

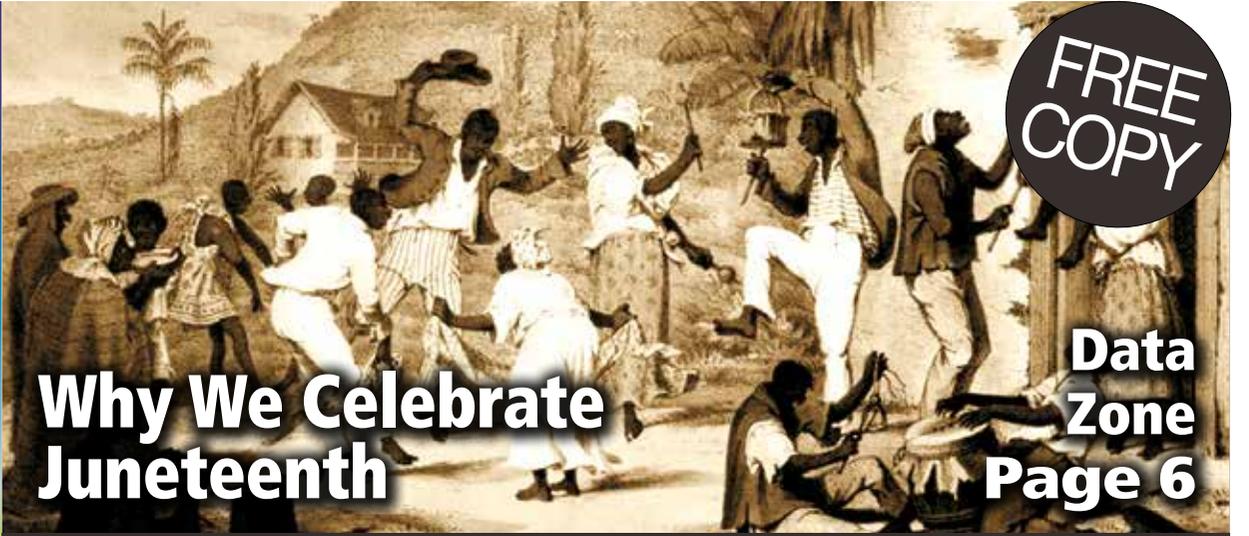
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New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

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Why We Celebrate Juneteenth

Data Zone Page 6

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

Black Men Exposed III



Celebrating African American Fathers

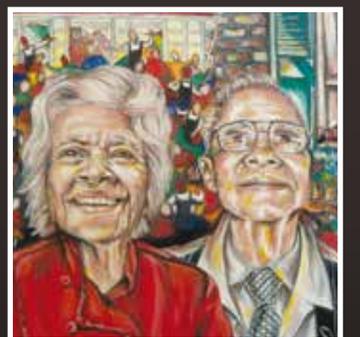
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Black Men Exposed III Celebrating African-American Fathers



Al "Brother" Mims is a soldier on the frontline trying to save the lives of the young and have passed on this spirit of giving to his son Cameron saying, of fatherhood, "As I have raised my son I have given him the spirit of selflessness, where he saw the need to serve others and I am proud that he is out there doing the work to serve those less fortunate."



Data News Editor and author of this story Edwin Buggage and son Eric.



Almore Cato, pictured with his wife and children beams with pride when speaking of his kids and his role as a father saying, "I planted the seeds that are now blossoming into potential greatness for their lives, and that all our work is paying off."

By Edwin Buggage

Black Fathers Myths and Realities

Many times in the media we all too often see images of African-American men who are not being fathers to

their children. We see startling statistics that paint a bleak picture showing the dark side of our community. But there is another story that often does not get told, one of Black men taking care of their kids whether in conventional nuclear family units or in other configurations where there is no absence of love of the children coming from the father. Fatherhood is not a one size

fits all endeavor and it is a forever changing thing as children grow and are faced with new challenges and as parents we have to make adjustments to the different stages of the things our kids face. It is Father's Day, a holiday our community in some instances ignore because of distorted images and perceptions of Black dads. But the reality is that many dads are in-

On the Cover: Charles Vaughn pictured with his daughters Amara and Liana speaks on one of the rewards of being a dad saying, "It feels good walking through the door and seeing my children, I have been through a lot in my life and it is great to be in a place in my life where I feel my life has value and meaning because of my wife and my children."

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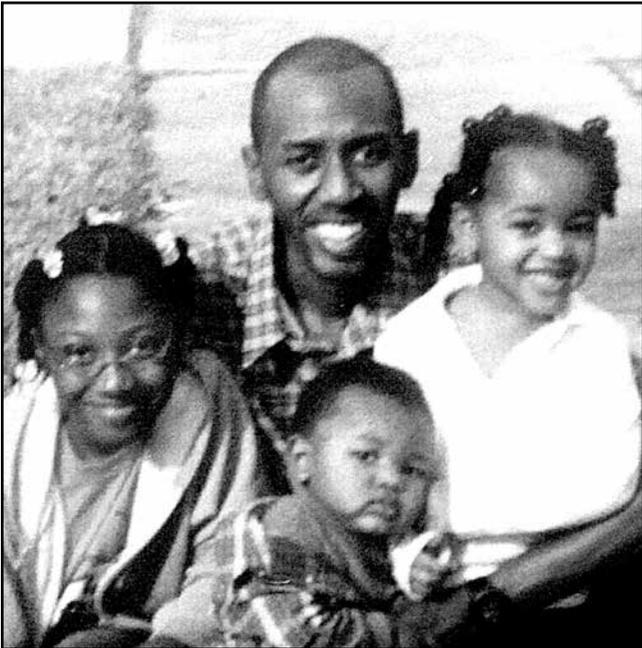
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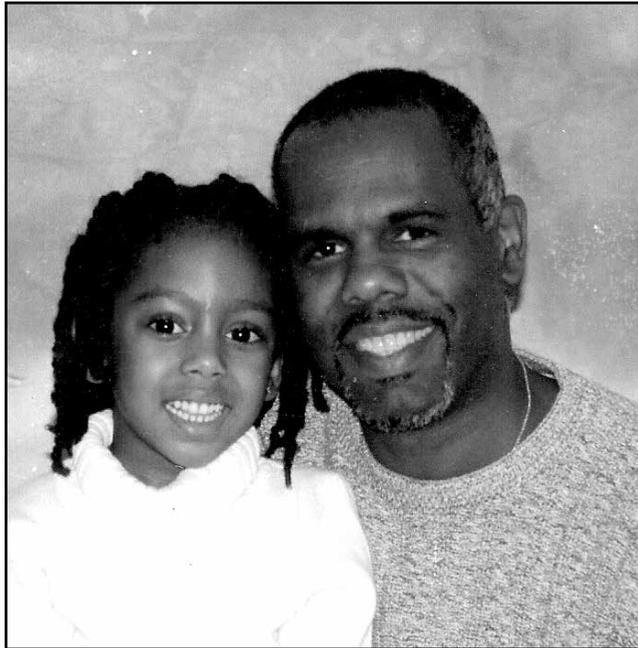
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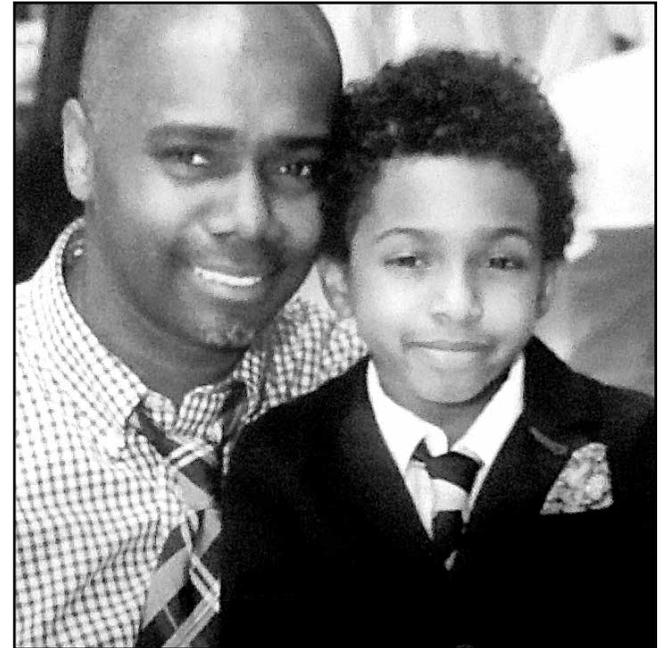
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"I have three children. I have had some special challenges when it comes to being a father. My first born wasn't near me and I missed a lot. It also taught me a lot. My two other children have been with me since they were born and there is a special bond. Regardless of situations and circumstances love them all equally. I'm going to be Dad forever," says Larry Panna pictured with his children Ebony, Khalil and Imani.



