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Cyril Neville's Birthday Bash

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Breast Cancer

Doesn't Have to be a Death Sentence

By Samjah Iman
Data News Weekly Contributor

Breast Cancer - two words that give even the strongest person an eerie feeling, and rightfully so. For these words describe a disease that affects one in eight women and is the second leading cause of cancer death among women (nationalbreastcancer.org). Each year 252,710 women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer and more than 40,500 will die (nationalbreastcancer.org). While these numbers are quite alarming and downright frightening, we do have the power to change them.

Just ask 41-year-old breast cancer survivor, Chris-Tia Donaldson who was diagnosed with the disease at the age of 36. "I discovered a lump in my breast while showering which I proceeded to ignore for close to 3 months. After a lumpectomy, chemotherapy, and 33 rounds of radiation – I am now cancer free," she says.

The Thank God It's Natural (TGIN) hair and skin care company owner stresses that early detection and her economic status played a major roles in her overcoming this disease. During an interview on the Tom Joyner Morning Show, Chris-Tia noted that if she had not acted on the lump she felt in her breast, and if she didn't have the means to get prompt, proper care after she discovered her lump,

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Hundreds of women gathered in the name of defeating breast cancer at the annual Sista Strut in New Orleans, LA. (Photo credit heart Media)

she may not have survived.

Chris-Tia was able to afford prime help from the best doctors in Chicago. She stressed that during her treatment, she was grateful she had the financial means to get her to and from the doctor, to get her medicine, to take time away from work, and to even pay to park at the doctor. However, some people (mostly women of color) who are diagnosed with any type of cancer unfortunately lack the financial means and proper healthcare they need to defeat this disease. Which often time results in their demise.

Noticing this economic disparity when it comes to proper treatment for breast cancer, Chris-Tia uses her success to advocate for women who have been diagnosed with cancer but can't afford the transportation, child care, or time away from their employment through her Thank God It's Natural Foundation.

Check out Chris-Tia's hair company and follow her breast cancer surviving journey at www.thankgoditsnatural.com. Also, discover five things below that you can do to help prevent breast cancer.

Herbal regimen – According to everydayhealth.com, scientists have found that some herbs and spices contain phytochemicals which stimulate the immune system and help keep cancer at bay.

Go to the doctor regularly – Regular checkups are key when it comes to catching cancer early. The earlier you catch the disease, the more likely you will defeat it.

Self-examination – Always monitor your breasts and give yourself self-examinations to make sure everything is intact. If you notice a sudden change in your breasts, contact your doctor immediately.

Maintain a healthy weight – Make exercising and healthy eating your lifestyle. Most vegetables and

some fruits are made up of cancer fighting agents. Stay away from processed and fast foods. These foods tend to contain unhealthy elements that can contribute to the formulation of cancer cells in your body.

For more information, visit www.nationalbreastcancer.org. Also, if you're interested in learning more about breast cancer as it relates to women of color or eager to participate in local events that are geared toward women of color who have been affected by this disease, check out Sista Strut New Orleans or The Louisiana Coalition of African-American Breast Cancer Survivors (LCAABCS) below.

"Sista Strut was started in Detroit about 20 years ago to raise awareness for the fact that women of color have a higher death rate from breast cancer than other demographics. The best way to fight that is early detection, early diagnosis and early treatment. We use our urban radio stations and run a 3-month campaign to educate our listeners, as well as support and celebrate survivors and their families. We currently have 14 Sista Strut events across the US." – Candace Price of iheart Media.


The next Sista Strut will be held March 20, 2019, 8:00 a.m., at Woldenberg Park in New Orleans, LA. For more information regarding this event or the organization, contact candaceprice@iheartmedia.com.

