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Danielle's Big Birthday Bash



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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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From Off the Air and On the Road to Victory



Camille Whitworth (above) is the current co-owner of Victory Restaurant and Cocktail Bar located downtown at 339 Baronne Street. She has shared ownership of the business with David Victory for the last four years.

By Eric Craig
Multimedia Editor

Hurricane Katrina, the BP Oil Spill, politics and healthcare are all topics this ex-anchor remembers reporting during her tenure at WDSU. Camille Whitworth worked as a Journalist for

24 years and has worked for WDSU in New Orleans for the last 13 years, including her role as an On-Air Anchor. Originally from Houston with deep roots in New Orleans, the Journalist projected her career in a different path: she has become a full-time entrepreneur. In March 2016, Whitworth left her anchor position at WDSU to

pursue her entrepreneurial passions full-time. “There just came a point in my life where it was time to do my own thing and give back in the community in a new way,” Whitworth said. Despite moving away from Journalism, she is still fascinated with the field. She said at times she misses being a journalist.

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Cover Story, Continued from previous page.

"My favorite thing was telling people's story. It was amazing. And I appreciated my journey in broadcast," Whitworth said.

Whitworth is the current co-owner of a restaurant and cocktail bar called Victory located downtown on 339 Baronne St. She has shared ownership of the business with Daniel Victory for the last four years.

"I think it is the most fulfilling and proud thing that I could possibly do," Whitworth said.

"We're creating jobs, we're adding to the economy of New Orleans, and helping the City rebuild in ways that is innovative and unique," she added.

Despite changing fields, Whitworth was confident in her ability to become an entrepreneur and work for herself.

"There was an opportunity for me to get in and I jumped at the opportunity. It's a great venue; It's a great opportunity where people can enjoy themselves and have fun," Whitworth said.

Whitworth bought into the Victory establishment four years ago. In that time span, she has established a second venture called Nola Drink Lab. Located on the second floor of the Victory Restaurant, the business educates people on the history of and how to make cocktail drinks in a bar location.

"Victory has been in existent for last five years. The plan is to grow and expand that venture. That includes The Drink Lab, which launched in October. The plan is to grow and expand all of this further," Whitworth said.

She is also in the works of starting a new media company with her newly found entrepreneurial talents. Currently Whitworth is starting a new media company called Media by Design. The company focuses on being able to coach businesses with proper communication, crisis management and the handling of public appearances.

With all of the ongoing projects,



Daniel Victory (above) is co-owner of Victory with Camille Whitworth for the last four years.

Whitworth is grateful at the opportunity to start her businesses in New Orleans.

"Any time you venture into a new a career, you have to find a niche and something that is going to work. New Orleans is a unique place because there is a lot of energy. New Orleans is the right place. It's the right time and perfect thing to do right now."

Victory's employees were very pleased at Whitworth's success in her restaurant venture.

Victory employee Bianca White, serves at a Cocktailer at the Victory Bar and is thankful for Whitworth's influence on the staff.

"I love the fact that Camille is someone I can look up to, someone I can learn something from, someone that can influence and encourage me to do more than the usual day-to-day that everyone involves themselves in," White said.

Del Verdum, a Bartender at Victory, has worked with Whitworth for the last four years.

"She's a wonderful person, very graceful," Verdum said.

"She's hands-on, moves about and looks for opportunities for improvement, she just does her own thing, which is great," he added.

Chris Klein, the Chef at Victory

appreciates the restaurant and her presence.

"I like the food, and I liked it before I started cooking here. I've known Camille since she bought

into this thing and it's been a great ride ever since," Klein said.

Whitworth accounts her success on the way she treats her employees. Her goal is to maintain Victory as a place that lets people know that dreams can come true.

"While we try to give that cocktail experience to our customers, it's also important that our employees feel equally as valued; a place where they can express themselves and be who they are and know that it's embraced and supported," Whitworth said.

Most of all, Whitworth is honored to serve New Orleans in the way she does.

"I'd like to thank the community for their support in the 13 years in New Orleans. I have been uplifted and supported by the community," Whitworth said.

"They haven't seen the last of me. I'm here to stay and I'm here to give back in ways unique, meaningful and important," Whitworth added.

For more information on Victory Restaurant and related events, visit Victorynola.com.