Speaking of his approach to parenting and being a dad Joe Ricks pictured with his daughter Jaelynn says, "I love being a dad but the challenge is sometime finding the balance between guiding my daughter in ways that will help her but giving her the space and knowing when to let her make mistakes or when to intervene."



Turning tragedy into triumph Jamie Jones pictured with his son Jamie Jr. says of growing up without a father gave him the motivation to be a better dad, "I lived my life without a father, so when I was growing up I would watch friends who had fathers and saw things that I said I would emulate if I had children myself."

involved in their children's lives and Data News Weekly spoke to a few of them about their experiences as fathers.

Married with Children

Dr. Joe Ricks, is a Professor and Chair of the Business Department at Xavier University, he has been married to his wife Dianne Way-Ricks for 13 years and is a doting father to his 10 year old daughter Jaelynn. There is not a time when you speak with him that he will not bring up his daughter and something she is doing. Speaking of his approach to parenting and being a dad he says, "I love being a dad but the challenge is sometime finding the balance between guiding my daughter in ways that will help her but giving her the space and knowing when to let her make mistakes or when to intervene." Continuing he says, "It's funny raising kids because when you think you have got a grasp on parenting they move to another stage and you have to adjust the way you parent. For example, when she was a toddler I thought I had it down, then she turned four and I faced another set of challenges and then when I thought I had a handle on it: when she was 9 then she turned 10 and now it is something else. I have come to discover at different stages kids need different things."

It is true that there are different stages of parenting and the role of the father and Almore Cato has seen many of them. He is a retired Educator with three children that are young adults. When he speaks of his three kids Terreca, Erreca and Almore II, he beams with pride at their accomplishments and the

job he and his wife Deborah who is also a retired Educator have done with them. "At this point my kids are about 90% independent, it is great to have kids who are doing wonderful things with their lives. They all have pursued their education and creating a sound foundation for their lives and when I think of them I am proud of them all, and feel great that my wife and I planted the seeds that are now blossoming into potential greatness for their lives, and that all our work is paying off."

Sometimes when one is married they find themselves with children from another relationship and this can be challenging. Larry Panna, is the Owner of a video production company and has two children with his wife Sandra of 13 years. His daughter Imani is 12 and his son Khalil is 11 and he has a daughter from a previous relationship Ebony who is 20. Having two sets of children is not an ideal situation, but it is a balancing act he continues to be successful at, parenting to his daughter who does not live with him. Showing that in spite of the circumstances that he is trying to be there and be the best dad he can be. Saying of his situation, "I have 3 children. I have had some special challenges when it comes to being a father. My first born wasn't near me and I missed a lot. It also taught me a lot. My two other children have been with me since they were born and there is a special bond. Regardless of situations and circumstances, I love them all equally. I'm going to be Dad forever."

The Plight and Fight of a Single Dad

While it is desirable that many families stay together like Almore Cato and his wife of several de-

acades to raise their children sometimes things does not happen this way. It is something that can cause challenges for the father, who does not live in the home, but this is

something Jamie Jones, an Educator and retiree from the military

Cover Story, Continued on page 4.

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THE PEOPLE'S PAPER **Data News Weekly** Lighting the Road To The Future

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UL System Board to Consider Cynthia Warrick for Interim President of Grambling State University

University of Louisiana System President Sandra Woodley will recommend the UL System Board of Supervisors appoint Cynthia Warrick to serve as Interim President of Grambling State University effective July 1, 2014. Warrick's appointment will be considered by the Board at its June 27 meeting in Baton Rouge.

"While we search for a permanent leader for Grambling State, the university needs an interim president with the skills and expertise to address a variety of issues. Dr. Warrick has proven capable of enacting positive change in the face of significant challenges, and, I believe, she is the right person to move the university forward during this transitional period," said Woodley.

In the 2012-13 academic year, Warrick served as Interim President at South Carolina State University, the state's only public HBCU. During her one-year appointment, she accomplished the following:



- Recruited a team of professionals to address legal, financial, criminal, political, academic, and student issues related to failed management and oversight;

- Prevented the closure of a major academic program threatening the degrees of over 200 professional nursing students;

- Developed and implemented a mobile app and social media networking center to address campus security, customer service and communication issues, and to enhance student trust and awareness, stakeholder involvement and campus cohesiveness;

- Successfully lobbied the SC leg-

islature to increase university funding and improve the institution's public relations in the wake of negative publicity; and

- Established key agency and private sector partnerships.

