years. I feel it is a great time to come to the City to reaffirm our commitment as a race to being our very best."

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# Kristi Coleman

## *Generation "Why?" An Answer to a Bigger Problem*

by: Corey Anderson

A couple of months ago, Janelle Monae released her latest solo album entitled "Electric Lady." On one of the first singles, "Q.U.E.E.N.," Ms. Monae asks the question "are we a lost generation of our people"? I had to question this myself due to the lack of young people from my generation making a difference in our community. Ms. Monae and I may have both found an answer in a local citizen, student, and role model right here in our own City of New Orleans.

Kristi Coleman, hailing from New Orleans East, is an admirable example of a leader of our generation. Graduate of the Historically Black College and University of Dillard University, daughter of a Director of Clinical Research and a retired school instructor, Kristi was drawn to entertainment from young. As her first love, she began dancing at an early age. "It just feels natural to be in front of a crowd," she explains. With this as a contributory piece to her foundation, she began to help with Leap 4 Success while studying Mass Communications at Dillard and graduating at the top of her class. Here, the technical and behind the



scenes work helped her to become a well-rounded co-host for the all access New Orleans Public School channel, but she didn't stop there.

Ms. Coleman's first true step into television came at the opportunity of hosting the television show "Our Wedding Day, Southern Style," where she gained more exposure and experience, all while staying in front of the camera. She, then, began to use her talent and accumulated knowl-

edge for the local news station, FOX 8. While still maintaining her radio show under the alias Kristi "Sugarcookie" that can be heard Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons on Power 102.9. Kristi noticed that the opportunity to show the world, at least the metro area, came in the form of FOX 8's official Traffic Reporter. This was a way to prove herself wrong once again. "That doesn't mean I didn't think I was going to get the position.

I just like to challenge myself and see what happens."

While she thoroughly enjoys her position, and since her duration with the broadcasting network has been for duration of a little over one year alto-

gether, I had to ask if she had any bigger plans as far as a network show or moving up the ranks. "I'm one who is focused mainly on what has to be done at the moment," which shows her full dedication and commitment to her current role. However, she didn't fail to mention that a goal of hers is to become "the female version of Ryan Seacrest" and also having the goal of becoming an entertainment reporter, geared more towards a program such as the Today Show. As I continued to ask Ms. Coleman a variety of questions, one couldn't help but notice her passion for what she does. When I asked why she exuded so much passion, along with asking where she found her prime joy in the day-to-day hassles, she explained "I love living in the moment and doing what I love. I couldn't see myself doing ANYTHING else. I've been there, tried it, and it just didn't work for me."

When mentioning the future generations to come, she simply stated, "I don't mind being a role-model for young [males and] females. I actually accept it with open arms, especially for one who wants to be in the entertainment business." She also stated, when asking for advice for those young people who would like to follow in her path, that "it takes hard work. There are going to be times when you feel like 'I just can't do this,' but that should give you the motivation to keep going." Also, when asked about what she would like to leave behind as a legacy, she humbly replied, "I would rather my actions display who I am than to tell you. It means more for others to recognize me and my work ethic than for me to tell you."

That's what we call an "electric lady." Thank you Ms. Coleman; continue to prove yourself wrong and continue to "shock" the world.

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# 2013 Bayou Classic Schedule of Events

This year's 40th Annual Bayou Classic offers a wide variety of events which are open to the public for families to enjoy. Below is a list of events, but for more information on tickets visit [www.mybayouclassic.com](http://www.mybayouclassic.com) for details. Welcome to New Orleans and to the Bayou Classic.

**Bayou Classic Thanksgiving Day Parade**  
Thursday,  
November 28, 2013  
Mercedes-Benz Superdome to the French Market  
3:30pm - 6:00pm

**Bayou Classic Golf Tournament**  
Friday,  
November 29, 2013  
Joe Bartholomew Golf Course (Pontchartrain Park)  
9:00am (Check In: 8:00am)

**ECareer Fair & Empowerment Exchange**  
Focusing on Health & Wellness; Focusing on Careers & Planning for the Future  
Friday,  
November 29, 2013  
Hyatt Regency Hotel  
10:00am - 3:00pm

**Doc Griggs 2x's Around the Dome**  
Saturday,  
November 30, 2013  
Mercedes-Benz Superdome  
8:00am (Registration - 7:30am)