LCAABCS was founded by cancer survivor Julia B. Moore of Baton Rouge, LA. The purpose of this organization is to increase breast cancer prevention, awareness, and maintenance. LCAABCS will host their Annual Musical Matinee Event, Cancer Survivors Celebrating Survivorship...Down By The Riverside, on Saturday, November 10 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The matinee


will be held at the Manship Theater located in the Shaw Arts Center on 100 Lafayette Street in Baton Rouge, LA. For more info on this event or organization visit their Facebook page @LouisianaCoalitionofAfricanAmericanBreastCancerSurvivors





Chris-Tia Donaldson was diagnosed with breast cancer at age 36. (Photo credit ChicagoTribune.com)



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Chess and Mastering the Game of Life

Data News Weekly Exclusive Interview With Chess Grandmaster Pontus Carlsson

Edwin Buggage
Editor

Business Meets Chess and Kids Empowers Brings Together New Orleans Business Leaders and Young People

Chess is a game that requires amazing skill, in addition, it teaches the mastering strategies and tactics that makes one a winner. Many of these same skills can be applied to life.

This is the goal of Chess Grandmaster Pontus Carlsson, who has created a program using chess to help underprivileged kids across the globe learn strategy and critical thinking to solve life problems.

For those who do not know,



Pontus Carlsson (pictured above) is a world-renowned Chess Master and one of three Blacks in the world who have risen to the level of Chess Grandmaster.

chess from my father. He taught me the rules when I was four, so then I started to play. Later I started competing and winning matches."

As many know that the other futbol (soccer) is the most popular sport in the world with millions of fans. Carlsson, speaks of having to choose between the two, "I also use to play soccer. In Europe soccer is quite popular and I played it at one of the highest levels, but then I decided I would pursue chess."

He says this program since its inception has helped kids acquire skills that help them beyond the chess board. "Critical thinking is something you really develop through chess. Problem solving, the math skills you get while playing chess. How you process information quickly and make decisions. The time pressure in chess is very similar to business life deadlines. When you are a chess player you understand the pressure of time and making the right moves. You develop strategies and tactics that can translate to any situation in life. It orders your thinking."

New Orleans Business Leaders on Board to Work with Kids

Every city Carlsson launches Business Meets Chess, he incorporates local partners. Speaking of his New Orleans team he says, "There is a guy called Ken Mask, he is a business guy. He is developing the project here. I always have some local people that are helping administer the program and work with kids. Also, on board is Actor Wendell Pierce, Greg Ward one of the City's best doctors, Kendrick Perkins, who is one of the chess coaches and many others."

Movie to be Made About New Orleans Chess Master Paul Morphy

New Orleans has an amazing connection to chess, as the home of Paul Morphy, a New Orleans native who was considered one of the world's greatest chess players. Excitedly Carlsson says, "I am going to see Paul Morphy's house and street tomorrow. And then I will stroll around the city to catch some of the sites of this amazing city."

Additionally, there is a film project in the works about his life.

Carlsson is a world-renowned Chess Master and one of three Blacks in the world who have risen to the level of Chess Grandmaster. Maurice Ashley of the United States and Amon Simutowe from Zambia are the other two who have reached this highly regarded status in the world of chess.

Pontus is a dual citizen of Sweden and Columbia, having over 25 years of teaching chess throughout Europe and has won the Swedish Championship 12 times.

He was recently in New Orleans introducing his program Business Meets Chess, where he connects business executives and kids from underprivileged areas. He held several events in the Crescent City.

"I am launching my global program in New Orleans that I already have in Europe and Africa. The idea is basically I am setting up business guys with kids and they play in teams of two. The kids are usually from underprivileged areas it is to bring people together," Carlsson says of his mentoring program that's received acclaim across the globe serving young people.

What Kids Can Learn from Chess that Can Help them in Life

Early in his life Pontus began playing chess, but this was not the only thing he excelled at. Speaking of his early life and path to greatness he says, "I learned the rules of

