

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"



32nd Creole Tomato Fest

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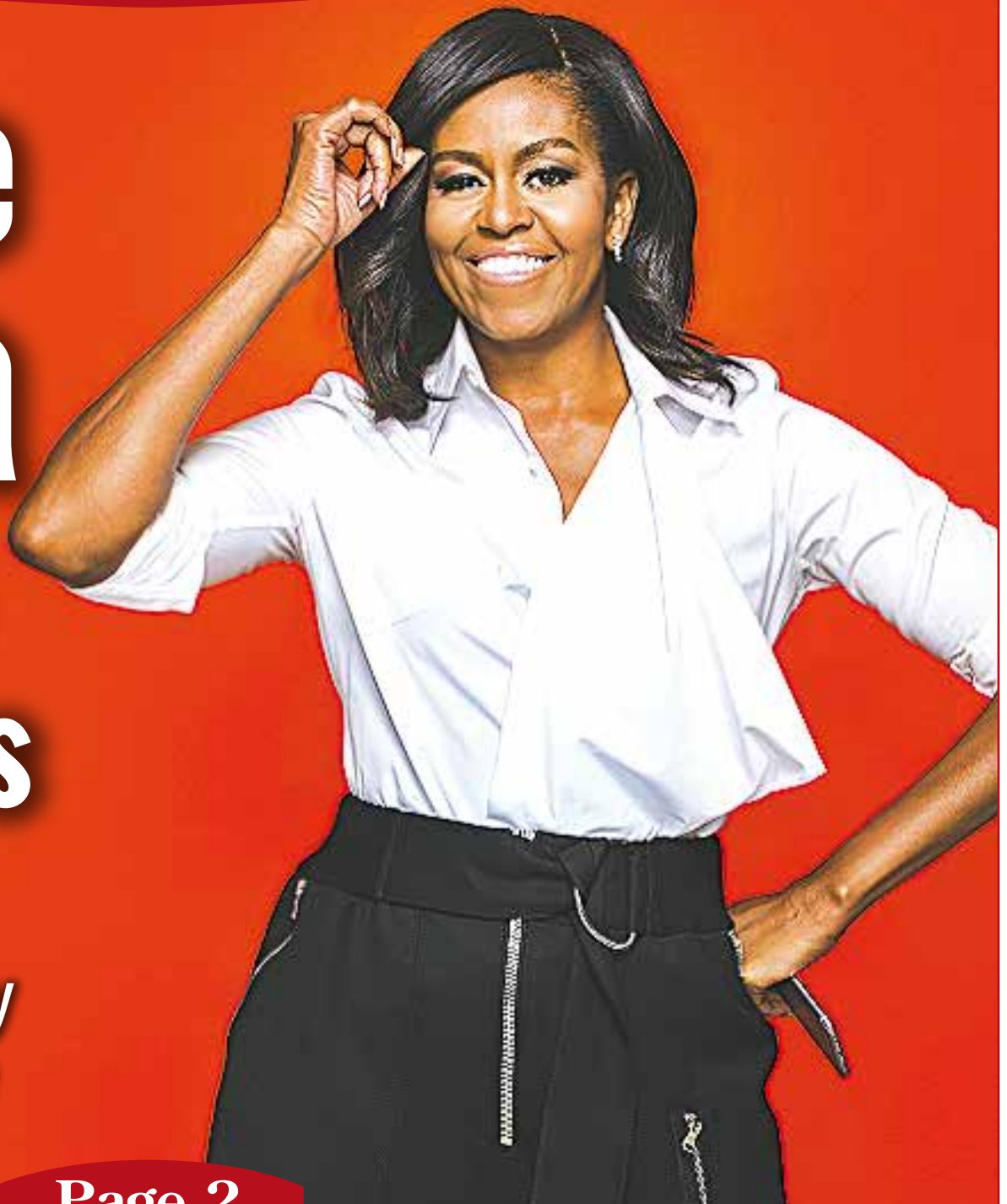
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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

Michelle Obama Coming to New Orleans

Will Debut Her New Book at American Library Association Conference



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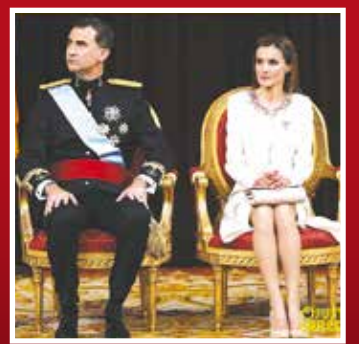
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Literacy and Liberty

ALA Conference Comes to New Orleans

Former First Lady Michelle Obama Comes to New Orleans at American Library Association Conference



Pictured above is Carla Hayden, a phenomenal woman in her own right is the first woman and the first African-American to lead the Library of Congress. She was nominated to the position by President Barack Obama in February 2016, and her nomination confirmed by the U S Senate in July 2016. Hayden will moderate the discussion with Michelle Obama at the American Library Association Conference on June 22nd here in New Orleans.

By Edwin Buggage
Data News Weekly Editor

Liberty and Literacy

In an age where societies across the globe are facing challenges of what it means to be literate in the 21st Century; and with access to unlimited information, we have to ask ourselves what is the relationship to liberty in the 21st Century. There are eight key areas that

ALA focuses on, with four major areas of importance; education, lifelong learning, literacy and intellectual freedom. These goals have a much larger meaning as they are attached to maintain our Democracy and civil society.

New Orleans will be the location where these and many other questions will be pondered as the American Library Association Conference and Exhibition will be coming to the Crescent City from June 21st thru 26th.

The American Library Association (ALA) is the oldest and largest library association in the world. Founded on October 6, 1876 during the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, the mission of ALA is “to provide leadership for the development and improvement of library information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.”