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YouthForce NOLA Poised to Provide Real-World Skills and Real-Life Success for New Orleans Students

Data Staff Report

New Orleans YouthForce NOLA (YFN), an education, business, and civic partnership, is launching a new career readiness initiative this June to help better prepare and connect New Orleans students to career pathways in high-wage, high-skill, high-demand fields. By providing grant funding and technical assistance to high schools, combined with industry exposure and preparation for students, YFN's approach creates a demand-driven career readiness model designed to connect New Orleans students with regional economic opportunity.

Over the next ten years, more than 70,000 jobs in the skilled crafts, health sciences, and creative/tech industries will become available in the New Orleans region. YFN has set a goal that 20% of the Class of 2020 (and approximately 1,600 students total over the next five years) will earn industry recognized cre-



dentials qualifying them for entry-level jobs with clear advancement opportunities in these high-paying regional industries. Through partnerships with the business community, YFN helps expose students to these career opportunities and ensures curricula are focused on the skills needed for the jobs of tomor-

row. "YouthForce NOLA expands our ability to prepare students for their futures; more students will earn industry recognized credentials and more will be prepared for post-secondary pathways because of this support," says Warren Easton Charter High School Principal Alexina Medley.

YouthForce NOLA will increase student engagement, high school graduation rates, and two- and four-year degree attainment. While New Orleans has seen unprecedented improvement in student academic performance, the region nevertheless has the nation's third highest percentage of youth aged 16-24 who are neither in school nor working. YFN is poised to change this statistic through a multiyear, multipronged, cross-sector approach to student success. "Connecting students with real-world experience helps them find the right fit and puts them on the inside track to future success," says Janet Snow-Godfrey, Senior VP of HR and Chief HR Officer at Ochsner Health Systems, an engaged industry partner.

This summer, YFN will provide 70 student internships in the targeted high-wage, high-growth industries, providing professionalism training and on the job experience. YFN aims to grow the in-

ternship program such that 10% of the graduating class of 2020 (and approximately 1,200 students total over the next five years) will successfully complete a YouthForce internship. "New Orleans public high school students are incredibly talented, and are more academically prepared than ever. Each of the twelve organizations that comprise the YouthForce NOLA partnership is committed to preparing our young people with the real-world skills and connecting them to economic opportunity," says Leslie Jacobs, Founder of Educate Now!, which serves as the convener of YouthForce NOLA. "We are grateful to Bloomberg Philanthropies, JPMorgan Chase, and our other philanthropic partners for their belief in our young people and this important work."

Visit www.educatenow.net/youthforcenola or email youthforce@educatenow.net for more information or to get involved.

Local Employees Wanted for Jobs in Louisiana Disaster Recovery from March Floods

Data Staff Report

Louisiana residents looking for temporary work following the March severe storms and flooding have an opportunity to learn firsthand about the recovery process. The Louisiana Workforce Commission, in conjunction with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is advertising open positions at the disaster recovery offices in Baton Rouge, Pineville (Rapides Parish) and West Monroe (Ouachita Parish). These are temporary, full-time jobs.

Interested applicants can visit the Louisiana Workforce Commission - Helping Individuals Reach Employment (HiRE) website at <http://www.laworks.net/>. To find the available jobs, click on HiRE, then Additional Search Options under Job Seeker Services. Under Job Search by Employer, enter Federal Emergency Management Agency.



The following positions are currently advertised:

Administrative Support Assistant
Community Education and Outreach Specialist
Courier
Data Integration Specialist
Digital Communications Specialist
Environmental Specialist
External Affairs Program Liaison Specialist
Geospatial Information System (GIS)

Specialist
Hazard Mitigation Floodplain Management Specialist
Hazard Mitigation Insurance Specialist
Historic Preservation Specialist
Human Resources Assistant
Media Analysis Specialist
Receptionist/Switchboard Operator
Research & Writing Specialist
Training Specialist
Travel Specialist
Voluntary Agency Liaison

More positions may be posted on the HiRE website as disaster recovery continues.

Candidates must be U.S. citizens 18 years of age or older. They must have a valid government identification card, such as a driver's license or military ID. Before hiring, selected candidates will be subject to a complete background investigation.



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The State of Black America Report

Despite Progress, Deep Inequality Plagues Black America

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA News Wire Contributor

In 1976, then-President Gerald Ford delivered the annual “State of the Union Address,” virtually ignoring the plight of African-Americans and Latinos.

That drove Vernon Jordan, then-president of the National Urban League, to commission his own report. Now, 40 years later, the “State of Black America” report is a prominent tool that continues to show just where African-Americans, Latinos and other minorities stand in the United States.