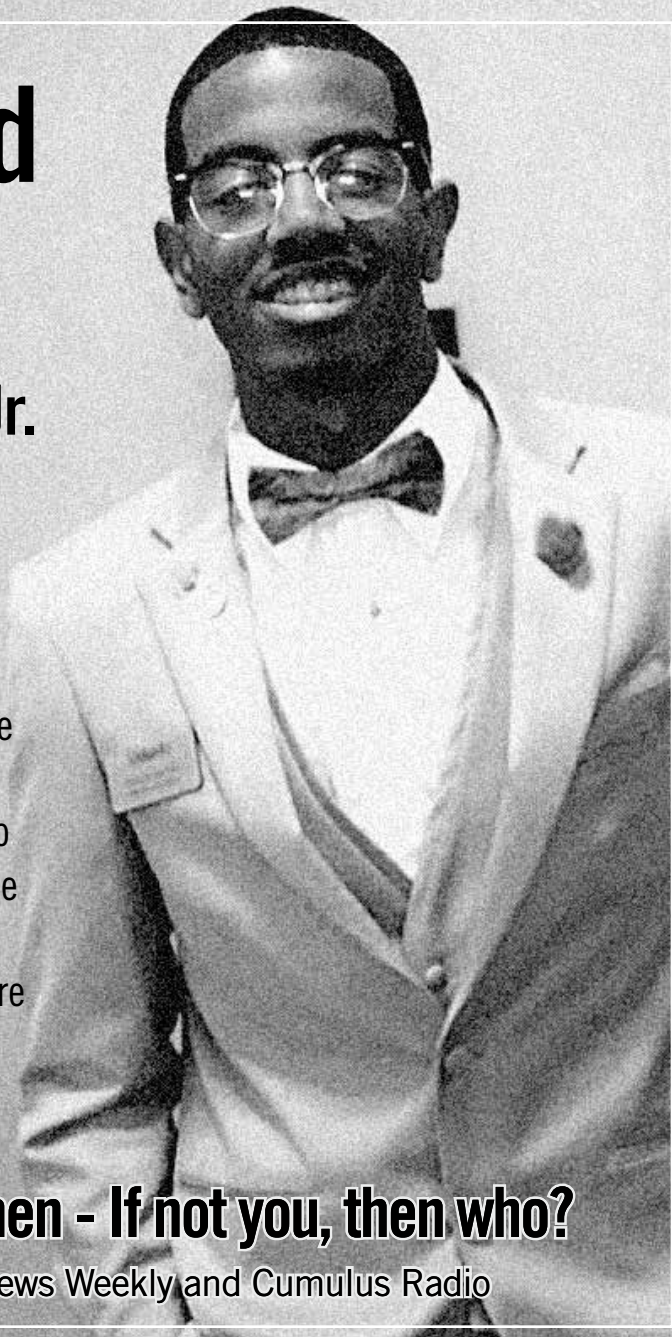
Why Should You Vote?

Timothy Ambrose, Jr.

As a senior political science major at Xavier University and President of the Young Democrats on campus, I think it is important as young people that we vote because we are an untapped resource. It's also important that we vote and use our voices so those we elect, can implement policies that are coming from the bottom up.

If not now, then when - If not you, then who?

Sponsored by Data News Weekly and Cumulus Radio



Night Out Against Crime Events Launch with 'Cure Violence' Program

Data News Staff Edited Report

NEW ORLEANS – New Orleans law enforcement, Mayor Cantrell and other City officials joined in commemorating Night Out Against Crime events throughout New Orleans, starting with the announcement of the 'Cure Violence' initiative on her first stop, A.L. Davis Park. This comprehensive, public health-focused approach hopes to reduce and prevent crime in our communities.

Mayor Cantrell stood with residents across the city to celebrate Night Out Against Crime, which has become a national and local tradition to recognize how law-enforcement agencies engage with community leaders and residents to reduce crime. She began the evening at A.L. Davis Park, and was joined by New Orleans Police Department Superintendent Michael Harrison and other officials and leaders.

"We have to have all hands on deck as it relates to combating violent crime in our city. It's not just an issue for law enforcement, although they are a key partner in it. But it's how we build community, and how we care about one another, that we can make the greatest changes we seek," Mayor Cantrell said.

Building on previous efforts, Cure Violence will leverage resources from City departments to partner with community leaders for a more holistic approach to what has become a nationwide epidemic. Mayor Cantrell said the initiative represents an opportunity to rethink the way we view violence. Just as health care requires many specialists, any treatment to this epidemic requires many partners.

The Cure Violence model originated in Chicago but is now used in more than 50 communities nationwide (like Baltimore, New York, and Philadelphia) and several international cities. The program uses "violence interrupters" – people from the neighborhood, who know the streets and live in the community – to walk through areas where violence is concentrated, talking with individuals and serving to mediate conflicts before they turn deadly.