**Bayou Classic**  
Saturday,  
November 30, 2013  
Mercedes-Benz Superdome  
Doors open - Noon  
Kickoff - 1:30pm

**RiverJam**  
Presented by 100 Black Men of Metro New Orleans  
Saturday,  
November 30, 2013  
Natchez Steamboat  
7:00pm - 10:00pm

**Battle of the Bands and Greek Show**  
Friday,  
November 29, 2013  
Mercedes-Benz Superdome  
6:00pm - 10:00pm

**SSoiree Gala 2013**  
Friday,  
November 29, 2013  
Club XLIV  
10:00pm

**Q93Hosts Fan Fest/ Vendor Village**  
Presented by COX  
Friday,  
November 29, 2013  
Champions Square  
Noon - 6:00pm  
and  
Saturday,  
November 30, 2013  
Champions Square  
10:00am - 5:00pm

For more and up-to-the-moment information on Bayou Classic Events visit [ladatanews.com](http://ladatanews.com)

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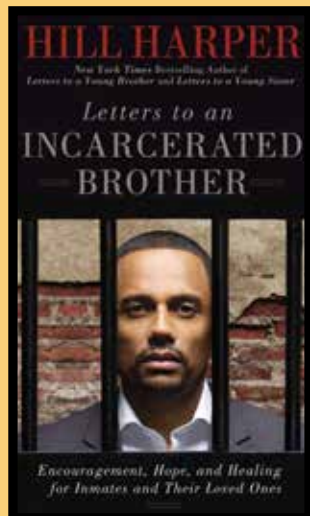
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# Letters to an Incarcerated Brother



*Letters to an Incarcerated Brother*  
by Hill Harper  
c.2013, Gotham Books  
\$27.50 / \$29.00 Canada  
400 pages

By The Bookworm Sez

## You figured you had a lock on things.

Sell or steal a little something. Hold for somebody, "borrow" a car, gain respect. Make a little money and it'd be all good, right?

Now that lock you had... has you. You're in prison and it's a whole new world in there, one you're not sure you can survive. But when you read "Letters to an Incarcerated Brother" by Hill Harper, you'll see that you have choices.

It's no secret that there are more people in American prisons than ever before. "In less than thirty years," says Harper, "our prison population has mushroomed." But though statistics show that offenders are likely to return, Harper says "there is hope and there are solutions." This book lays them out.

When Harper was contacted by an old friend who landed in "county," he admitted to the young man that he "didn't know what to say." Harper believes himself to be a problem-solver. He had no answers that time, but he quickly discovered some.

First, he says, find mentorship. You can't go it alone, so look for someone you want to make

proud. Consider prison as a place to "make... tune-ups and adjustments" in your life, but remember that "you need to be prepared to change."

Stay patient, even though it's hard and even though you don't always understand what's to come. Sometimes, "it's more important for you to simply understand you." Learn to keep your mind free, even if your body is not.

Get as much education as you can: get your GED, look for college coursework that's available to incarcerated students, and read. The time you spend in prison shouldn't go to waste; use it to better your mind.

Stay in your children's lives any way you can. Keep away from prison gangs and trouble; it's only going to make things worse. Learn not to take things personally. Understand that real men do ask for help when they need it. Eliminate disrespectful words from your vocabulary, particularly in reference to women. Set goals. Learn to apologize and embrace change. Be a leader.

## And do not "micro-quit."

In his introduction, Author Hill Harper lays out several goals for this book: among others, to

Book Review/Continued on page 10

## Introducing Louisiana Health Cooperative



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For additional information about the Affordable Care Act, health insurance exchanges and CO-OPs visit: [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov) or consult your independent agent.



For more information on the Affordable Care Act – visit [myLAHC.org](http://myLAHC.org) or call 1-800-510-2074

# AmeriHealth Mercy Becomes AmeriHealth Caritas

*Company Doubles Number of Medicaid Plans,  
Increases Full-Risk Medicaid Membership*

AmeriHealth Mercy Family of Companies, a national leader in Medicaid managed care and other health care solutions for the underserved, today announced that it has chosen AmeriHealth Caritas as its new company name. "Caritas" is Latin for "charity" and embodies the 30-year legacy of caring that AmeriHealth has established in states and communities across the country. AmeriHealth Caritas is a majority-owned subsidiary of Independence Blue Cross; Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan holds a minority interest.