National Urban League President Marc H. Morial said that it’s clear, that much needs to be done.

“As we observe the 40th anniversary of the State of Black America, the similarities in the nation in 2016 and that which, then-National Urban League Executive Director Vernon Jordan documented in 1976 are disheartening,” Morial said on Tuesday, May 17, at the Newseum in Washington, D.C., during the unveiling of the 40th annual report.

“Our nation was struggling to overcome the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. Pressure was building to slash social services for the poor, who were demonized and characterized as swindlers. Communities were rocked by hostility and violence triggered by legal challenges to the social status quo,” Morial said.

As with every economic downturn, communities of color bore the brunt of the decline, Morial noted. Black Americans remained nearly twice as likely as Whites to be unemployed and, since 1976, the Black unemployment rate has consistently remained about twice that of the White rate across time, regardless of educational attainment.

“The household income gap remains at about 60 cents for every dollar. Black Americans are only slightly less likely today to live in poverty than they were in 1976,” he said.

On the criminal justice front, Morial said Jordan, who served as president of the National Urban League from 1971 to 1981, noted that Blacks were underrepresented in law enforcement in 1976.

“The City of Chicago is an example: with a population that is 32.7 percent Black, it has a police force



National Urban League President Marc H. Morial.

that is only 16 percent Black,” he said. “Today, in hundreds of police departments across the nation, the percentage of Whites on the force is more than 30 percentage points higher than in the communities they serve.”

A moving video accompanied Morial’s speech during the event. It featured Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Freddie Gray, Sandra Bland and others who have lost their lives in police-related incidents.

Morial spoke fervently about how Blacks were once considered by law to be just three-fifths of a human.

“That’s about 60 percent and, if you’re looking for a way to measure how far we’ve come, in 2004 we introduced the equality index and in 2016 that number is 72.2 percent,” he said.

The report’s bottom line is that African-Americans and Latinos continue to fall way behind Whites in key economic areas, including household income and unemploy-

ment rates.

The State of Black America examined economic data for 70 metro areas for Blacks and 73 for Hispanics and found that there were no regions in the United States where Blacks were more likely to be employed or make more money than Whites.

Like Blacks, Hispanics in all regions were consistently paid less than Whites though, on average, the gaps between White household income and Hispanic household income were smaller than those between Whites and Blacks, the report found.

“This is the remaining issue of civil rights and economic justice in America,” Morial said.

“This economic gap between Blacks and Whites, which is a component of the gap between rich and poor and working class people in America is a continuing problem.”

In 2015, nationally 6.6 percent of Hispanics and 9.6 percent of Blacks were unemployed compared with

4.6 percent of Whites.

The report revealed that African-Americans are doing about the same as they have in previous years as the nation rises out of the Great Recession, which still is surprising better than they did when the first State of Black America report was released in 1976.

The National Urban League’s equality index is based on collected data from federal agencies including the Census Bureau, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the National Center for Education Statistics, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

With full equality with Whites in economics, health, education, social justice and civic engagement set at 100 percent, the National Urban League said this year’s equality index for Blacks stands at 72.2 percent, compared with last year’s 72 percent.

For Hispanics, it’s 77.8 percent compared to last year’s rate of 77.3 percent.

Since 1976, fewer Blacks live in poverty – 29 percent in 1976 compared with 27 percent now. More Blacks have graduated high school and college – 28 percent in 1976 and 33 percent today for high school, and 6 percent four decades ago versus 22 percent today for college.

Life expectancy of African-Americans has increased from 68 in 1976 to 75 today.

Homeownership and voting, however, continue to be major obstacles with 43 percent of African-Americans owning a home compared to the 43.7 percent that owned homes in 1976.

Voting is down considerably as 48.7 percent of African-Americans cast ballots in 1976 compared with just 39.7 percent today.

For the second year in a row, California’s Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario metropolplex is the best for Blacks when it comes to income equality compared to Whites.

An African-American worker makes 76 cents to every dollar a White worker makes in those cities, the highest ratio in the nation. For Latinos, Honolulu is the most promising for income equality: Hispanics make 80 cents for every dollar made by Whites.

Washington, D.C., and its suburbs are where Blacks, Whites and Hispanics have the highest median household income. Whites make \$109,460, Hispanics make \$66,523, and Blacks make \$66,151.