A pharmacist by trade, Warrick ventured into higher education 16 years ago. She has served in multifaceted leadership roles as an administrator, public servant, health-care professional, environmental research scientist, faculty member, and accreditation reviewer.

She currently serves as Senior Fellow for the Center for Minority Health Services Research at Howard University's College of Pharmacy, a position she has held since 2009.

Prior to her interim presidential appointment at South Carolina State, Warrick was Dean and Chief Research Officer and Professor of Pharmacy at Elizabeth City State University in North Carolina; Associate Professor and Director of Environmental & Occupational Health

at Florida A&M University; and Assistant Professor in the Division of Management, Policy & Community Health at the University of Texas School of Public Health in Houston.

Warrick earned a doctoral degree in Environmental Science and Public Policy at George Mason University, a master's degree in Public Policy from Georgia Institute of Technology, and a bachelor's degree in Pharmacy from Howard University.

"It is a great honor to be considered for Interim President of Grambling State University. As an HBCU alumna, I am both excited and humbled by the opportunity to serve this outstanding institution that has a legacy of excellence in higher education and athletics, but also in life. I look forward to joining the Grambling family in the pursuit of continued service to students, faculty, staff, and proud alumni in Louisiana and throughout the world," said Warrick.

Cover Story/ Continued from page 3.

has found a way to make it work having shared custody and being a father to his six year old son Jamie Jones Jr. He is someone who defies the myth of when a couple chooses to not be together that the man becomes an absentee father. Fighting to stay in his son's life is something he's worked hard at given he did not grow up having a relationship with his biological father. "I lived my life without a father, so when I was growing up I would watch friends who had fathers and saw things that I said I would emulate if I had children myself." Continuing he says of those times that it was a childhood searching for answers as a fatherless child, "I remember going to my basketball games and watching my teammates fathers show up and cheer on their sons and I felt like if I ever had a kid that's what I am supposed to do, be present in his life and support him."

He says of his time in the military, it was where he found surrogate fathers in his drill sergeants who helped give him the tools to be a better man and a better father. Giving him qualities he could pass

on to his son and his students. "It wasn't until I joined the military, that my drill sergeants became my father figures to lean on because I was beginning to embark on the beginning of my life after finishing high school and when I got there three of my drill instructors help guided me in the right direction, giving me the encouragement and gave me the discipline, structure and focus I needed that I pass on now to my son and the students I teach."

It Takes A Village: How to be a Good Dad when Dad Wasn't Around

The need for other mentors in the absence of a father is something that was echoed by Almore Cato whose father left home when he was thirteen and at that time he vowed to stick in and be there for his kids, "I think of my childhood and when my father left the home when I was 13 and that was devastating to me that my family split up even though my father continued to be part of my life. But because of that experience I promised to

myself that I would never leave my family; and that I would always be there for my kids. Growing up I had some key people in my life who were surrogate fathers to me, like the Deacon in the church Brother Jack, I think that between my mother and him I can attribute my spirituality. I remember being drawn to the caliber of person he was and his character and I also remember some of the male teachers at Booker T. Washington, men who helped mold me."

Sometimes a father's lives are cut short so they cannot be there to raise their children. This is the case of Charles Vaughn Jr. who is an Artist and Educator. With his father dying at a young age he grew up with stories of his father but have only early memories of him. In his adult life he has come to be known as someone who is compassionate to children. Once as a step parent in a previous relationship and now as a loving husband to Kyrval Vaughn and their two daughters Amara who is five and Liana who is 3. Raising two small children is no small task for Vaughn. "I feel great

about being a father and I love my children even though sometimes it might be frustrating, but what it has taught me is patience." Continuing he says, "It feels good walking through the door and seeing my children, I have been through a lot in my life and it is great to be in a place in my life where I feel my life has value and meaning because of my wife and my children."

On Being a Proud Papa

When one thinks of a man who works to save the lives of the youth in the City, Al "Brother" Mims is someone whose name comes up often. He is a soldier on the frontlines trying to help the youth of New Orleans. He is the father of a Cameron Mims who is a student at Xavier University and making his own mark as someone who is continuing the tradition of serving others. "As I have raised my son I have given him the spirit of selflessness, where he saw the need to serve others and I am proud that he is out there doing the work to serve those less fortunate." Continuing he says, "I had a father who taught me many

things and at different times in my life I strayed from that path, but it is his life lessons that's brought me back and it is in the spirit of the things I learned from him that I pass on to Cameron."

Being a parent is full of many highs, those moments where one's eyes become misty or wet with tears that streams down the face of a parent when they see their children succeed or move to a new stage of life. It is something I recently experienced seeing my daughter Elise graduate from kindergarten or my teenage son Eric growing into a fine young man. This side of Black men is something that is not highlighted enough, of a Black father being sensitive, loving and caring for their kids. Joe Ricks recalls one of these moments that brought him to tears saying, "It has been a lot of highs, but one day that stands out to me the most is the day when my daughter started pre-school. I saw her name on the desk and I thought wow my little baby I held

Edgar "Dooky" Jr. and Leah Chase Family Foundation Annual Gala



Proceeds to benefit non-profit organizations in Louisiana

The Edgar "Dooky" Jr. and Leah Chase Family Foundation will host their Annual Gala Fundraiser on Saturday, June 14, 2014 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel at 6:00PM.

Proceeds raised will benefit

local non-profit organizations focused on culinary arts, education, cultural arts and social justice activities. The evening will feature a four-course meal prepared by Empowered Women Chefs.

Chef Susan Spicer, Mary Sonnier and the Finalists from Food Network's show Top Chef Shirley

Chung and Nina Compton.

Entertainment will feature a collaboration of New Orleans' top musicians, including Irma Thomas, Rockin Dopsie, James Andrews, Opera Creole and Robin Barnes.

The Edgar "Dooky" Jr. and Leah Chase Family Foundation issued eleven grants in its inau-

gural year to local non-profits in Louisiana which included the Uptown Jazz Orchestra, Chef John Folse Culinary Institute, State the Adventure in Reading and the Silverback Society as recipients.

Tickets and Tables are available online at www.DookyChaseFoundation.org.



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You are cordially invited to the
Edgar "Dooky" Jr. and Leah Chase
Family Foundation Annual Gala

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7:00 PM GALA DINNER

DINNER PROVIDED BY
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CELEBRITY CHEFS SUSAN SPICER AND MARY SONNIER
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JUNETEENTH

Why We Celebrate Juneteenth



Why do we even bother to celebrate Juneteenth?
It's really simple, as simple as JUNETEENTH!

J — Juneteenth represents the joy of freedom—the chance for a new beginning.