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P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347 | Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622
editorial: datanewseditor@bellsouth.net | advertising: datanewsad@bellsouth.net

Terry B. Jones CEO/Publisher	Contributors Edwin Baggage	Art Direction & Production MainorMedia.com
Edwin Buggage Editor	Juliana Thomason	Editorial Submissions datanewseditor@bellsouth.net
Cheryl Mainor Managing Editor	Kimye N. Dennis	Advertising Inquiries datanewsad@bellsouth.net
Calla Victoria Executive Assistant	James Washington	Distribution On The Run
June Hazeur Accounting	Kichea S. Burt	Courier Services
	Obama Foundation	
	Marc H. Moral	

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

Gabriel's Horn and the Resurrection of a People: Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews, Musician, Author and Philanthropist.

In the General Open Session; the Annual Conference Welcome Celebration will feature Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews, and students from his foundation. Andrews has come a long way since his early days growing up as a child prodigy in Tremé. Today this member of a great musical family is a world-renowned author, philanthropist and Grammy nominated multi-instrumentalist, leading his own band, Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue. He has performed and shared the stage with countless legends in music including U2, Lenny Kravitz, Eric Clapton, Madonna and a host of local legends whose footsteps he's now walking as an ambassador of New Orleans and its rich musical traditions. He's also performed at the White House Event given by the Obama's "Red White and Blues" and recently appeared on the longest running American sitcom, *The Simpsons*.

Andrews is the author of "Trombone Shorty" winner of the Coretta Scott King Book Award and Caldecott Honor Award. His latest picture book is another unforgettable hometown of New Orleans. "The 5 O'Clock Band" illustrated by Coretta Scott King Book Award winner Bryan Collier, is about a young musician who benefits from NOLA-bred wisdom as he hits the streets of New Orleans to find inspiration and answers.

Andrews is the recipient of the prestigious Heinz Award in recognition of his community service with the Trombone Shorty Foundation—that's committed to preserving the musical heritage of New Orleans while providing music education and mentorship to underserved young musicians.

The Continuing of the American Dream: Former First Lady Michelle Obama

America is at a crossroads at home and on the global stage. We have witnessed a shift from the Obama years, ones that promoted openness and inclusion, fast forward to today, we are seeing the exact opposite coming from the Oval Office.

Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden will moderate conversation with former First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama during the Opening General Session of the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference and Exhibition Friday, June 22nd. This session will take place at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans from 4-5:30 P.M.



Emmy and Tony Award winning Actress Viola Davis will close the 2018 ALA Conference as she discusses her children's book, *Corduroy Takes a Bow* illustrated by Jody Wheeler, Davis. The book celebrates 50 years of America's favorite teddy bear with a brand new, classically illustrated picture book.



The General Open Session of the Annual Conference Welcome Celebration will feature New Orleans own, Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews, and students from his foundation. Andrews is the author of "Trombone Shorty" winner of the Coretta Scott King Book Award and Caldecott Honor Award

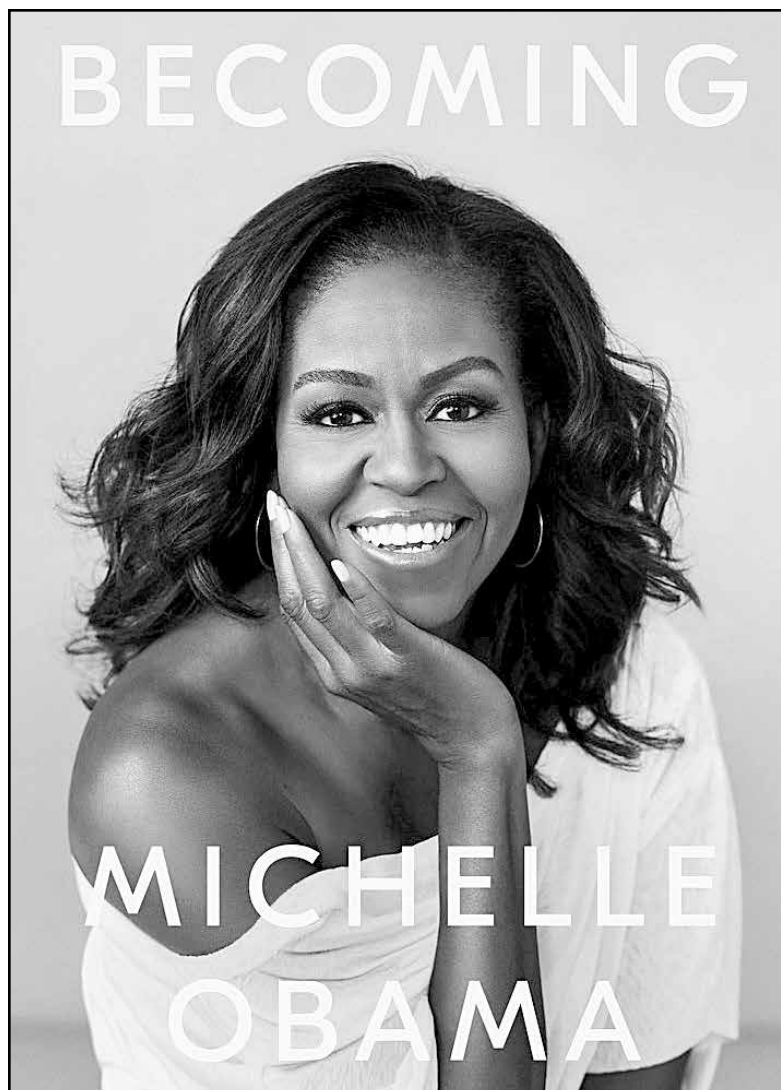
Hayden and Obama will end the opening program with an in-depth conversation around Obama's forthcoming memoir "Becoming" (Crown Publishing Group) to be released in November of 2018. The book focuses on the experiences that have impacted her life, her family and the country.

Hayden, a phenomenal woman in her own right is the first woman and the first African-American to lead the Library of Congress. She was nominated to the position by President Barack Obama in February 2016, and her nomination confirmed by the U.S. Senate in July 2016.