"AmeriHealth Caritas' legacy of caring – which is captured in its



new name – led to its becoming a nationally respected expert in care management in government-funded programs," said Dan Hilferty, president and chief executive officer of Independence Blue

Cross, which serves 7 million people nationwide. "Consider the proof: as a result of AmeriHealth Caritas' passion for serving the hard-to-reach and chronically ill, membership increased by almost one-third in the past 15 months."

An Emerging Leader in Government-Funded Health Care

AmeriHealth Caritas' integrated, outcomes-based, compassion-

ate approach to care has helped beneficiaries better manage their chronic illnesses while providing states with attractive solutions for providing access to quality health care for their underserved populations.

As a result, more states are turning to AmeriHealth Caritas for government-funded health care solutions. Since January 2012, AmeriHealth Caritas doubled the number of states in which it serves Medicaid full-risk members to six and saw its Medicaid full-risk membership increase on an organic basis by 28 percent. Specifically, in Louisiana, the company achieved the fol-

lowing: LaCare in Louisiana, part of the state's Bayou Health program, began enrolling members on February 1, 2012. To date, LaCare serves more than 154,000 members in parishes throughout the state.

Said Michael A. Rashid, President and Chief Executive Officer of AmeriHealth Caritas, "Care is at the heart of our work. Our mission-focused approach to care management has helped to improve the lives of Medicaid beneficiaries living in urban and rural communities across the nation for 30 years. Our exciting new name heralds a new era of caring for our company."

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Navigators for a Healthy Louisiana is supported by Funding Opportunity Number CA-NAV-13-001 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The contents provided in this publication are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HHS or any of its agencies.



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# Empowerment Exchange Expands Bayou Classic Health & Wellness Initiative

By Anisha V. Williams

The current national conversation on health care reform and implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), commonly called "Obamacare," creates a new opportunity for the Bayou Classic to address health issues and concerns in our community.

Decades of Thanksgiving weekend tradition in New Orleans focuses on the football rivalry between Grambling State University and Southern University. This year Bayou Classic organizers are expanding the Empowerment Exchange held on the day before the big game to include a Health and Wellness Expo. During this all-new event, attendees will be able to visit health stations with exercise demos, engage in chat sessions, and enjoy pamper stations with mini-massages and beauty bars, while receiving information on total mental and physical wellness.

A new, non-profit health insurance company, Louisiana Health Cooperative, Inc. (LAHC), will participate in the Health and Wellness Expo offering information on the ACA and answering questions relating to health care reform. LAHC offers health insurance plans to individuals, families and small businesses across the entire state. Also taking part in the inaugural expo are AARP, Walgreens, Toyota, LSU Health Sciences Center, Chiropractic Clinic of Lafayette, LA Secretary of State and Amerigroup/Ameriplan.

Friday's expo takes place from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on the 2nd Floor of the Hyatt Regency and will feature more than just informational booths and activities for passers-by. Scheduled Empowerment Seminars include:

**10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

Get Checked. Get Fit. Get Moving.

**11:05 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.**

Career Fundamentals

**11:55 a.m. - 12:55 p.m.**

Health & Wealth: A Classic Mix for Today's Boomers

**1:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

Building A Better World

**1:35 a.m. - 2:20 p.m.**

Entrepreneurship

**2:25 a.m. - 3:25 p.m.**

Affordable Care Act Forum (including Q&A)

Dr. Eric Griggs will host the Get Checked. Get Fit. Get Mov-

ing. seminar which he says, "will aim to meet people where they are, whether they're healthy or unhealthy." Griggs adds, he wants people to "get off the couch and get moving." Another health and wellness initiative spearheaded by Griggs is the "2Xs Around the Dome" family fitness fun walk. That happens at 7:30 a.m. Saturday and will include activities to get participants moving, such as

hula-hooping, second lining, and dancing.

Another part of the expo—the college fair—aims to inspire the minds of those interested in furthering their education. Historically Black Colleges and Universities from across the nation, along with several other schools will be on hand to discuss admission requirements, academic options and campus culture. Information will

be available on both undergraduate and graduate programs.