U — Unless we expose the truth about the African-American slave experience, Americans won't be truly free.

N — Never must we forget our ancestors' endurance of one of the worst slave experiences in human history.

E — Every American has benefited from the wealth Blacks created through over 200 years of free labor and Juneteenth allows us to acknowledge that debt.

T — To encourage every former slave-holding state to follow Texas' (and Oklahoma's) example and make Juneteenth a state holiday.

E — Everyday in America, Blacks are reminded of the legacy of slavery. Juneteenth counters that by reminding us of the promise of deliverance.

E — Even on the journey to discover who we are, Juneteenth allows us to reflect on where we've been, where we're at and where we're going as a people.

N — Never give up hope is the legacy our enslaved ancestors left. It was this legacy that produced Black heroism in the Civil War and helped launch the modern civil rights era. It is this legacy we celebrate.

T — To proclaim for all the world to hear, that human rights must never again become subservient to property rights.

H — History books have only told a small part of the story; Juneteenth gives us a chance to set the record straight.

**FREEDOM IS ALWAYS
WORTH CELEBRATING!**



Traditional Juneteenth Prayer

The deep spiritual faith of enslaved Black people is reflected in this traditional prayer. Similar prayers are often recited in Juneteenth celebrations:

Father, I stretch my hand to Thee—for no other help I know. Oh my Rose of Sharon, my shelter in the time of storm. My Prince of Peace, my hope in this harsh land. We bow before You this morning to thank You for watching over us and taking care of us. This morning You touched us and brought us out of the land of slumber, gave us another day—thank you Jesus. We realize that many that talked as we now talked, this morning when their names were called, they failed to answer. Their voices were hushed up in death. Their souls had taken a flight and gone back to the God that gave it, but not so with us. We are thankful the sheet we covered with, was not our winding sheet, and the bed we slept on was not our cooling board. You spared us and gave us one more chance to pray. And Father, before we go further, we want to pause and thank You for forgiving our sins. Forgive all our wrong doings. We don't deserve it, but you lengthened out the brickly threads of our lives and gave us another chance to pray, and Lord for this we thank You... Now Lord, when I've come to the end of my journey, when praying days are done and time for me shall be no more; when these knees have bowed for the last time, when I too, like all others must come in off the battlefield of life, when I'm through being 'buked and scorned, I pray for a home in glory.

When I come down to the river of Jordan, hold the river still and let Your servant cross over during a calm down. Father, I'll be looking for that land where Job said the wicked would cease from troubling us and our weary souls would be at rest; over there where a thousand years is but a day in eternity, where I'll meet with loved ones and where I can sing praises to Thee; and we can say with the saints of old, Free at Last, Free at Last, thank God Almighty, I am free at last. Your servants' prayer for Christ sake. Amen!

The Celebration of Freedom



Slaves dancing in celebration of freedom

When Blacks in Texas heard the news, they alternately sang, danced and prayed. There was much rejoicing and jubilation that their life long prayers had finally been answered. Many of the slaves left their masters immediately upon being freed, in search of family members, economic opportunities or simply because they could. They left with nothing but the clothes on their backs and hope in their hearts. Oh, freedom!

Freedom meant more than the right to travel freely. It meant the right to name one's self and many freedmen gave themselves new names. County courthouses were overcrowded as blacks applied for licenses to legalize their marriages. Emancipation allowed ex-slaves the right to assemble and openly worship as they saw fit.

As a result, a number of social and community organizations were formed, with many originating from the church.

Freedom implied that for the first time, United States laws protected the rights of Blacks. There was a run

on educational primers as freed men and woman sought the education that had for so long been denied them. The Bureau of Refuges, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, commonly known as the Freedmen's Bureau, was founded by Congress in March 1865 to provide relief services for former slaves. Schools were established and joined churches as centers of the newly freed communities. The promise of emancipation gave freedmen optimism for the future; few realized slavery's bitter legacy was just beginning to unfold and that equality was to remain an elusive dream. Oh freedom!

At the beginning of Reconstruction, the period immediately following the end of the Civil War, rumors were rampant that every freedman would be given forty acres and a mule. Ex-slaves petitioned for land and, with federal troops stationed throughout the South to protect their rights, looked forward to participating in American society as free citizens. In some cases ex-slaves were successful in obtaining land. Land

grants by Congress allowed several states to establish black colleges.

The optimism was short-lived, however, and soon replaced by a betrayal so soul shattering that Blacks questioned whether the United States was serious about granting them their freedom. Ex-slaves found for the most part, that despite the Freedman's Bureau, they were left to fend for themselves. The abject poverty and the racism that maintained it prohibited any hope for assimilating into American society. In Texas, the editor of the Harrison Flag newspaper denounced as "treasonable" the sale of land to Blacks. The Texas Homestead Act, passed during Reconstruction, granted up to 160 acres of free land to white persons only. The Texas legislature in 1866 passed a new set of Black codes that attempted to reverse the limited gains Blacks had been granted.

Ex-slaves entered freedom under the worst possible conditions. Most were turned loose penniless and homeless, with only the clothes on their back. Ex-slaves were, as Freder-

ick Douglas said, "free without roofs to cover them, or bread to eat, or land to cultivate, and as a consequence died in such numbers as to awaken the hope of their enemies that they would soon disappear."

Many white Texans disdained Black freedom and this utter contempt guaranteed the price of freedom for many would be unaffordable. The sharecropping system that emerged in Texas and all over the deep South kept many Blacks from starving, but had little to distinguish it from the slave life Blacks thought they had escaped. This was the other side of emancipation where high expectations gave way to heart-crushing disillusionment.

By 1877, the end of Reconstruction, the North had abandoned Black Americans to the will of southern whites, who through violence, racial discrimination and Jim Crow laws succeeded in disenfranchising them, resulting in more than 100 years of oppression. It's not surprising that Blacks turned to the only institution that gave them hope—the church.

Celebration Activities for Juneteenth

Juneteenth is a Black American celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. It was on June 19, 1865 that Major General Gordon Ganger landed at Galveston, Texas to announce the news that slavery had ended and all the slaves at Texas were thereby set free from bondage. This day is celebrated to honor the African American heritage and to remember and rejoice the emancipation of the slaves. This day also gives us an opportunity to reflect on the past and to plan into a better, kinder and brighter future, with no discrimination or authority over a particular group.

Juneteenth is celebrated to recognize the African American freedom and to encourage self-development, recognition and respect for all other cultures. This day came to be recognized as an official holiday in Texas on January 1, 1980, almost a century after the liberation of slaves in Texas. Today in the U.S, it is celebrated in 42 states -- including Texas.