Obama's memoir will be published in the U.S. and Canada and in 25 languages around the world. The book invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her, from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work to her time spent at the world's most famous address.

All Voices Matter: Viola Davis

Viola Davis has broken the mold and come to define Black excellence in the world of acting. She is a critically revered, award-winning actress of film television and theatre. She is the first Black actress to win Tony (Fences & King Lear II), an Oscar (Fences) and an Emmy (How to Get Away with Murder) awards for acting. She will close the 2018 ALA Conference as she discusses her children's book,



Michelle Obama on her book tweeted: "Writing becoming has been a deeply personal experience. I talk about my roots and how a girl from the South Side found her voice. I hope my journey inspires readers to find the courage to become whoever they aspire to be. I can't wait to share my story."

Corduroy Takes a Bow. Illustrated by Jody Wheeler, Davis celebrates 50 years of America's favorite teddy bear with a brand new, classically illustrated picture book.

Using her own experiences as a Tony Award-winning Broadway Actress, Davis writes the story of *Corduroy* and Lisa's first trip to the theatre. As usual, *Corduroy* ven-

tures off on his own, and readers follow his escapades as he explores all over, from the orchestra pit to the costume racks to the props table and ultimately the stage itself, before being reunited with Lisa.

This is a beautifully illustrated tale with a classical feel, sure to spark an interest in theatres with children of any age. The book will be available Fall 2018. Davis, who is an advocate of creating positive images for minorities have created along with her husband founded their production company JuVee Productions, with its focus being to give a voice to the voiceless through strong, impactful, and culturally relevant narratives.

Literacy and the Future of Democracy

Today literacy and cultural voices being heard across the spectrum are necessary in a nation and world that is changing. During the conference this is noted as there is the Coretta Scott King Book Award Breakfast to celebrate the winner and honor recipients during ALA's Annual Conference. Join some of the leading authors and illustrators of quality children's books depicting the African-American Experience.

The ALA as previously noted are advocates of Life-Long Learning, Education, Literacy and Intellectual Freedom. These challenges are central to a country founded on liberty. Where the keys to literacy for all is a door that opens for an already great country to become greater; and not be trapped in the historic amnesia of negative nostalgia and the closed door of ignorance and isolation. Conversely, it is time to grasp the knowledge and skillsets using information in a responsible way and not lower ourselves to the lowest common denominator of accepting sound bites and misinformation that are impediments to our discourse. Taking this higher road will bring us from the islands of poverty into the oasis of prosperity for more Americans.

It is a challenge that a society must take as it decides how to address the relationship between literacy, liberty and democracy. It is in answering these questions and working towards solutions that the bells of freedom and justice will not only ring in United States but across the globe. Of course, there is not only one path but multiple roads to this laudable goal. But we must continue to seek our higher truth and dialog in a constructive way building bridges of understanding to destroy ignorance if we are to build a better world for all and continue as the beacon of light and example of the oldest continuing democracy in the modern world.

Juneteenth 2018

Celebrations and Festivals

Data News Weekly Staff Report

Juneteenth is a uniquely American holiday, the oldest nationally-celebrated festival to honor the end of slavery in the United States. The holiday started as a local celebration in Galveston, Texas in 1865 but has become a nationwide observance of the day the news of the June 19th African-American Emancipation Day spread from one side of the United States to the other.

Today's modern Juneteenth celebrations and festivals place an emphasis on celebrating the freedom of African-Americans, and many celebrations honor excellence in education and other achievement in the African-American community. Juneteenth can be celebrated as a single day, a week's worth of festivities, and in some parts of



after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. The freeing of slaves was official as of January 1, 1863. The trouble in Texas? Not enough Union Soldiers to make sure the Emancipation Proclamation was enforced. In fact, it took a full two years after General Lee's surrender in April of 1865 for General Granger and his men to overcome local resistance to the order and spread freedom to the south.

Many stories exist attempting to explain why it took two years for slaves in Texas to find out they were free: some say a messenger was sent to spread the news but was murdered before he could reach Texas. Still others suggest that the news of freedom was withheld from African-Americans in order to maintain their free source of labor. The most likely answer is a combination of the fact that news traveled slowly in those days and there was not a large Union presence in Texas to uphold Lincoln's authority.

Juneteenth celebrates General Granger's Proclamation read to the people of Texas, called General Order Number 3. The most significant part of this address says:

"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."

African-Americans, now freed by Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, started to spread across the south. Some went north, thinking that northern states would supply true freedom, while others stayed in Texas or moved to nearby Louisiana, Arkansas, or Oklahoma.

Every year since 1865, African-Americans have been celebrating their Emancipation, or at least the news of it, that reached them on June 19, 1865. This party eventually came to be known simply as Juneteenth and spread all over the country. It's still most commonly celebrated in Texas, where many descendants of slaves make an annual pilgrimage back to Galveston to celebrate the holiday.

the country, an entire month dedicated to the memory of slavery and Emancipation.

This is a big holiday in any part of the world with a large African-American population, featuring guest speakers, cookouts, performances, picnics, and family reunions. It's a happy holiday, a time that African-Americans and others set aside to reflect on the past and celebrate their freedom.

On the other side of the coin, Juneteenth can also be seen as a time for bettering the African-American community. Some African-American community advocates used the holiday as a time to assess the health of the community and plan to make improvements in the future.

Juneteenth is growing in popularity; more and more communities are banding together to celebrate the dignity of African-Americans. Cities and towns across the USA join together to acknowledge the truth of our past with slavery and to work together to right the wrongs of the past.

The History of Juneteenth

On June 19th, 1865, Union Soldiers and Major General Gordon Granger landed at Galveston, Texas with big news. They told the locals that the Civil War was over, and that all enslaved people were now free by government decree.