The cities with the lowest Black unemployment rate are Oklahoma City and San Antonio at 8.3 percent. The city with the lowest Hispanic unemployment rate is Tulsa, Oklahoma, with a 4.6 unemployment rate.

Morial has put out the call for a major commitment from the government to rebuild the nation’s urban communities called the “Main Street Marshall Plan.”

He’s seeking \$1 trillion over the next five years committed to several programs including universal early childhood education, homeownership strategies, high-speed broadband and technology, and a \$15 per hour federal living wage indexed to inflation.

“While education is crucial, education alone is not going to solve the economic gaps in the country,” Morial said.

To view the full report, visit www.stateofblackamerica.org.

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Nicole's Hawaiian Birthday Celebration

Photos by Jerry Lavigne
Data News Weekly Contributor

Nicole held her traditional Hawaiian Birthday Celebration on Saturday, May 14th at The Prime Example Blues and Jazz Club. It was a great celebration with lots of delicious home-made food, with good friends and family. To top off the celebration as usual she had a second-line band with Zulu Members parading from the street into and through the club and dancing to music for over an hour. Everyone enjoyed themselves but not like Nicole. She had a blast and Data was there!!!



Danielle's Big Birthday Bash

Photos by Glenn Summers
Data News Weekly Contributor

Danielle Garriette celebrated her 40th birthday this weekend at the Foundation Room in the House of Blues. It was an extremely well attended celebration for Danielle who is the Regional Human Resource Generalist for Walgreens.

Pictured to the right are Data News Weekly Publisher, Terry Jones, Danielle's Parents Judge Henry & Blondine Cantrell, Leslie Garriette and Danielle Garriette.



Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Tracy Fernandez and Fraland Oates Tie the Knot!

Photos by Jerry Lavigne
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Congratulations is in order for Tracy Fernandez on her wedding to Farlando Oates which took place last weekend. The bride is the daughter of Dwight and Debbie Fernandez and Farlando is the son of Ms. Emma Oates. The ceremony was beautiful and Data News Weekly was there.



Bride and Bridesmaids



Bride-Tracy Fernandez-Oates and groom Fraland Oates



Dwight and Debbie Fernandez parents of bride, bride and groom, Emma Oates, mother of groom.



Groomsmen, friends, and family members

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

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Why We Celebrate May 17th



By Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr
Founder & President, Rainbow
PUSH Coalition

CHICAGO, May 17 – The elementary school closest to my home in Greenville, SC was just down the street from my house. The school had a lush lawn, tulips under the principal's window, a shiny sliding board and a merry-go-round. I knew in my bones that was where I was going to attend first grade. I couldn't wait for summer to end and class to begin.

When that day came, my mother took me by the hand and walked me right past that beautiful building and grounds.

"Momma we passed the school," I said.

"No, Jesse," she said. "That's not your school."

We trekked more than two miles to the other side of town before stopping in front of a worn out looking building. There was no grass in front. No flowers or sliding board. No merry-go-round.

"This is your new school," Momma said.

The sparkling schoolhouse just down the hill from me was for the white children. The shabby facility clear across Greenville was for the black children – children like me.

The unfairness broke my six-year-old heart. The memory of the pain I felt has never left me.

That is why May 17 is such an important day to me and for the country. It was on this day 62 years ago that the Supreme Court of the United States of America handed down its decision in Brown v. Board of Education, declaring that "separate but equal has no place" in public schools.

This is a big day in African American and American history. All the rights we have post-slavery can be traced back to May 17, 1954. That



Rev Jesse L. Jackson Sr. with
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

decision changed the whole Western World because it began a new global frame of reference for equal protection. It is a day that should be remembered and celebrated.

The next year, the Court ordered the schools comply with its desegregation decision with "all deliberate speed." But then as now, the reactionary force did everything in their powers to delay equality and to deny justice. When I graduated from high school in 1959, the

schools of my hometown were still separate and unequal.

Every day, I had to walk past Greenville High School – green grass, well-maintained fields to practice and play football. My teammates and I at Sterling had to walk two miles from our school to find a field to practice.

Of course, over time, things did get fairer, more equal. For after the Brown v. Board decision the fledgling Civil Rights Movement had a brand new weapon – the law.

We live in our faith. We live under the law.

Still, the struggle continues. The culture of resistance to our having these rights is strong, but at least legally we are on solid ground. Just the other day, a federal court ordered the schools in Cleveland, Mississippi, which are still divided by race, be consolidated and desegregated – 62 years after they were supposed to have been. The court, according to The New York Times, found that the Cleveland school district had operated for decades an "inadequate dual system" in the Mississippi

Delta city of about 12,000 people.