Freedom day, or Emancipation day as it is called, is celebrated with much enthusiasm in different parts of the United States, though it faced a decline in the beginning of the century. Family get-togethers, parties and barbecue cookouts are conducted as a part of the celebration of freedom day. The day is celebrated with a lot of traditional African American recipes and barbecue. It is a tradition to prepare and feast on red colored food on this day. Red soda water, strawberry cream soda and watermelon drink are a specialty of the day. Some people sing and dance to traditional African songs on the occasion of the festival and dress up in traditional African clothes.

Activities and Events on Juneteenth Day

A wide range of activities and events are organized for the people to celebrate the Juneteenth Festival. Rodeos, parades, street fares and

reenactment of the Juneteenth day are planned on the day that highlights the African cultures and the slavery practiced on the African Americans in the last century. Miss Juneteenth contests and fun games like eating watermelon and traditional American games like football, basketball and baseball are held on this day. Competition of strength, intellect, singing and dancing and cultural exploration are also conducted on the day that imparts joy and make the celebration more interesting.

Churches and civic organizations organize activities such as barbecue cookouts, family get-togethers, picnics and other events that provide an opportunity to come closer with family and fellow men.

Schools and educational institutions conduct seminars, workhouses and classes to educate the children about Juneteenth day and its importance. Quiz competitions, essay writing and craft making are also held during Juneteenth week, so as to make the children more aware about the culture and history of the country. Skits and reenactments of slavery and emancipation day are also held during the celebrations. The seminars and other activities conducted during the week also impart the importance of treating every fellow human and their culture with respect, into the new generation.

Government institutions and libraries hold exhibitions, and debates are conducted during the month of June.

The different activities and events that are planned to celebrate Juneteenth are aimed at educating the generations today about the cruelty and difficulty the African American slaves had to face in the last century and plan for a future where this discrimination and cruelty would not be repeated. Different activities planned on this day emphasize upon the education and the achievements of Black people.

JUST



CELEBRATE!

JUNETEENTH

The History of Juneteenth

Juneteenth or June 19, 1865, is considered the date when the last slaves in America were freed. Although the rumors of freedom were widespread prior to this, actual emancipation did not come until General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas and issued General Order No. 3, on June 19, almost two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

General Order Number 3

One of General Granger's first orders of business was to read to the people of Texas, General Order Number 3, which began with:

"The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer."

President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862, notifying the states in rebellion against the Union that if they did not cease their rebellion and return to the Union by January 1, 1863, he would declare their slaves forever free. Needless to say, the proclamation was ignored by those states that seceded from the Union. Furthermore, the proclamation did not apply to those slave-holding states that did not rebel against the Union. As a result about 8,000,000 slaves were unaffected by the provisions of the proclamation. It would take a civil war to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to formally outlaw slavery in the United States.

During the Civil War, Texas did not experience any significant invasion by Union forces. Although the Union army made several attempts to invade Texas, they were thwarted by Confederate troops. As a result, slavery in Texas continued to thrive. In fact, because slavery in Texas experienced such a minor interruption in its operation, many slave owners from other slave-holding states brought their slaves to Texas to wait out the war. News of the emancipation was suppressed due to the overwhelming influence of the slave owners.

The Emancipation Proclamation had little impact on Texas due to the minimal number of Union troops to enforce the new Executive Order. However, with the surrender of Gen-



Photo of Emancipation Proclamation's General Order

eral Lee in April 1865, and the arrival of General Granger's regiment, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance.

In attempts to explain the two and a half year delay in receiving this important news, several versions have been handed down through the years. One

often told story is that a messenger sent to deliver the news of freedom was murdered on his way to Texas. Another, more often told version, is that federal troops actually waited for the slave owners to reap the benefits of one last cotton-harvest before going to Texas to enforce the Emancipation

Proclamation. Still another, is that the news was deliberately withheld by the slave masters to maintain the labor force on their plantations.

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. In the early years, little interest

existed outside the Black community in participation in the celebrations. In some cases, there was outwardly exhibited resistance by barring the use of public property for the festivities. Most found themselves in rural areas around rivers and creeks that could provide additional activities such as fishing, horseback riding and barbecues. The church grounds were sites for many activities.

As Blacks became landowners, land was donated and dedicated for these Juneteenth festivities. One of the earliest documented land purchases in the name of Juneteenth was organized by Rev. Jake Yates. This fund-raising effort yielded \$1,000 and the purchase of Emancipation Park in Houston, Texas. The local Juneteenth organization in Mexia purchased Booker T. Washington Park, which had become the Juneteenth celebration site in 1898. For decades, these annual celebrations flourished, growing continuously with each passing year. In Booker T. Washington Park, as many as 20,000 Blacks once flowed through during the course of a week, making the celebration on of the state's largest.

In the early 1900s, economic and cultural forces caused a decline in Juneteenth activities. Classroom and textbook education, in lieu of traditional home and family-taught practices, stifled the interest of the youth due to less emphasis and detail on the activities of the former slaves.

The Depression forced many people off the farms and into the cities to find work, and in these urban areas of environment, employers were less eager to grant leave from work to celebrate Juneteenth. July 4th was the already established Independence holiday and patriotism steered more toward this celebration.

Blacks do celebrate the Fourth of July in honor of American Independence Day, but history reminds us that Blacks were still enslaved when the United States obtained its independence.

The Civil Rights movement of the 50's and 60's yielded both positive and negative results for the Juneteenth celebrations. While it pulled many of the African American youth away and into the struggle for racial equality, many linked these struggles to the historical struggles of their ancestors. Again in 1968, Juneteenth received another strong resurgence through Poor Peoples March to Washington D.C. Rev. Ralph Abernathy's call for people of all races, creeds, economic levels and professions to come to

Washington to show support for the poor. Many of the attendees returned home and initiated Juneteenth celebrations in areas previously absent of such activity. In fact, two of the largest Juneteenth celebrations founded after this March are now held in Milwaukee and Minneapolis.

On January 1, 1980, Juneteenth became an official state holiday in Texas, through the efforts of Al Edwards, a Black state legislator. The successful passage of this bill marked Juneteenth as the first emancipation celebration granted official state recognition.

In recent years, a number of local and national Juneteenth organizations have begun to take their place along side the older organizations, with the mission of promoting and cultivating knowledge and appreciation of Black history and culture.

Today, Juneteenth celebrates Black freedom and achievement, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures, as it takes on a more national and global perspective. It is celebrated annually, on or around June 19, in more than 200 cities in the United States. Texas (and Oklahoma) is the only state that has made Juneteenth a legal holiday. Some cities sponsor week-long celebrations, culminating on June 19, while others hold shorter celebrations.

Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation, is celebrated on the 19th of June to solemnize the dissolution of slavery in 1865 in Texas. It is an annual holiday in forty-two states of the United States.

Juneteenth festivals honor African American heritage. The day is marked with family gatherings, celebrations, picnics and guest speakers. People of all races and religions join hands to commemorate that period in history, which molded and influence their society even today.

It symbolizes the end of slavery. Juneteenth has come to symbolize for many African-Americans what the fourth of July symbolizes for all Americans -- freedom. It serves as a historical milestone reminding Americans of the triumph of the human spirit over the cruelty of slavery. It honors those African-Americans ancestors who survived the inhumane institution of bondage, as well as demonstrating pride in the marvelous legacy of resistance and perseverance they left us. All of the roots tie back to this soil from which a national day of pride is continuously growing!!!

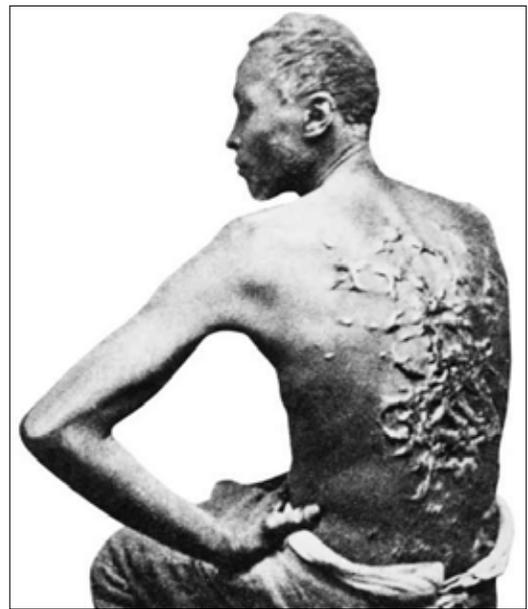
The Legacy of Slavery!



Slave in bondage



Slave hands



Whipped slave

The fact that it took a Civil War to forcibly put an end to slavery left a bitter legacy that continues to divide American society. Slavery so bankrupted slave owners' sense of right and wrong that they were willing to die to defend that lifestyle. A slave-holding minority morally corrupted a nation, and this legacy still haunts the country.

According to historian John Hope Franklin, "the Founding Fathers (by allowing slavery) set the stage for every succeeding generation of

Americans to apologize, compromise and temporize on those principles of liberty that were supposed to be the very foundation of our system of government and way of life...that is why this nation tolerated and indeed, nurtured the cultivation of racism that has been as insidious as it has been pervasive."

Professor Franklin asks, "how could the colonists make (such) distinctions in their revolutionary philosophy? They either meant that all men were created equal or they did

not mean it at all. They either meant that every man was entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, or they did not mean it at all...Patrick Henry, who had cried, 'Give me liberty or give me death', admitted that slavery was 'repugnant to humanity', but (obviously) not terribly repugnant, for he continued to hold Blacks in bondage. So did George Washington and Thomas Jefferson..."

This blatant hypocrisy poisoned both religion and the law. Every institution at the slave-holder's disposal

was used to justify slavery. Instead of the slave-owner being considered inhumane, the people he enslaved were. The legacy of racism has grown into perhaps the greatest internal threat that this country faces. John Hope Franklin aptly put it when he wrote, "slavery weakened America's moral authority."

It's amazing that despite living under the most inhumane conditions known to humankind, Blacks contributed everything from agricultural inventions, to medical breakthroughs,

to music. Enslaved artisans crafted incredible sculptures, designed beautiful buildings and helped build a nation. Blacks preserved a culture and succeeded in passing down a legacy of music, language, food, religion and a lesson in survival. We'll never know how many scientists, engineers, doctors and artists were lost on the trip over on the slave ships or after they arrived.

Slavery taught America another lesson, one that it too often ignores. Blacks and whites worked together

to create an anti-slavery movement that ultimately succeeded. Later they fought and died together to force an end of slavery. Blacks and whites have worked throughout the nation's history for social justice. This lesson of cooperation must never be forgotten.

While the painful side of slavery makes it difficult for many Blacks to celebrate Juneteenth, it is the positive legacy of perseverance and cooperation that makes it impossible for others to ignore.

To Be Equal

New York City

A Big Opportunity to Fix a Big Problem



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

"In Fiscal Year 2013, the City procured \$16.5 billion worth of goods and services and only \$439 million went to Minority and Women-owned business enterprises – a mere 2.7 percent. That's simply unacceptable." Michael Nitzky, director of communications for New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer

Most discussions of economic inequality focus on the need for more equity in employment and income. There is no doubt that expanding job opportunities and providing living wages for workers in communities of color are essential to closing the great divide between

the vastly affluent and the rest of us. But even more troubling is the huge wealth gap, invariably linked to glaring disparities in homeownership and entrepreneurship that continue to break down along color and gender lines. The National Urban League's 2014 State of Black America Equality Index™ found that Black households have just \$6 in wealth for every \$100 in wealth of white households – or a median wealth of \$6,314 vs. \$110,500. The Obama Administration, leaders across the nation and globe and a number of progressive mayors across the country – including New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio – have identified the need to close that gap. A key part of the solution is increasing the number and worth of government contracts available to minority and women-owned business enterprises (M/WBE). As Mayor de Blasio is learning, while not an easy task, he has a substantial opportunity to fix a big problem and put forth a scalable model for how New York City can and should engage with M/WBE.

Mayor de Blasio took office in January 2014 determined to "leave no New Yorker behind." But a recent article by freelance journalist John Surico concludes that "the contracts between the city's bureaucracy and its businesses do not reflect a commitment to diversity." Surico adds, "For thousands of companies in New York City, obtaining a city contract is one of the most important financial benefits of civil government. Last year alone, roughly 40,500 transactions between the public and private sectors translated into this \$16.5 billion in revenue for vendors." While M/WBE firms comprised 7 percent of New York City's vendors and were awarded 23 percent of the City's sub-and-prime contracts in 2013, they only received \$439 million, or 2.7 percent, of total contract dollars.

Despite the existence of the federal Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) and dedicated minority business development offices in New York and most major cities, this disparity is echoed throughout the country. Reasons

for this include cumbersome and complicated contracting rules and the often prohibitively high cost of navigating the procurement process. Unfortunately, too many minority and women-owned businesses also still find it difficult to secure critical bank loans. Everyone agrees that small and minority-owned businesses are essential to America's economic recovery, but not everyone has stepped up to give them the support they need to succeed.