The funny thing about Juneteenth is that the holiday actually started a full two and a half years

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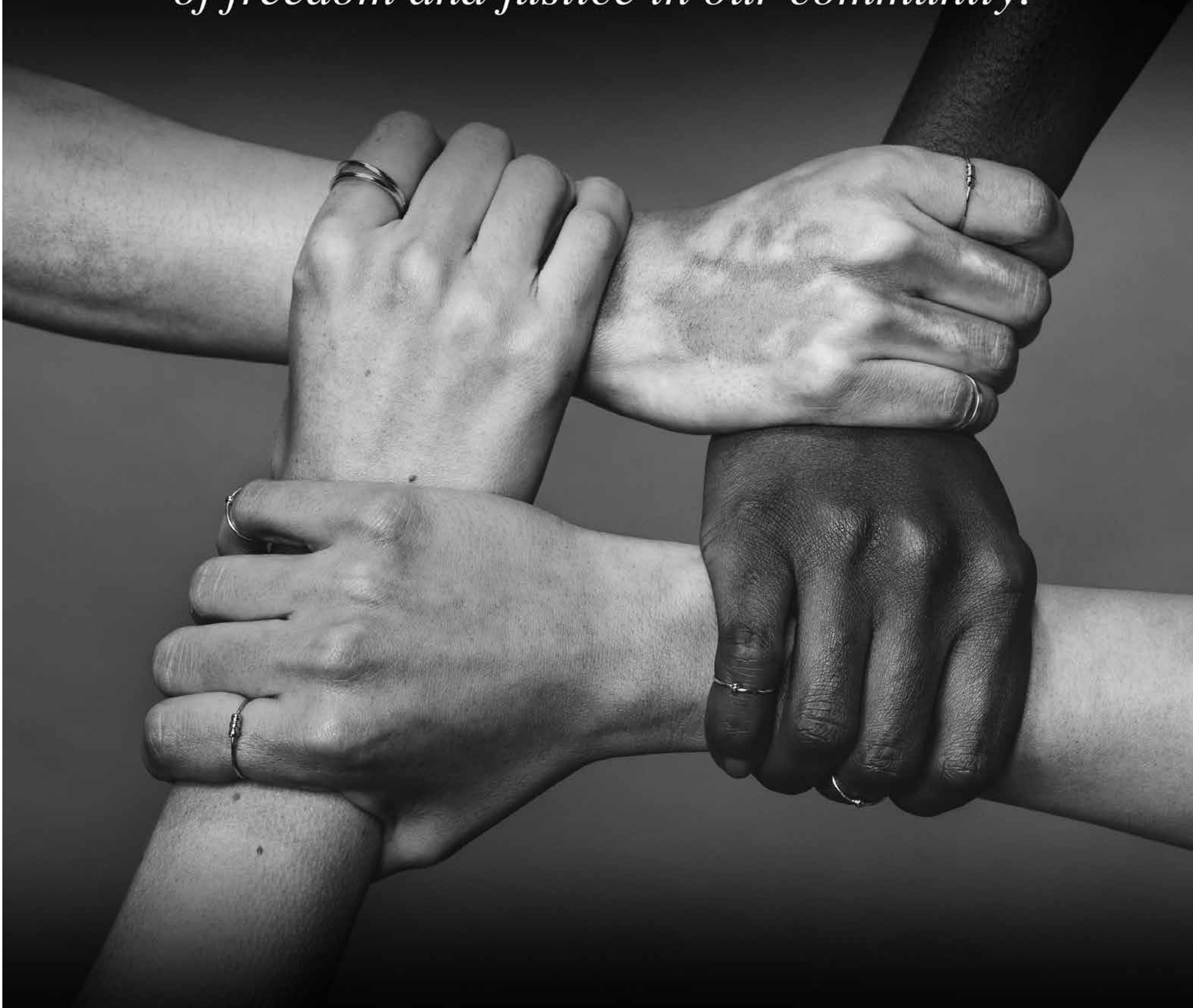
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LIONMAN Foundation, Inc.
BLUE LION Karate Academy
9954 Lake Forest Blvd., Suite 5
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Celebrating Juneteenth

*and those who continue to uphold the values
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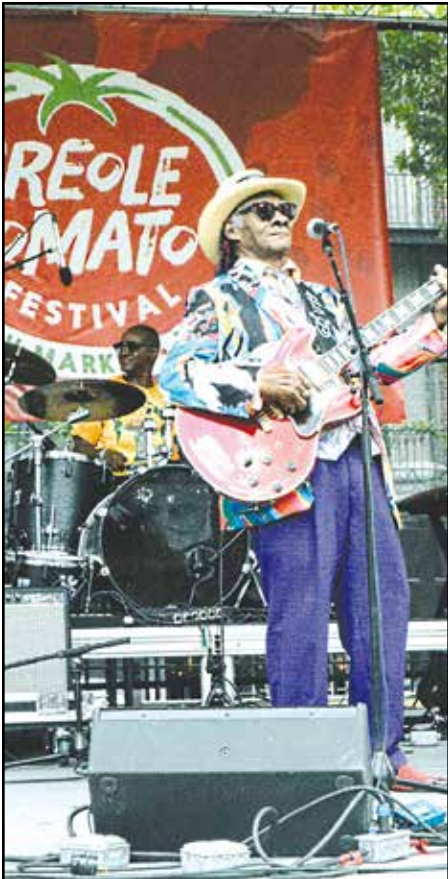
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32nd Annual Creole Tomato Festival

Photos by Kichea S. Burt
Data News Weekly Contributor

The French Market played host to the 32nd Annual Creole Tomato Festival on June 8th & 9th. With stages and activities in Dutch Alley, the Farmers Market, the Jazz Museum and the Old Mint, the event featured live music, cooking demos, food booths and activities for kids. The Creole Tomato Festival was a fun outing for families to enjoy here in New Orleans. And of course, Data was there!