Building on this prevention approach will be a treatment approach to intervene as soon as a young person is shot and brought to the hospital. Outreach workers arrive 24/7 to be with the patient, family and friends, starting the healing cycle and putting a stop to the spread of retaliation. From there, treatment is ongoing through continued interaction, assessment of needs and detailed plans to escape the cycle and become healthy and safe.

Night Out, Continued on page 10.

"What we have learned over the years is that violence can be thought of as a public health problem and can be epidemic in communities. In fact, we can think of violence like

an infectious disease; it strikes vulnerable individuals and communities, can be easily transmitted between people and places, and can remain stubbornly prevalent without

proper treatment," said Dr. Jennifer Avegno, Director of the New Orleans Health Department. "A single act of violence results in multiple physical and mental health problems for

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June Hazeur's 76th Birthday Celebration Dinner

Photos by Terry B. Jones
Data News Weekly
Contributor

On Sunday, October 21st, June held her 76th Birthday Celebration Dinner at Bailey's Hot Spot 2 located at 2613 Jasmine Street, in Gentilly. Her family and friends were invited to celebrate with her. She and her twin, Jane turns 76 on October 23rd. The dinner was well-attended by her family and friends but a plate dinner was served to all patrons. Everyone enjoyed the food, drinks and comradery. Terry Jones, Publisher of Data News Weekly was there to celebrate with her.



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While each Clerk's Office has its own set of responsibilities, it takes experience on the job and training as a lawyer to be Clerk of Civil District Court. I know because I am a lawyer and I have practiced in Civil District Court. Chelsey Richard Napoleon is also a lawyer. I know that she has the education, experience, integrity and compassion to continue to run the Clerk's Office in a manner that empowers employees and provides access to justice for all in our community.

- Clerk of Criminal Court Arthur Morrell



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- Former Councilmember Cynthia Willard Lewis

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Bachelor of Arts Degree, Major-Political Science/Minor-History - University of New Orleans
Benjamin Franklin Senior High School

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Member - (NACM) National Association for Court Management
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Member - (PRIA) Property Records Industry Association
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Cyril Neville's Birthday Fundraiser

Photos by Terry B. Jones
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Everyone was invited to Cyril Neville's Birthday Bash! The event, held on Oct 21st at the Civic Theatre, was a concert that featured a stellar lineup, hosted by Derrick Freeman. Cyril Neville The Uptown Ruler, celebrated being 70 years young and he wanted to celebrate with music for a good cause. Proceeds from the event benefited an organization that is near and dear to his heart, Adinkra NOLA. Happy Birthday Cyril, we wish you many more.



Cyril Neville, Continued on page 8.

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Cyril Neville, Continued from page 7.



Black Women Exceeding in Entrepreneurship

By Kimani Hamilton
Data News Weekly
Contributor

They came, they saw, and they broke barriers. These are all words that describe the success stories of Black women who are defying odds in business and start-ups, as organizations across the country marked Women's Entrepreneurship Week, during the third week of October.

Between 2007 and 2018 business ownership for all women increased over 58 percent, however, businesses owned by Black women increased 164 percent, according to data collected by the Minority Business Development Agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Out of all races and ethnic groups, Black women are the only group of women who own more businesses than their male peers, data show. The types of services Black women

open as businesses range from realty, cosmetology, culinary arts, and fashion.

"Our businesses actually sustain and when we're given those opportunities, our businesses actually last," said Simone Spence, Founder and CEO of Don't Get Mad Get Paid, LLC. Spence joined other local Black female entrepreneurs to describe their journey into business at a Xavier University of Louisiana forum on Oct. 17th.

A lot of entrepreneurs often know what kind of businesses they want to go into, but they may not always know how to make their business stand out, to attract more customers. Black women are often aware of a need, and able to identify readily a built-in customer base for the kinds of businesses they are creating.

"I knew I had my big idea when I realized there was nothing in New

Orleans for dogs that have anxiety," said Courtney McWilliams, owner of Mary Mac's Doggie Retreat.