That is why the National Urban League has made entrepreneurship support, tax credits and small business financing a key part of "Jobs Rebuild America," our \$100 million partnership across the public, private and nonprofit sectors to improve outcomes for job seekers, vulnerable youth and entrepreneurs in hard-pressed urban communities. We were also pleased that last year, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation invested \$5 million in five Black-owned banks across the country both to support the dwin-

dling number of Black banks and to strengthen the ability of these financial institutions to make loans to neighborhood businesses. We also applaud measures taken by the Obama Administration, including the current effort by the MBDA to bring more minority businesses into high growth industries such as green technology and clean energy.

Mayor de Blasio has pledged to increase New York City's usage of minority businesses from three percent to 10 percent. He shares our understanding of the importance of minority and women-owned businesses to revitalizing struggling urban communities, closing the wealth gap and improving the American economy. But none of us can do this alone and good intentions are not enough. Washington, local governments, big banks and major corporations across cities and the nation must do more to remove barriers and erect stronger incentives to unleash the entrepreneurial potential of minority and women-owned businesses.

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Data News Weekly Newspaper, The People's Paper, is hiring for two positions in our New Orleans Office.

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In Recognition and Celebration of Juneteenth



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Mississippi Leaders and Activists to Address Serious Issues Facing Black Men and Boys on June 26 in Jackson

On June 26, local elected leaders, educators, community leaders, business professionals, legal experts, and respected clergy will gather for a roundtable discussion, titled "Our Fathers, Our Brothers and Our Sons: Building Strong Family Legacies in Mississippi," at the Hilton Garden Inn in Jackson, Miss. June 26 from 9am to noon. According to the 2011 U.S. Census, the Jackson metropolitan area has one of the largest percentages of African Americans of any metro in America at 48 percent, with many more Blacks living in rural majority Black counties throughout the state. Too many of these Black families live below the national poverty line due to wage gaps, as well as a lack of access to legal, educational, healthcare and economic resources.

"For far too long African American men of color have been left out of the family circle and as a result there a brokenness. These fathers have a vital role to play in their children's lives," said Melbah Smith, Director of the Coalition for a Prosperous Mississippi.

"Our Fathers, Our Brothers and Our Sons" is expected to attract between 50 to 70 invited speakers and guests who will examine a wide variety of topics, specifically on the law, education and work. Kevin E. Hooks, President & CEO of the Las Vegas Urban League will serve as

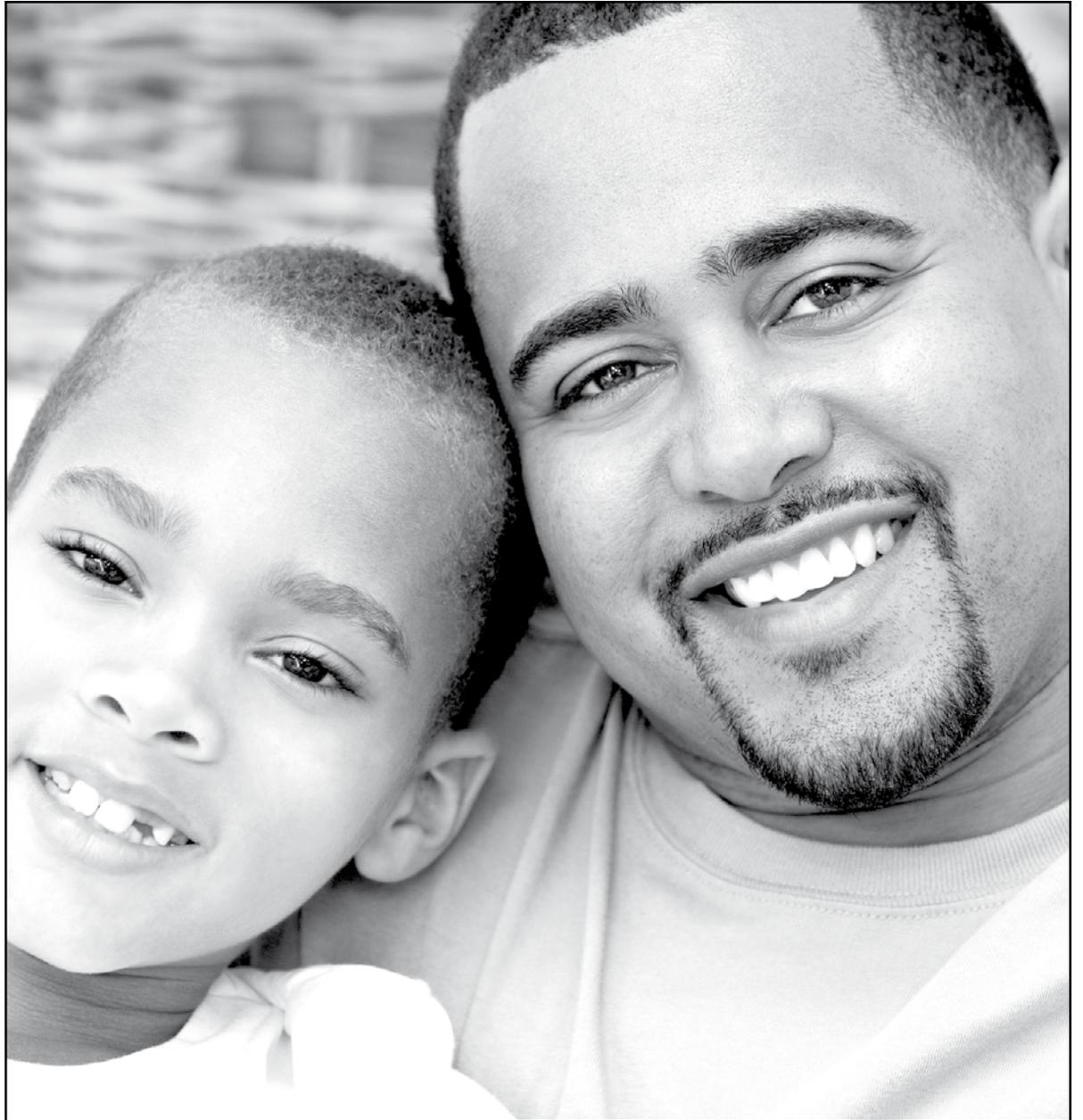
the moderator. The conference is organized by the Closing the Racial Wealth Gap Initiative at the Insight Center for Community Economic Development, as part of a strategic partnership with The Coalition for a Prosperous Mississippi (CPM) and the Center for Family Policy and Practice (CFFPP).

"The aim of our collective efforts has been to gather what is known about the conditions of African American men's lives and use that knowledge to inform advocacy,"

added Anne E. Price, Program Director for the Closing the Racial Wealth Gap Initiative. "We need a comprehensive advocacy campaign on behalf of black men that challenges inaccurate and negative stereotypes, is grounded in a social justice framework, challenges the myth that everyone can 'pull themselves up by their bootstraps,' and aims to break down the institutionalized barriers that keep African American men from making their desired contributions to their children and families,

and their communities."