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

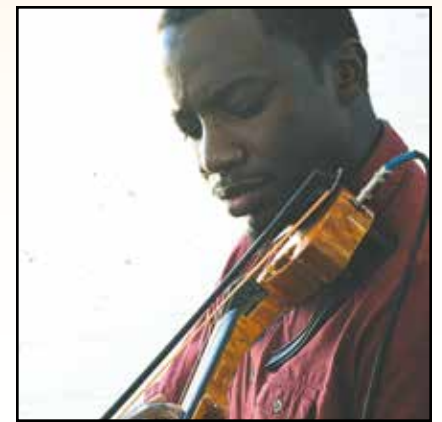
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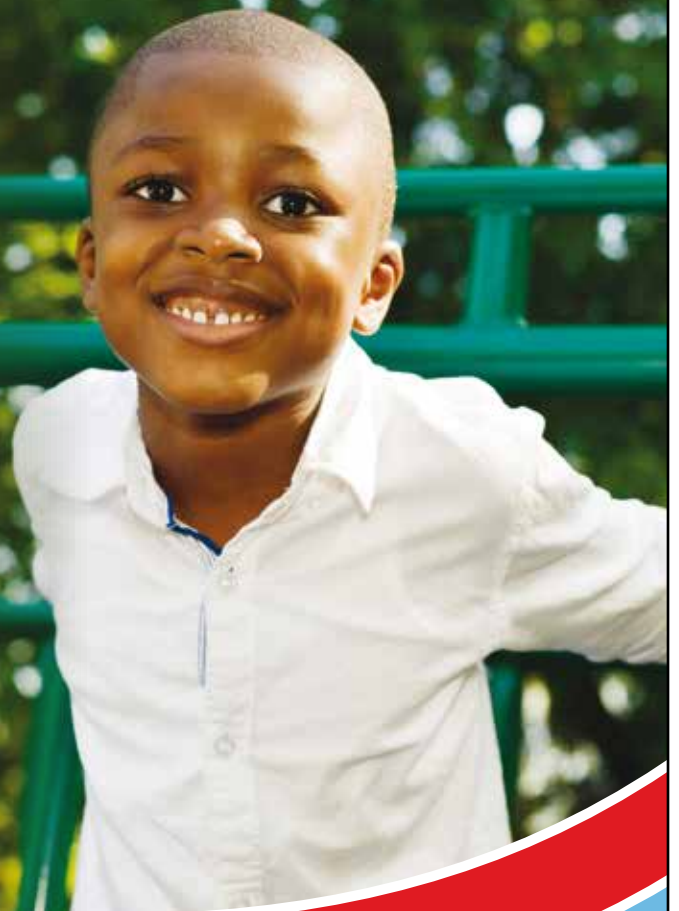
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To Be Equal

Advice to Graduates

Pursue a PhD in Common Sense



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

“Education must not simply teach work. It must teach life.” – W.E.B. DuBois

This time of year brings great pride and congratulations for graduates at all levels, from high school to doctorates. But the most important degree I can recommend is a PhD in common sense, with a concentration in thriving and surviving in 21st-Century America.

Common sense is genius wrapped in work clothes. And to achieve it, we must learn four lessons.

First lesson: Don't ever forget from whence you came. Along the long journey of life, one need only recognize that as graduates of 2018, you're standing on the shoulders of those who came before. As you celebrate your success after many years of hard work, financial sacrifice, long nights – in many cases

working and going to school at the same time – there are many out there from your hometowns and neighborhoods, maybe in your own family, who will not have the opportunities you have today. This nation has too many children who are born into and grow up in poverty. This nation has a problem of mass incarceration. This nation still has too much gun violence. To whom much is given, much is expected, demanded and required. Go back to your high school, to your community, to the young people, and let them see your success. Let them hear your story. Let them understand what you had to do to get to today.

Lesson two: Pursue excellence in every instance. It is still an unfortunate fact that to be Black, you've got to be better. Your grandmother and mother will tell you that time and again. But you can be the best. Say no to mediocrity. Say no to half-stepping. Say no to foot-dragging. Be excellent. And remember, excellence is not perfection. No one is perfect. What excellence means is the pursuit of perfection and the faith that in all of our endeavors, you have given everything that God has given you to accomplish to achieve and to pursue your goals and your dreams.

Lesson three: In this nation to-

day, racism is real. But you are not going to let racism break your spirit. Whether it's Starbucks or Waffle House. Whether it's Trayvon Martin or Michael Brown or Eric Garner. Whether it's a student taking a nap from studying too hard in a student lounge at Yale university. Implicit and explicit bias is still a part of American life. It's in the criminal justice system, where people of color who serve longer sentence than white men who commit same crimes. It's in the scourge of hate crimes that have spiked over the last two years. It's in the leaders talking about building walls when we should be talking about building bridges. Racism is real. But you're not going to let it break your spirit. Frederick Douglass didn't let racism break his spirit, and he didn't let Lincoln's hand shake when he signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Racism didn't break the spirit of Harriet Tubman, who carried members of her family through the back woods on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, time and time again, to freedom. Racism didn't break the spirit of Thurgood Marshall in 1954 when he persuaded the Supreme Court to declare unanimously that school segregation is unconstitutional. Racism didn't break the spirit of Booker T. Washington or W.E.B. DuBois. Remember that

Rosa sat so Martin could march, so Barack could run, and Barack won so you can soar.

Finally, America respects economic power and political power. Now that you have a college degree, it's time for you to build your assets. Building assets means investing in things that appreciate in value. Yes, you need a car but even the fanciest car doesn't appreciate in value. Fancy handbags and fancy shoes don't appreciate in value. Glam and glitter do not appreciate in value. Real estate does. Stock portfolios do. I know many of you are saddled with student loan debt. But don't ever think any dime you invested in yourself was a dime wasted. If it is within your vision for yourself and the skill set that God has given you, build a business. Hire more people. Grow that business and sell that business and build a new business. Economic power is what we need.