To be a Black entrepreneur in New Orleans can be both a challenge and a huge success, these entrepreneurs said. Depending on the type of business, entrepreneurs will not always be supported when they first start out, but that teaches them how to work harder for the success that they want, they said. All businesses are created when the business owner finds there is a problem and creates a solution that can then be turned into a business model.

"I had two problems. My first problem was I was burnt out. The second problem was I traveled a lot for work and I needed a dog sitter. So, I had two problems that I desperately needed to fix," McWilliams said.

Black Women,
Continued on page 10.

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Done to Us Not With Us

Calling for New Voices



By Khalilah Long
Communications
Manager, UNCF

Parents play critical roles in their child's achievement from kindergarten through high school graduation. Parent advocacy has proven to have positive implications on student educational success. But who advocates for and supports parents and caregivers? In African American households, oftentimes, clergy or other prominent community leaders are the galvanizing force behind motivating community involvement.

In the '50s and '60s, during the Civil Rights Movement, critical voices for change came through influential leaders. Dorothy Height, for example, was instrumental in bringing together

women of different races to create a dialogue of understanding. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. motivated the Birmingham, Alabama community to nonviolently protest segregation. And in more recent history, organizers Patrisse Cullors, Alicia Garza, and Opal Tometi inspired millions to support #BlackLivesMatter; bringing light to systematic racism. But what about education reform? Who is standing with parents as they call for access to better educational opportunities in their communities?

In a report produced by the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), *Done to Us, Not With Us*, African American parents said that they felt a number of obstacles prevent them from advocating more for education reform. Too many African American communities experience low-quality, under resourced K-12 schools and are staffed by educators who are less experienced than those in high-income neighbor-

hoods. This disparity hinders economic growth. It also causes a gap in student college preparation.

Research findings help us better understand how to best reach parents; despite these challenges.

Not only do we have to support parents as they navigate the college-going process, but we also have to highlight the larger educational crisis that exists within the African American community. We need to let parents know that they can make a difference and that their children can achieve higher outcomes than what some might expect for them.

The UNCF report also acknowledges that the messenger matters. In Malcom Gladwell's *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*, he states "In epidemics, the messenger matters; messengers are what makes something spread. But the content of the message matters. And the specific quality that a

message needs to be successful is the quality of 'stickiness'".

In other words, people relate to relatable people! It's extremely important that messengers who understand the current educational climate and who understand the African American community – are carrying these messages of how to advocate for their child in school and what actions they can take to bring about change in their local jurisdictions. This is one reason why the UNCF boots-on-the-ground, K-12 Advocacy group exists. In an effort to focus on increasing college-readiness in the black community, UNCF has partnered with local leaders and changemakers to address the importance of educational success in fresh, contemporary ways and to hold schools and educators accountable for providing high-quality education in underperforming districts.

Parents– take a look at the UNCF parent checklist to understand what you can

ask and do to help your children thrive in school.

Community leaders– download *The Lift Every Voice and Lead Toolkit: A Community Leader's Advocacy Resource for K-12 Education* on effective ways you can motivate your church, community, or non-profit to change the conversation about K-12 education reform.

In the blog post titled *Rethinking America's K-12 Debate*, Darrell Bradford, executive vice president of 50CAN sums it up perfectly, "When it comes to how to best educate children, we don't know all of the answers, but we should commit to empowering new voices, fostering innovative ideas, and asking lots of questions."

Khalilah Long, Communications Manager for UNCF writes on topics including critical topics surrounding K-12 Advocacy including education reform, academic standards, teacher diversity, high-quality charters, school choice. Prior to joining, Khalilah has published topics on nursing, health-care reform, higher education accreditation, and mental health.

Newsmaker, Continued from page 4.

"There is a movie on Paul Morphy's Life that is also connected to this program. It is produced by Ken Mask and Monty Ross, who worked with Spike Lee.

Chess, Checkmate and Conquering Life's Challenges

Speaking of what chess can do for one's life, "It can increase your intelligence. You can use your brain, instead of being on the streets doing bad things. It can give someone confidence and power to do something serious. It makes you smart and believe you can do something with your life."