The roundtable will highlight promising solutions in communities around the state that are connecting black men to opportunities. (View Document: <http://www.insightcced.org/uploads/crwg/What-We-Want-to-Give-Our-Kids.pdf>)



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Walmart Reveals New Store to New Orleans Shoppers

New Walmart provides approximately 400 jobs, plus savings on wide selection of merchandise

A new Walmart opened Wednesday, June 11, after a brief ribbon-cutting ceremony. The new store at 6000 Bullard Ave. is located off of I-10 and is open 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week providing New Orleans residents shopping convenience for their grocery and general merchandise needs. The store also offers pharmacy services. The new Walmart aides in the revitalization of New Orleans East, a community that has been underserved since Hurricane Katrina. Approximately 400 jobs have been filled and twenty-five of these hires are associates formerly employed at the New Orleans East Walmart prior to Hurricane Katrina.

"The opening of this new Walmart not only gives the residents of District E the convenience of shopping nearby, it allows the City of New Orleans to capture sales taxes on the millions that will be spent here every year – tax money that can be used to replace street lights and pave roads," said District E Councilmember James A. Gray II. "Additionally, Walmart acts as a magnet for development. My office has talked with numerous businesses about locating to District E.



Everyone is very interested now that Walmart is opening. District E is booming."

Fannie C. Williams Charter School marching band helped kick off the grand opening ceremony and led the procession once doors opened at 8 a.m. Local vendors including Community Coffee, Cajun Country, Abita Root Beer, and Manda Fine Meats participated in the grand opening events, offering guests samples of their products.

Community Giving

The grand-opening media sneak peak included presentations of \$4,000 in grants from Walmart to local community groups. Recipients included Fannie C. Williams Charter School, Blessed 26 and Greater St. Stephen Ministries.

New Store, New Jobs

The new store employs approximately 400 full- and part-time associates. Store manager Michael Nowell began his Walmart career in 2000 as a co-manager of the store in Harvey.

"This store will provide New Orleans shoppers with a convenient shopping option," said Nowell. "Our team has been working hard to prepare the store and we welcome residents to join us in celebrating on grand opening day."

Cover Story/ Continued from previous page.

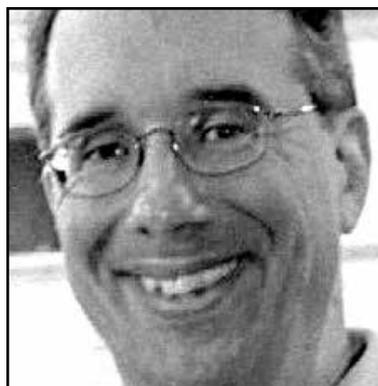
in my arms is growing up. That was one of the first times I found myself tearing up. Today she is involved in so many things. I remember her first musical and seeing what she did onstage and my chest stuck out for a week. Her first swim meet also sticks out and is one of my favorite pictures of her. I remember when she first got in the water and was afraid, but then she got out there and competed and I was so proud of her."

Fatherhood and Family

Fatherhood is an amazing thing, although sometimes it is tough. But nothing can compare to the feeling of seeing your child doing well and playing a part in shaping their lives. The idea of family is changing, but the ingredients for success still remains the same. Love, plus compas-

sion, encouragement, support and guidance equals a great father. A point stated clearly by Jamie Jones when speaking of his relationship with his son, "It is important for him to know that we are a family and we have a very unique makeup. It is not a single family household like the media makes it to be. We are a family and that is something that comes in all shapes and forms. I want him to understand its family no matter what and to understand the importance of family." The role of a father is important in a child's life and it can be summed up in a shirt worn by Al "Brother" Mims that says, "I am my children's future," so we as African-American men must take our roles as fathers seriously because in our actions we are planting the seeds for the next generation.

Xavier Sports Information Director Cassiere Receives 2 NAIA Writing Awards



Ed Cassiere

Xavier University of Louisiana's Ed Cassiere received two awards Monday in the NAIA's 2013-14 Dr.

W. Jack Bell Writing Contest.

Cassiere was honored for a pair of game recaps. He placed seventh for his XU-Spring Hill men's basketball story on Dec. 17 and ninth for his account of the finals of the NAIA Unaffiliated Group 2 Tennis Tournament on April 26.

Cassiere, who in July will begin his ninth year as Xavier's sports information director – has received 19 NAIA writing awards the past six years, including four firsts. During the past three years, Xavier and Cassiere's 11 awards are the most by a university or individual in the Dr. W. Jack Bell Writing Contest.

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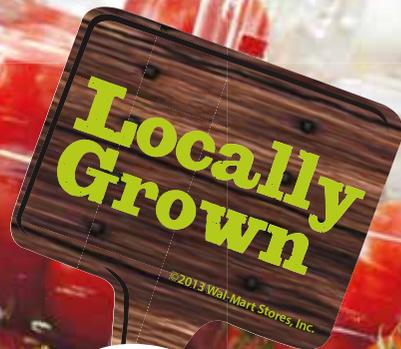
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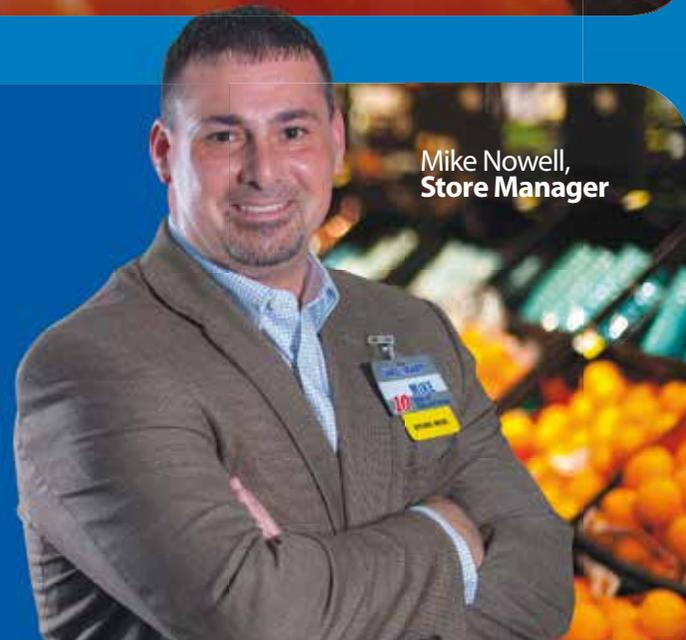
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