This nation understands political power. We shirk our duty and our responsibility when an election comes and we don't vote. We surrender our power to others when an election comes and we don't vote. We need to send a message to the people who lead this country that we do not want a divided America. We do not want an America of walls; we want an America of bridges. We do not want an America of hate; we want an America of

cooperation and an America of love. We want an America where everyone, regardless of race, creed, color, religion, orientation, or national origin is respected and honored as one of God's children. That's the America we want.

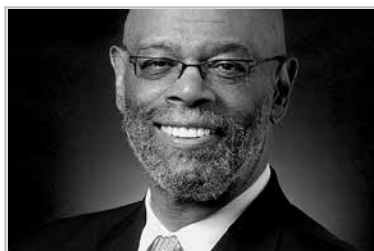
Of all the honors I've been humbled to receive in my life, and all the things I've learned from attending great institutions, the most important degree I got is the PhD in common sense I got from my mama. It came from these four lessons: Remember from whence you came. Pursue excellence. Racism is real but will not defeat us. And America respects economic power and political power and while we do not worship it, and we will build it each and every day of our lives.

Congratulations to the class of 2018!

Marc H. Morial serves as President & CEO of the National Urban League and is the former Mayor of New Orleans. The National Urban League is a historic civil rights organization dedicated to economic empowerment in order to elevate the standard of living in historically underserved urban communities. The National Urban League spearheads the efforts of its 90 local affiliates through the development of programs, public policy research and advocacy, providing direct services that impact and improve the lives of more than 2 million people annually nationwide.

In The Spirit

Are You the Devil's Wannabe Trophy?



James A. Washington
NNPA News Wire
Columnist

Every now and then I tend to focus on good and evil and its impact on my life. In doing so, the devil inevitably comes up. I have difficulty in coming to grips with the fact that Satan wants me as a trophy and God wants me as an eternal testament to His love. I just can't see myself in such a high stakes game of life and death. The battle I'm in is one in

which the only weapon I have is my faith. The difficulty is at any given moment, Satan will attack. He is relentless and at times, a lot of times, my guard is just not up. On my best days there are distinct moments when focusing on the Word of God is impossible, unlikely or just plain hard. When this occurs, it is obvious to me that this is when the devil is at the top of his game. You see that's what I mean when I say I don't realize how important of a trophy I am for Satan. When I'm conscious and thinking correctly, I understand Satan wants to embarrass, humiliate and like a scorned lover, hurt the Lord. What better way to do this than to steal something, degrade something, ruin something that the devil knows the Lord loves, i. e., me. In your case that would be you.

It's hard for me to think of myself as being that important. It's hard to consider myself the pivotal piece in an eternal game of spiritual chess. So I guess without knowing it, I am vulnerable. Like a child who unknowingly wanders off into a swamp, he or she has no idea of the dangers lurking there. Injury and death are but steps away. That's how I feel sometimes. I know I'm in trouble. I know I'm lost. I know if I'm not vigilant and consistent, the devil will take me out and celebrate at the wake. Therefore, like a weekend athlete, I know I must train. I know I must be prepared. I know the game is out there. But sometimes I just don't want to work that hard. I just want to be left alone. Can you see how that frame of mind can get you killed? Can you see how

that rather mundane thought can spell trouble?

The bible is full of references to those who would be seduced, abducted, tricked and persecuted for not being true to the Word of God. God Himself expresses frustration at times about those who would willingly forget, or unwillingly choose not to remember who He is and who they belong to. The consequences can be catastrophic. So what's the answer when you're just not feeling it? Get into the Word. What's the solution to being lost in this world? Get into the Word. What's the defense for Satan's temptations? Get into the Word and form an offense of testimony. I guess this is a good time to suggest to you that my dilemma on this when I find myself out of sync, is to

simply realize that I am, well, out of sync. The answer is to be deliberate in the effort to find my way home. You know when you're determined, you can't be distracted. There are some qualities that we all possess that arm us for this fight. Recognition, understanding, desire and discipline come to mind. Together, focused on the Word, they guarantee victory for God and humiliation for the devil. Sometimes is just takes the will to fight, and the understanding that the war is over. We win. If you don't believe me, just ask Jesus. Better yet. Just ask the devil. May God bless and keep you always.

James A. Washington is President & Publisher of Dallas Weekly Newspaper in Dallas, TX. You can follow James at www.dallasweekly.com.

King & Queen of Spain to visit New Orleans on June 14th

Data News Weekly Staff Report

Mayor LaToya Cantrell will welcome the arrival of the King and Queen of Spain to the City of New Orleans next week. The upcoming visit coincides with the City's year-long Tricentennial celebration. King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia will arrive on June 14 and depart on June 16. Their majesties will be accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation and several members of the Spanish press.

During the visit, the King and Queen will tour three historic sites, attend major art exhibits and dine as guests of honor at several official dining events, with meals prepared by prominent local chefs.



King Felipe VI and Queen Letitia will be received by Mayor LaToya Cantrell on a visit to New Orleans on Thursday, June 14, 2018.

"It is an honor and a true privilege to welcome King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia to New Orleans at this historic moment for our City," said Mayor Cantrell. "The King and Queen are reshaping what it means to lead in this new century, and as we mark our Tricentennial, we are proud to embrace and to celebrate all the rich cultural traditions that make up our 300-year history - including the many positive contributions of Spanish culture and the Spanish-speaking people. We look forward to hosting the King and Queen, and to a weekend of wonderful events."

The King and Queen are embarking on a three-city tour in the United States that also includes Washington, D.C., and San Antonio.