In most of America today, it is not race that separates our school children. It is resources. It is not talent. It is opportunity. I have been fighting for a fairer share of resources and opportunities for all Americans since 1966 when Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., named me to head Operation Breadbasket in Chicago. Breadbasket was the economic arm of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

We have never stopped doing Dr. King's work. Next month at the Hyatt McCormick Place in Chicago, the Rainbow PUSH Coalition and Citizenship Education Fund will hold its 45th annual International Convention – A More Perfect Union: From Freedom to Voting Rights to Economic Justice.

We will pause to remember May 17 and all the victories that came because of it. Then we will return to work and continue fighting for our country.

Rev. Jesse Jackson is the founder and president of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition.

Blackonomics

The Black Community is Bleeding to Death



By James Clingman
NNPA News Wire Columnist

There is a crisis of monumental proportion in our so-called "Black communities." A crisis that if not checked will prove to be our demise. We are bleeding so badly that we are in a comatose state and on life support right now. But we still have a strong heartbeat, so we can be revived by those who have the financial and intellectual talents and the willingness to make the requisite individual sacrifices necessary to restore us

to a more healthy state.

A cadre of individuals, not featured in the dominant media, is devoted to leading the charge for economic empowerment among Black people. These brothers and sisters are not afraid. They are not ashamed of being Black. They are not hiding behind organizations and in corporations; they are strong and unwavering in their message of economic empowerment. They are our Emergency Medical Technicians, the first ones on the scene to stop the bleeding and take us to a place where we can be treated and recover from our wounds.

Yes, we are bleeding profusely brothers and sisters, and we must stop the bleeding, not with a Band-Aid but with stitches. Our lifeblood—our dollars are flowing out of our neighborhoods. The professionals call this phenomenon "float" or "expenditure leakage," which

translates into what the experts at the Brookings Institution called a "market opportunity to provide competitively priced goods and services to inner-city consumers." A 1999 report issued by the Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy, written by Robert Weissbourd and Christopher Berry, cited some glaring and, quite frankly, embarrassingly stark statistics that portray Black people as nothing more than "economic opportunities" for others.

Please note the report was not casting aspersions on Black folks, rather it was simply pointing out some facts about inner-city neighborhoods and their consumers and suggesting ways that businesses and government entities could better serve the residents as well as their own interests. It stressed investment opportunities within under-served neighborhoods and

was positive in its approach to suggesting ways to effect much needed change.

Nevertheless, my take on this issue conjured up visions of massive hemorrhaging, and it very strongly suggested that we need to stop the bleeding. The report compared one of Chicago's Southside neighborhoods to the affluent northern neighborhood of Kenilworth. It stated, "...urban neighborhoods like South Shore in Chicago have more buying power than the wealthiest of suburbs. South Shore's median family income was \$22,000 back then; Kenilworth's was \$124,000. But South Shore had \$69,000 of retail spending 'power per acre,' nearly twice that of Kenilworth's \$38,000." That means inner city residents, despite their tremendous resources, are virtually bleeding to death. Literally millions of dollars are leaving our neighborhoods,

which in turn, also negatively affects our employment opportunities. It continued, "For business, this translates into lost sales, or what marketers call 'float dollars.' For inner city residents, these are 'float jobs,' as crucial dollars that could employ local residents and fuel the neighborhood economy are spent elsewhere."

The only thing that has changed during the last sixteen years is our collective annual income, which is much higher. The problem is that we don't learn from information like this and use it to improve our situation.

We are bleeding, brothers and sisters, and our blood is Type O, the "universal donor"—everybody benefits from it. We have EMT's ready, willing, and able to apply the tourniquets and even to stitch up

**Commentary, Continued
on page 10.**

Harriet Tubman's Face On The New \$20 Bill Is Priceless

By Walter Rhet
NNPA News Wire Columnist

President Obama said in his recent remarks that Harriet Tubman would likely greet the news she was on the \$20 with little fanfare. In fact she might question how that would buy freedom. Still, while the change "on the money" is significant, it has already become a political football for the presumed Republican front-runner.