The Career Expo is expected to offer employment opportunities. Valerie Huntley, organizer with New Orleans Convention Company (NOCCI) said, "we're excited about being able to present real companies hiring for real jobs." Job seekers should come prepared since there will be opportunities for interviews and resume

reviews. Speaking overall about the Empowerment Expo, Huntley said, "this is a chance to create a memorable experience for everyone participating—whether it be the Health & Wellness Expo, College Fair or Career Fair."

Anisha V. Williams is a Grambling State University graduate, class of 2006. She is also Communications Manager at Louisiana Health Cooperative, a non-profit, member-governed health insurance company. She can be reached via email at [awilliams@myLAHC.org](mailto:awilliams@myLAHC.org).

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# City Passes Balanced Budget

*Funds 150 New Police Officers, \$65 Million in Street Repairs*

The New Orleans City Council unanimously approved the passage of the City's 2014 Capitol and General Fund budgets, totaling \$247 million and \$504 million respectively.

"I'm pleased that together with the City Council, we have put together a balanced budget that funds citizen priorities, including 150 new police officers and \$65 million in street repairs," Mayor Landrieu said. "One of the reasons this process goes so smoothly is that we host community meetings with the Councilmembers to hear directly from the people of this city about their priorities, incorporate the Council's input from the start, and take part in the Council's robust public hearings on every department's budget."

District B Councilmember

LaToya Cantrell said, "The budget process has resulted in a funded set of priorities that are essential to the future of New Orleans. I want to commend my colleagues on the Council and the representatives of the departments for working together to make our City a stronger, safer place and our government more responsive to its citizens."

District D Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, "We have spent countless hours reviewing the Mayor's proposed budget and conducted many budget hearings – all with the end goal of determining the appropriate amount of funding for our various city departments and services. We adopted a 2014 budget that will be fiscally responsible, while still addressing the needs of our citizens."

Councilmember at Large Stacy Head said, "The budget process has been long and arduous, but I am pleased with the entire Council's dedication to ensuring that baseline programs and services are funded. I am optimistic for our City's future and I pledge to continue monitoring how our dollars are spent."

In 2014, the NOPD's \$128.6 million budget will pay for five recruit classes to put 150 new police officers on the streets. The capitol budget funds 100 new police cars on top of the 100 cars funded in 2013.

It also includes \$5.7 million for the NOPD consent decree. Although not required by the consent decree, this budget funds body cameras for officers. These body cameras will eliminate "he said, she said" disputes and help

restore public trust in the NOPD with more transparency and accountability.

Public safety is the priority in this budget with NOPD, NOFD and EMS all seeing increases over their 2013 budgets.

Recreation is a top citizen priority. In 2011, the City doubled NORDC's budget. This year, the City prioritized NORDC again, adding nearly another \$1 million on top of their 2013 budget.

Blight is also a top priority. New Orleans is fixing up or tearing down blight faster than anywhere else in the country. The City has hit the Landrieu Administration's goal of remediating 10,000 blighted properties by the end of this year. The 2014 budget invests nearly \$500,000 dollars for new inspectors and title research staff to help speed up the process.

The budget also funds the Sheriff's office \$31 million, including \$24.1 million in general fund dollars and \$6.9 million in "on behalf" payments for utilities. In keeping with recommendations from the Landrieu Administration's jail expert, the Sheriff's budget was increased by \$2 million. These new dollars were deducted from the City's \$4.25 million fund balance.

"I am committed to building a right-sized, constitutional jail that doesn't break the bank," Mayor Landrieu said. "We are funding the Sheriff at the level that our jail experts recommend. Moving forward, we will work with the Court, the Federal Monitor, the Sheriff and the City Council to ultimately determine the cost of the OPP consent decree and the size of the jail."

Book Review/ Continued from page 7.

show the importance of education, to offer inspiration through example, and to explain how to "beat the odds and avoid returning" to jail.

Definitely, those goals are attained but that's not all. Harper offers words of wisdom from influential contributors to support his ideas. There's guidance here, help with resources, and he displays gentle patience, even deference, for his friend – but Harper's nobody's fool. He's

not afraid to call the man on his lies and half-truths, and he's not afraid to show frustration. Such realism makes this one powerful book.

This isn't just a reference for inmates, though. It'll also be a great help for families, as well as a caution for boys who are headed for trouble. If that – or encouragement, sense, or inspiration – is what you need, "Letters to an Incarcerated Brother" has it locked up.