Accruent Announces a 350 Job Tech Center In Downtown New Orleans

Company Plans to Open Office in the City's Central Business District in Near Future

Data News Weekly Staff Report

On Monday, Gov. John Bel Edwards and Accruent CEO John Borgerding announced the company will create 350 new direct jobs in New Orleans and establish a technology center of excellence in the city's Central Business District. Accruent specializes in software and IT products that enhance the real estate, construction, development, and facilities management functions of major clients in the retail, corporate, consumer goods, higher education, food and beverage and other sectors.

In addition to the 350 new direct jobs, Louisiana Economic Development estimates the project will result in 338 indirect jobs, for a total of more than 680 new jobs in Louisiana's Southeast Region. The company will occupy approximately 20,000 square feet of office space in



Gov. John Bel Edwards (pictured left) and Accruent CEO John Borgerding (right), announced the company will create 350 new direct jobs in New Orleans and establish a technology center of excellence in the city's Central Business District.

the New Orleans Central Business District, with a specific location to be announced at a later date. Accruent has begun hiring, with plans to reach full employment in New Orleans by 2020. Commercial opera-

tions will begin later this month.

"With Accruent's announcement of 350 new technology jobs in New Orleans, we can see that the 'digital fly-wheel' is beginning to spin," said Michael Hecht, President and CEO

of Greater New Orleans, Inc. "When we brought Accruent to a temporary office at The Shop six months ago, we thought they would love New Orleans and determine to expand here. We are thrilled that we were right. We look forward to supporting Accruent as they help Greater New Orleans pull ahead as the fastest growing tech market in America."

"Our ultimate goal is not just to attract IT projects, but to create a digital media and software development sector, where our people have a diverse offering of opportunities to solve the challenges of tomorrow," Gov. Edwards said. "Accruent's entry into New Orleans will create such opportunities, and we are excited to welcome this world-class team to Louisiana. Accruent's investment in our state is a testament to the strength of our business climate and the commitment of local, state and regional partners to ensuring

that companies thrive here."

Headquartered in Austin, Texas, Accruent is a leading provider of physical resource management solutions. Accruent enables organizations to manage their real estate, facilities and equipment with software and services. Company solutions range from capital planning and lease accounting to monitoring and control functions utilizing internet-of-things technology.

"Since 2012, New Orleans has led the nation in technology job growth, and Accruent is pleased to continue this trend, bringing new jobs in software development, professional services, sales, customer support and administration," Borgerding said. "Given the vibrant corporate community, tremendous growth opportunities and Accruent's existing base of 50 Louisiana customers, New Orleans became the clear choice for our next wave of expansion."

Plessy and Ferguson Foundation Celebrates Plessy Day 2018

By Juliana Tomasoni
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Local historians, activists and community leaders marked Plessy Day 2018 to relive the moments and facts of this moment in Civil Rights History that started right here in New Orleans. The Plessy and Ferguson Foundation hosted the event at Xavier University of Louisiana's University Center on June 7, 2018 where experts celebrated the "remarkable men of the 1868 constitutional convention and their fight for full citizenship."

"Equality can only work if everyone starts from the same place. Equity has to do with everyone having access to fair treatment under the law regardless of race, gender or social power," said Robin White, the National Park Service's Superintendent for the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, who also spoke at the event.

The Homer A. Plessy Day was established on June 7, 2005, by the Crescent City Peace Alliance, former Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco, the Louisiana House of Representatives and the New Orleans City Council. Plessy was a shoemaker who was arrested on June 7, 1892 in New Orleans. He was charged with violating the Separate Car Act



Organizers and Panelists of the 2018 Plessy Day Celebration, which took place at Xavier University of Louisiana on Thursday, June 7, 2018 (Photos by Juliana Tomasoni)

of Louisiana, which mandated separate accommodations for Black and White railroad passengers. The legal case led to the Supreme Court ruling in 1896 that upheld segregation laws in public spaces.

The Plessy and Ferguson Foundation Board and its founding members Keith Plessy, Phoebe Ferguson and Brenda Square, attended the event. The foundation's mission is to continue to teach the history of the Plessy v. Ferguson Case and why it is still relevant today. Both descendants of Plessy and Judge John Howard Ferguson are co-founders of the organization. The foundation develops public programs that bring awareness and understanding of civil rights to the community. It advocates for the preservation of historic sites and connects communities to history.

"It's a pleasure to be here to talk about servant activism, something that we still struggle with today," said White, who spoke on the 150th Anniversary of the 14th Amendment that provides equal protection under the law. "The battle for equality and equity.... that battle began long ago, and we are still dealing with it today," White said.

He spoke alongside Author and Historian Mark Roudané and Charles Vincent, a professor of history at Southern University. Four panelists that included Professors Raphael Cassimere Jr. and Sharlene Sinegal DeCuir, and Attorneys Mary Howell and Victor Jones led the forum titled "150 Years: Still Separate and Unequal." Carl LeBlanc and the Easy Street Band also added a musical performance to the event.

"We also must continue to encourage our students to be socially

aware of what is going on and have the ability to speak and understand

their surroundings and use social media to put out those things that they want to be heard," said Decuir, an Associate Professor of History at Xavier who teaches on the Civil Rights Movement in Louisiana.

The panelists noted that issues of segregation in public spaces and at businesses are not a thing of the past. Recent headlines show that African-Americans and people of color continue to be harassed or forcibly removed from places they should have access to under the law. "The most recent aggressive incident [was] at the Starbucks, because they happened to be at the wrong place at the wrong time," Cassimere said. "Starbucks closed for four hours for sensitivity training for their employees but what about the sensitivity training for the police?" he said.

Juneteenth, Continued
from page 4.

Juneteenth Celebrations and Festivals

Because Juneteenth is a celebration of freedom, it is generally a happy time. People celebrate lots of different ways, from holding family reunions, cookouts, to more formal celebrations and church services. How you choose to celebrate is a personal decision, one that's usually handed down from one generation to the next.

Here are a few different celebrations. If you want to celebrate the news of the freeing of slaves this year, check out a Juneteenth celebration near you, or start your own tradition celebrating freedom.