When Donald Trump calls Harriet Tubman's selection as the face on the \$20 bill "politically correct," it is just another flag-wrapped slur. Let's face it: his record shows he befriends Blacks, but he cannot accept Black achievement on merit. Nor can he accept a shift of power and image that results in a historic African-American replacing the legacy of a tarnished figure of the past or present. If you can't keep them down, keep them out. Many in the country agree with him.

It's one reason why today's slurs come flag-wrapped. Affirmative action/politically correct/grievance politics are labels of blame that imply bias trumps merit. Its underlying principle appears in curious places. Found in the decision of Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger B. Taney regarding Dred Scott, in a floor speech by South Carolina Senator Ben Tillman, in editorials by respected journalist James J. Kilpatrick after the Brown school desegregation decision, it says opportunity by merit for some is un-American and dangerous.

Kilpatrick's blunt editorials demanded school children be separated by race as the constitution makes no claim of "racial equality."



For him, the limits race put on opportunity were "unchanged by the Civil War, not altered in any way since the Constitution was created in 1787."

The flag-wrapped principle of the new racism is the same as the old: opportunity has a freedom cost; it denies someone else a fair choice. Opportunity and freedom are mutually exclusive in this old American formula; equality is really a battle about winners and losers, losers who want to mar and taint our history.

Few people in history understood this battle better than Harriet Tubman, on whose life the system and its stakeholders once put a \$40,000 bounty. In fact, her entire life was anything but politically correct. More than today's conserva-

tives, she understood balance sheet politics and its customs.

Another tactic of the new racism employs equality to challenge Black merit; its deflection offers alternatives. Why not Susan B. Anthony? Why not create a new denomination—the new racism's version of separate but equal.

Because before Anthony, a woman who couldn't rest without freedom slept on the cold, damp ground, hidden from the tracking hounds, outwitting her pursuers by risking her life for the simple action of bringing America's freedom to others, an opportunity often more baffling than the bondage they had left, but one worth the ultimate, prayed for prize—worth every penny the price put on her head. Her legendary work with the Un-

derground Railroad help galvanize the women's movement. It inspired many to defy the system and make change. In an act of self-definition, born Araminta Ross, "Minty" took her mother's name, Harriet.

So let us honor the politically incorrect Harriet Tubman. In the arc of her life she drew strength from grief and pain. Denied her full pension after her Civil War army service, a healer during her work with Union soldiers in Port Royal, SC at Camp Saxton (she saved many lives from dysentery through her knowledge of folk medicine, passed to her by the enslaved and from Native American traditions), she taught many of the camp's contraband (the enslaved in Union camps who were without status during the war) how to earn their first income by cook-

ing and working for the soldiers.

She was the first woman to lead U.S. troops in wartime. Appointed to lead the sweep of mines from the local rivers, she accepted the assignment and its dangers, and asked to handpick her men.

Doing that mission, she freed 900 slaves, the largest single emancipation event of the Civil War. On shore, word outpaced the ships: "Moses is coming. Moses is coming," the words repeated as the enslaved gathered children and belongings (accounts say a pig or two) to crowd the decks of the ships bound back to Camp Randall.

She married a soldier from South Carolina that she met in Hilton Head and they returned together to Auburn, New York. In her fight for freedom during the war, in her service as a scout, spy, and nurse, she never fired a shot!

But she knew violence. At age 13, her skull was "broken," smashed when a 2 pound scale weight thrown by the property holder left her in a coma for months and with a lifetime of pain, hypersomnolence, dizziness, and severe migraines.

On the day of emancipation, its first celebration at Camp Saxton at midnight (where a tree remains), her first words were "there's a glory over everything."

In February 1899, after more than 40 years of fighting the bureaucracy and politicians for compensation for her service, the Senate's Committee on Pensions approved a widow's pension for her of \$20 a month. She who had a \$40,000 bounty on her head, now has her portrait on money her status once denied. And yet that banner still waves.

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Next Generation Marine Reps Christen Two Vessels at the Port of New Orleans.

On Thursday, April 28, 2016, at a special reception for clients and business partners, Next Generation Marine announced the opening of its global headquarters in the New Orleans Metropolitan area in May. The new headquarters will serve as a central hub for Next Generation's thriving marine operations. In addition, the marine start-up celebrated the christening of two of its newest vessels at the Port of New Orleans Thursday night.

"The marine industry is booming in the metro area and we are confident that our business will thrive here," said Captain Eddie Compass, IV, CEO of Next Generation Marine. "Contributing to the marine industry here in New Orleans is something I've always



dreamed about, and now we have the opportunity to do it."