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John 4:13-14

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# Prepping Your Garden for Cool Temperatures

By MG Calla Victoria  
Data News Weekly Columnist

Those lucky folks in zone 9b and above who can garden year around, sometimes become lackadaisical in their efforts to build that hedge of protection around their garden for the cooler months. However a recent cold snap, where temps dropped down into the lower forties and below, was just the kind of wake-up call needed to get them in gear.

When the mercury dips meteorologist tell us to protect our tender vegetation. So the question becomes, what is "tender vegetation" and how does one best protect it? Over the past weekend I attended a Master Gardener's meeting and Dr. Dan Gill, Consumer Horticulturist for the LSU AgCenter, was the guest speaker and his lecture was on Cold Protection in the Landscape. As per Dr. Dan Gill's definition, tender vegetation is plant material that is killed or severely damaged by temperatures below 32 degrees. However many tropicals like orchids and a few other tropical plants can't survive in temperatures below 50 degrees. It is always a good idea to keep the care tags when you buy plants because the tag will always identify the plant's hardiness limitations. Or you can keep a Planting Diary like I do recording the light and water needs, hardiness, date planted, and bloom times of all of your plants.

Now once you have identified your plant material that is considered "tender" how do you protect it? Your options are predicated on the plant's root situation. If the items in question are in a container you can either bring it indoors, or place it under a carport. Now if you are lucky enough to have



a greenhouse, have a friend who has a greenhouse, or you volunteer at one of the greenhouses in your area; you can winter your tender plants in a greenhouse. If the vegetation is planted in the ground, mulching around the base of the plant AND covering the plant all the way down to the dirt is mandatory. You can cover your plants with either cloth sheets and blankets or plastic coverings. If you use plastic to cover your plants, know that where the plastic touches your plant the foliage will get burned, however the plant will survive. For the do-it-yourselfers you can put stakes around the plants and then cover them with plastic so the stakes can hold the plastic up away from the foliage. If you choose to cover your plants with a sheet or blanket and it rains, the cloth will

become heavy and could crush some of the foliage, but the plant will survive. Other alternatives include pre-fab plant covers and frost protection fabric that you can find at most garden centers or online. Also if you thoroughly water your garden well before a freeze (the ground and not the foliage), surprisingly that can help protect your plants.

After the freeze is over by all means remove the coverings from the plants, not being lazy and keeping your plants covered the entire winter; that is a sure way to kill your plants.

Plants need light to make food i.e. photosynthesize, so if the plants stay covered they will die from lack of nourishment. I know you buy products called "plant food," which are in fact fertilizers, but plants make their own food by

converting light into sugar molecules and that is how they feed themselves.

A little forethought in planning your garden will save you a lot of work when the mercury dips. Plant your tender vegetation near large trees that can serve as wind breakers, or nestle them in an inner corner where they can be protected, or next to a building where they can get some warmth and protection.

Check out my  
"Gardening Tips" at  
[www.thegardeningdiva.com](http://www.thegardeningdiva.com)  
Send your gardening  
questions to me at  
[sowing@thegardeningdiva.com](mailto:sowing@thegardeningdiva.com)

Remember, never get too busy to stop and enjoy the beautiful flowers.

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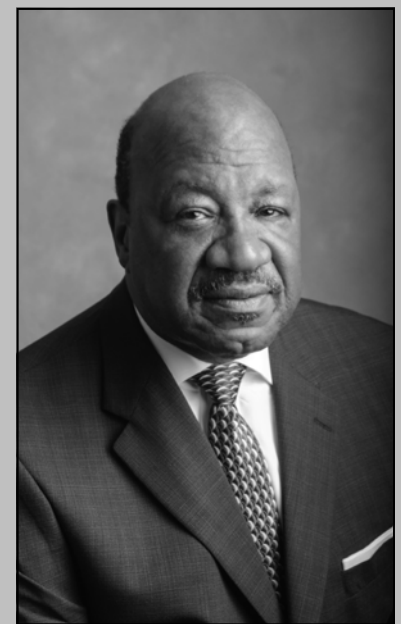
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I would like to thank the Citizens of New Orleans for having the confidence in my credentials and my years of service to the community to elect me the first African-American Magistrate Judge for the City of New Orleans. I am very grateful and I will continue to serve with integrity and honesty.

Thank you again,  
Magistrate Judge Harry Cantrell

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