In New Orleans, LA Juneteenth Celebration

June 19th
Various locations
Some Events are Free

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the end of slavery. New Orleans hosts events around the City, including in historic locations like Congo Square in Armstrong Park, to commemorate together. Though it started out as a celebration for freed Texas slaves, the holiday has spread to other communities, especially those with large African-American populations. The festivities in New Orleans range from special church services to a city-wide parade to events to honor



African-American slave history and heritage.

In Lafayette, LA
Juneteenth Celebration
Southwest Louisiana Music Festival
Heymann Park | 1500 S Orange St
Lafayette, LA

SWLA Juneteenth Music Festival showcasing a variety of Southwest Louisiana's best musician talent including gospel, R&B, zydeco, reggae, west African and much much more. The SWLA Juneteenth Music Festival also provides entertainment and activities for youth including free African drum making workshops, face painting, train rides, and fun jumps, etc. Vendors will be on site selling food and merchandise. **No outside food

or drink allowed. No BBQ pits or coolers allowed. ** Bring your lawn chairs, appetites, and dancing shoes! Visit <https://www.swlajuneteenth.org/juneteenth-music-festival> for more information!

How to Have Your Own Juneteenth Celebration

If there is no celebration in your area and you'd like to start a festivity of your own, concentrate on the meaning of the holiday. Almost any type of celebration fits the spirit of this holiday as long as it emphasizes African-American history and heritage. Family gatherings, sharing food with neighbors, and teaching children the importance of June 19th, 1865 are all good ways to honor the rich history of this African-American festival.

Lawsuit Filed to Block Obama Presidential Center in Chicago

Days before the Chicago Plan Commission approved plans for the Obama Presidential Center, a federal lawsuit was filed to block the proposed \$500 million facility that will be built in Jackson Park.

**Chicago Crusader Staff Report
NNPA Newswire Contributor**

The 500-acre park is located in Chicago's predominately Black Woodlawn and South Shore neighborhoods, where former First Lady Michelle Obama, rapper Kanye West and some of the nation's most prominent Blacks once lived. On Thursday, May 17, the Chicago Plan Commission unanimously approved the blueprints for the Obama Presidential Center, despite emotional appeals from protestors who are concerned that the library will eventually drive up rents in the neighborhoods and force out longtime, low-income residents. The plans now go before the city's 50-member city council. While those plans are expected to pass that stage, the Obama Foundation faces a lawsuit that may be its biggest hurdle yet.

The lawsuit was filed on Monday, May 14 by "Protect Our Parks," a nonprofit organization that seeks a court order to "bar the Park District and the City from approving the building of the Presidential Center and from conveying any interest in or control of the Jackson Park site to the Foundation."

In its complaint, Protect Our Parks accuses the Chicago Park District of an "institutional bait and switch." The organization said the park district transferred public land to the Obama Foundation to house an official federal Obama Federal Library. But that purpose changed



President Barack Obama looks at the model of the future Obama Presidential Center and Library. Chicago's Jackson Park on the city's South Side is the proposed of the Obama Presidential Center, but a new lawsuit threatens its future. (The Obama Foundation)

when Obama decided his center will not be his official library. Instead, the federal National Records and Archives Administration will run it in another location. In the lawsuit, Protect Our Parks called Chicago's plan to lease public park space an "illegal land grab."

The organization also said the transfer of park land to a non-governmental private entity violates the park district code. In addition, Protect Our Parks said the park district and the city will receive only token rent for the land and the Park District Act law "does not authorize the Park District itself to transfer valuable public trust land for virtually no compensatory return."

Protect Our Parks says that city officials are "prohibited by law" from turning over public park land to a non-governmental private entity for private use.

At a meeting Thursday, May 17, the commission was expected to take up a resolution authorizing a long-term ground lease for 19.3

acres in Jackson Park from the city to the Obama Foundation. In March 2015, Chicago's city council approved an ordinance for Chicago Park District land in Jackson Park to be transferred to the city of Chicago to lease to the Obama Foundation.

Protect Our Parks' lawsuit may force planning officials to rewrite the ordinance.

Protect Our Parks is being represented by Roth Fioretti; Robert Fioretti is a former Chicago alderman who challenged Mayor Rahm Emanuel in 2015 before endorsing Emanuel in the run-off. More recently, Fioretti was defeated in a March Democratic primary bid for Cook County Board president.

In an emailed statement, Emanuel's mayoral spokesman Grant Klinzman said, "The Obama Presidential Center is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to invest hundreds of millions of dollars that will create good jobs on the South Side,

bring our communities together and honor the legacy of Chicago's favorite son and daughter. While some choose to stand in the way of progress for the South Side, we are focused on making progress in every community in Chicago."

But later that day, Emanuel at an event called the lawsuit frivolous and said that the "notion that somehow this is not a presidential library, because the actual papers will be in New York ...to me not only is frivolous, but means the people that filed this don't understand the 21st century," he added. "The good news is, the presidential papers will be in two places but there will be only one library, here in Chicago."

Emanuel said that the papers will be digitized.

Juanita Irizarry, executive director of Friends of the Parks, also released a statement, saying officials with the group welcome the Obama Center to the South Side "but disagree with the choice to locate it on public parkland, rather than vacant land across the street from Washington Park."

"While we are not involved with this lawsuit in any way, it is an indication of the fact the Friends of the Parks is not alone in our concern about Chicago's parks being seen as sites for real estate development," Irizarry said.

Plans have not gone smoothly for the library since President Barack Obama announced that Jackson Park will be the location of his library in 2016. Residents in Woodlawn and South shore have held numerous protests demanding that the Obama Foundation sign a community benefits agreement as concerns of neighborhood gentrification and rising rents continue to grow. Despite their concerns, Obama has said that a community benefits agreement is not necessary, because his library is an automatic benefit to the neighborhoods.

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