As I often say to many young people that 'Your network equals your net worth' Carlsson believes chess is a great way to build your network and increase the potential of meeting people that can assist you in business and in life. Stating this is one of the main reasons he created Business Meets Chess and Kids.


"The thing about this program is that kids have the chance to meet people and build up their network



Chess Grandmaster Pontus Carlsson

that can open doors for them. It is a lot about people. I am a people's person. I believe as long as you have good people around yourself; then you will reach happiness and success in whatever it is that you pursue. You can reach your goal and achieve whatever it is you want out of life."


For information about the program go to Businessmeetschessandkids.com or call Ken Mask at 504-908-0337.




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City to Sue Pharmaceutical Companies Over Opioid Crisis

Data News Staff Edited Report

NEW ORLEANS – Mayor LaToya Cantrell announced on Monday that the City of New Orleans has filed suit against pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors for their conduct in fueling a national opioid crisis that has threatened the health and safety of the city. The lawsuit was filed in Civil District Court this morning.

“The opioid epidemic has taken more from our people than even gun violence has. We are taking this step and pursuing litigation because our people have been harmed,” said Mayor Cantrell. “We are going to do everything in our power to insist those who have profited from creating this crisis play a major role in addressing the costs to fix it. Addiction has had a terrible impact on the lives of our residents, and the wraparound services that are so desperately needed come at a cost.”

The City Attorney’s office, led by Sunni LeBeouf, is working in collaboration with outside counsel on this litigation matter, filed in response to the opioid crisis. New Orleans had 219 accidental drug-related deaths last year; this represents a jump of



4 percent from the 211 reported in 2016, and a jump of 138 percent from the 92 reported in 2015. More than half of those victims were African Americans, up from 28 percent in 2015. Fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid, was present in 87 of those deaths last year.

Opioid sales generate approximately \$11

billion in revenue for drug companies.

“This legal action is part of a multifaceted approach by our Mayor to fight the opioid crisis, with part of that approach being to hold pharmaceutical companies accountable for their actions in misleading medical professionals, patients and the public on the inherent risks as-

sociated with opioid drugs,” City Attorney LeBeouf said.

The opioid crisis has strained City services, most notably in health- and emergency response-related services.

“The opioid mortality rate is higher than deaths from stroke, cancer, gunshot wounds, and near-

ly every other chronic disease. Our EMS providers are called for overdoses every day. While they give life-saving opioid reversal medications at every opportunity, nearly 1,000 times since the beginning of this year alone, there are many more who cannot be revived, and still more who cannot get long-term help for their addiction,” New Orleans Health Department Director Dr. Jennifer Avegno said. “The availability of drug treatment programs has simply been unable to keep pace with the growing need. Funding for long-term, comprehensive substance abuse treatment is scarce, and options for those who need it most are limited.”

New Orleans is not alone in this legal battle. Other neighboring municipalities have filed similar suits.

Damages alleged will be calculated based on the associated costs to the City. The actual damages figures will ultimately reveal themselves during the discovery process as the City begins requesting and compiling information. Nevertheless, it’s very clear that the associated costs to the City are significant.

Black Women, Continued from page 8.

Black women have to do things differently, local entrepreneurs said. Last year, seven percent of all women received venture capital and angel funding for their technology platforms. Out of that seven percent, two-tenths of one percent of them were Black, the panelists explained. Black women are opening businesses at a faster rate than everybody but are receiving the lowest amount of funding from everyone. In other

words, they are doing more, and finding more success, but with less investment support.

Black women can have a great business plan, they said, but if they don’t know how to get the right funding or make the money “The day I quit my job in 2016, I started writing policies and procedures for different social services organizations just to pay the bills,” said McWilliams, who took on several other jobs. “I would drive Uber on the weekends,” McWilliams said.

Others found creative ways to find resources.

“I took out a student loan on top of whatever refund I had from grad school. It sat there until I needed it,” said Melissa Russell, the owner of M.R. Professional Resources, LLC, an accounting advisory firm.

“When I first started out I was working from home and I had a two-bedroom apartment. My son had moved out, so I had one side of my apartment that was not used anyway. My mentor, who I was laid off from gave me all his office furni-

ture,” Russell said of her early days.