Next Generation Marine is one of only two African-American

owned marine transportation companies in the country to own and operate its fleet of vessels. Next Generation Marine was founded in



2015 by Eddie Compass, IV, and Julien Chouest, II.

"The marine and maritime industry is such a vital part of Louisiana's

economy, and like most industries, it has been vastly under represented by people of color," said Congressman Cedric Richmond.

Compass, a New Orleans Native, has more than 10 years working in the marine and maritime industry. He has traveled around the world logging time in Chile, Lima Peru, Ireland Angola, and Trinidad to name a few. Compass earned his Bachelor of Science in Marine Transportation from the Maritime Academy Texas A&M University.

The company expects to hire an additional 60 employees by May 2017. This will bring the total employees from 40 to nearly 100. Salaries range from \$60,000 for deckhands to six figure salaries for captains.

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Commentary, Continued from page 8.

our wounds. It's up to us, however, to access their expertise, to follow their instructions, and to take the prescriptions they write for us. If we are going to stop the bleeding, if we are going to put an end, once and for all, to the preventable loss of life blood – our dollars – from our neighborhoods, we must make the changes being recommended by our true economic leaders.

We must consider our "spending power per acre" as cited in the Brookings Report, just as others are considering it and gaining

a stronger economic foothold in the billions Black people earn and spend each year. We must redirect a greater portion of our \$1.2 billion aggregate annual income back to ourselves via our own businesses, and we must develop a culture of wealth retention, a culture of collective economic empowerment among our people, regardless of where we reside.

In the book "Going Local: Creating Self-Reliant Communities in a Global Age," Michael Shuman wrote: "Being poor doesn't always

mean being without resources. Anacostia is one of the poorest neighborhoods in Washington, D.C., yet the total income of all its households is \$370 million per year. The principal affliction of poor communities in the United States is not the absence of money, but its systematic exit."

So, put the Band-Aids away; we need sutures. Let's stop the bleeding, Black people. If we fail to do so, our words are merely "Sound and fury, signifying nothing."

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Louisiana Master Gardener State Conference

By LMG Calla Victoria
Data News Weekly Columnist
Photos by Dr. Johnny Morgan, LSU AgCenter

"Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow, My life as a Gardener" was the theme of the LMG 2016 Conference which was held at the Airport Hilton Hotel from May 12-14, 2016. The Annual Conference took place in New Orleans this year and was hosted by Master Gardeners of Greater New Orleans (MGGNO), of which I am a member. Hyped Master Gardeners and gardening enthusiasts from all across the region, including Mississippi converged on the Hilton for this three-day, everything you ever wanted to know about gardening, event. Each attendee received a lovely tagged floral bag chocked full of garden swag from seeds, gardening magazines, and other great stuff.

Industry notables like Dr. Dan Gill, aka the Plant Doctor, Radio and Television Personality, and Newspaper Columnist; Buddy Lee, Plant Propagator and Inventor the Encore Azalea; Dr. Charles Allen, Professor, Extension Entomologist & IPM Coordinator Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service; Dr. William Welch, Professor and Texas AgriLife Extension Service Landscape Horticulturist, Texas A&M University; and Dr. Patrick O'Connor who is an expert on EVERYTHING irises, Owner of Zydeco Louisiana Iris Garden, a grower, hybridizer, and seller of Louisiana irises; did not disappoint. Topics covered during this gardening nirvana ranged from separating bromeliads, Louisiana Iris cultivation, propagation of all sorts, native plant materials, water



Linda Vinsanau, Chairwoman of the 2016 Louisiana Master Gardener Conference.

management in your garden, floral design, scents in the garden, heirloom plants, gardening innovations, and so much more.

During the breaks at the conference, attendees could take part in the silent auctions or visit an array of vendors who were stocked with wonderful and unusual plants for sale. I bought myself a few goodies. There were several tours that attendees could partake of as well, one of which was the tour of Perino's Nursery's extensive greenhouses on the Northshore. Also, as a part of the festivities, was the certification of the first graduating class of the LMG Advanced Master Gardener Program.

All hats off to LMG Linda Vinsanau, and my sister member in MGGNO. She was the Chairwoman for this amazing event and it was Linda's hard work and dedication, along with the many Master Gardener volunteers, and the LSU AgCenter's personnel that made the LMG 2016 Conference a reality.



The first graduating and certification class of the Louisiana Advanced Master Gardener Program.



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