Along the way, finding mentors was important as guides and listening ears to help these women entrepreneurs to navigate challenges in business, and along the way.

“My mentors just fell in my lap,” McWilliams said. “I was not looking for them because I didn’t know at that time that I needed them...I was just praying one day and the next day I found myself with a mentor and the next week I found myself with a business coach. Three months later I found myself with a

financial coach,” McWilliams said.

The more representation there is among women of color in business, the better it will be for future entrepreneurs to find the capital, partners, and mentorship they need, the panelists said.

“To see people that look like us already in their respected fields, owning their own businesses, and being successful, it was a good example to see that it is possible to do these things,” said Laurence Walker, a public health and economics major at Xavier, who attended the event.

Night Out, Continued from page 5.

the individual affected and their families and communities; just like a single infected individual can cause illness for many others.”

“The faith community of New Orleans is comprised of individuals from all walks of life who share one common goal. We believe that the violence in our community has to end now. Tonight we are turning our faith into action to ensure that our beliefs and prayers are answered,” said Brandon M. Boutin, assistant pastor, Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Baptist Church.

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Rihanna Says No to Super Bowl Halftime Invite – Social Media Explodes

Star Stands in Solidarity with Kaepernick and Other NFL Players Who Protest Injustice

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

When the National Football League invited Rihanna to perform at the upcoming Super Bowl, the 9-time Grammy winner and Fenty business mogul took a knee.

Reportedly, the pop princess not only said, "No," but her words were more like, "Hell no."

Rihanna said she's showing solidarity with Colin Kaepernick and NFL players who have been protesting racial disparities and police violence against blacks and other minorities by kneeling during the playing of the national anthem.

Rihanna's reps didn't immediately respond to requests from the NNPA Newswire for comment and an NFL spokesman said he wasn't authorized to talk about the Super Bowl halftime show.

"Rihanna was the front-runner for next year's Super Bowl halftime show," NBC's Today Show reported, quoting an unnamed source. The Network also reported that Rihanna's friend and fellow superstar Pink also turned the NFL down in support of Kaepernick.

"CBS and the NFL reached out to Rihanna first, who after thinking about the offer, decided to pass due to the NFL and the situation regarding players kneeling," The Today Show reported, again quoting a source.



Rihanna sings during The Concert for Valor in Washington, D.C. Nov. 11, 2014. (DoD News photo by EJ Hersom/ Wikimedia Commons)

"The offer and exposure would have been great for Rihanna as she's planning a new album and tour but she stuck to what's right in her eyes," the source added.

The refusal by Rihanna, whose hits include "Umbrella," "Work," and "Diamonds," likely came as a shock to NFL and CBS officials because the Super Bowl halftime show is the biggest stage in pop

music and routinely commands an audience of more than 100 million people.

Some halftime show performances have been legendary. Some were great and others not-so-good.

Historically, the Super Bowl halftime show has helped to boost the music and CD sales of artists like, Prince, Michael Jackson, Whitney Houston, Beyoncé, U2, Madonna,

The Rolling Stones, and Bruce Springsteen.

Social media exploded in support of Rihanna after she turned down the biggest stage in the world.

"I'm so here for @Rihanna turning down Super Bowl halftime to support @Kaepernick7. If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything," wrote Twitter user @DaPrincess.

Tweeted @okayplayer: "In case you need another reason to love @Rihanna ..."

@Shereeny tweeted that Rihanna was "a true queen" for turning down the Super Bowl in support of Kaepernick.

Facebook and Instagram users were just as supportive, many noting that with a superstar making such a bold statement, Kaepernick's message might finally begin to penetrate inside the offices of NFL teams whose owners appear to have continually mistaken the former quarterback's kneeling as an affront to veterans and the American flag.

Kaepernick has maintained that he began kneeling during the playing of the national anthem as a way to bring attention to ongoing police brutality and other social ills, particularly in minority communities.

"Awesome," Facebook user Aaron E. Wilson wrote of Rihanna's reported decision. "I might just have to buy an album or two of hers."

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