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New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

A Bright Future



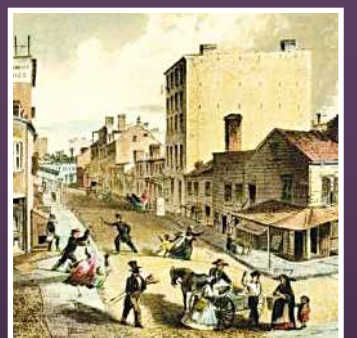
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A Bright Future

Warren Easton celebrates Student Athletes at Signing Day



Six Warren Easton Eagles seniors sign with college football programs at the 2020 National Signing Day including star running back Ashaad Clayton, (seated front left), next to head coach Jerry Phillips and Dayshawn Holmes. (seated front center) top left in cap Sedrick Van Pran, second left standing in cap Jewel Holmes, third left standing in cap Patrick McCoy, Center right back Raymond Williams.

Story and Photos by Kortney Williams
Data News Weekly Contributor

The Warren Easton Charter High School Auditorium filled with family, friends, schoolmates, and media organizations to cheer on the six young men among their student athletes that would take their next step in

their careers as college athletes. Six seniors made their official decisions known as part of National Signing Day for high school students across the country on Feb. 5th. The students publicly committed to colleges and universities across the country. They included four-star running back Ashaad Clayton who signed to the University of Colorado-

Boulder Buffaloes. Scouts had considered Clayton to be one of the best running backs in the state and a long list of top college programs from the Auburn University Tigers to the University of Florida Gators expressed an interest in Clayton. He received 17 offers but signed to the NCAA Division I Colorado Buffs and took the record as the second signee to have one of the highest

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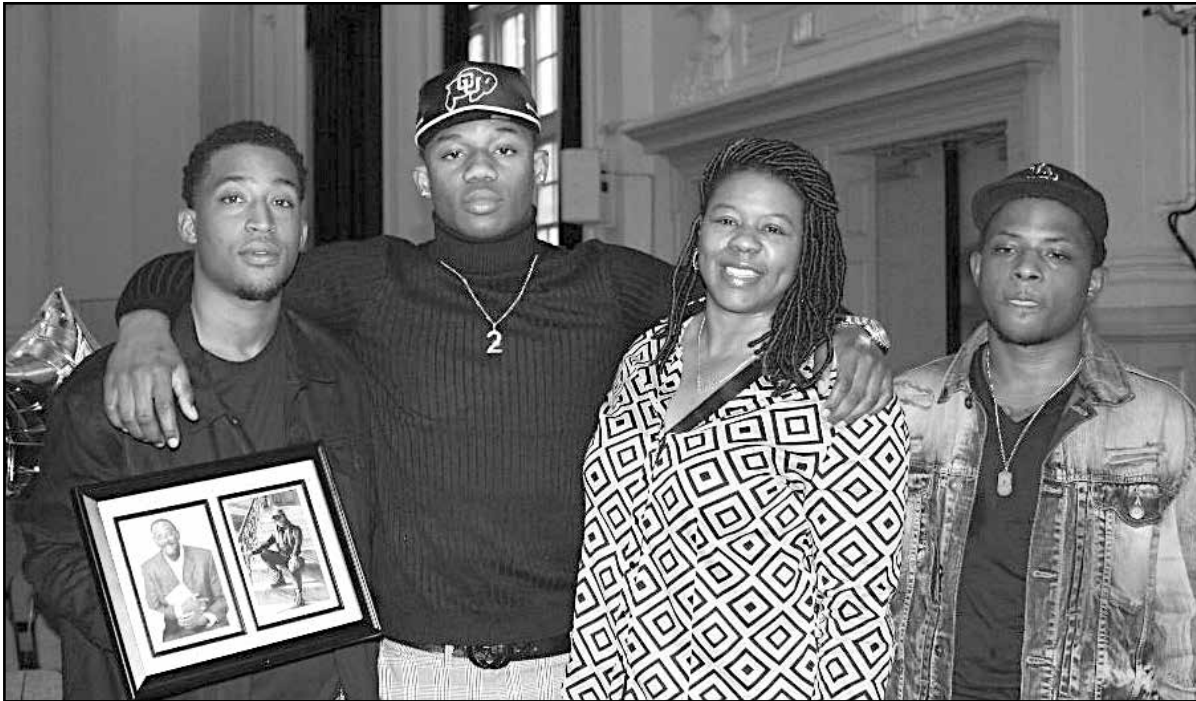
Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

ratings in their recruiting class.

"For the next three to four years I will be taking my talents to the University of Colorado," said Clayton as he spoke about his new team. "I felt the energy," Clayton said in his speech as he spoke about all the things that mattered to him and shaped his career, including God, his family, and he gave special thanks to his mother Andrea Johnson.

Clayton sat out a few games in his final year of high school football at the beginning of the season due to a knee injury he had been recovering from. His injury was tough, he said, but he came back stronger than ever to retain his ranking as a four-star running back.

A few weeks before Signing Day, Clayton said he went on an official visit to Florida. He went just to make sure it was what he wanted to do, he said. Ultimately, he chose to stick with Colorado.



Running back Ashaad Clayton and his mother Andrea Johnson and brothers honor his late grandfather Andrew Johnson at his Signing Day.

In addition to Clayton, five other



Warren Easton 4-star running back Ashaad Clayton winning both on and off the field after receiving offers from 17 colleges. He is heading to University of Colorado-Boulder Buffaloes.



Warren Easton's Sedrick Van Pran (top right) signed to the University of Georgia Bulldogs in Athens and was ranked as the number 1 center in the nation.

Warren Easton seniors participated in Signing Day. Clayton's childhood friend, center Sedrick Van Pran, signed to the University of Georgia Bulldogs in Athens and was ranked as the number 1 center in the nation. Wide-receiver Jewel Holmes signed to Northwestern State University of Louisiana in Natchi-

toches. Defensive end Patrick McCoy signed to Louisiana College in Pineville, corner back Dayshawn Holmes signed to Southwest Mississippi Junior College in Summit, and offensive player Raymond Williams signed to Independence Community College in Kansas.

"I wish they had a fifth year with

us," said Jerry Phillips, Warren Easton's head football coach when speaking about the young men moving on to the next chapter of their lives.

With football being a big part of the player's lives, Phillips said he had a great relationship with them and knew many of them going back to their time as young boys, in the city, at ball parks. He said during their time at Warren Easton all of the young men grew close to become a tight knit Eagles family. The players spoke highly of each other at the Signing Day and said they planned to keep in touch through the next phase of their education and football career.

"If I say I'm going to do something, I'm going to do it," Van Pran said as he announced his decision to attend Georgia. He said he would make his loved ones proud.

For the players staying closer to home, they said they too will do their best at their new programs. "I have no choice but to excel at this school," said McCoy who will be taking his football skills to Louisiana College. He officially committed to the central Louisiana College with his family next to him.

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Audubon Aquarium of the Americas Celebrating 30th Aquaversary

With A Yearlong Party To Mark This “Fintastic” Milestone

Data News Staff Edited Report

Audubon Aquarium of the Americas has been inviting guests to marvel in the wonders of the aquatic environments of South, Central, and North America and their adjacent seas, oceans, and rivers for the past 30 years.

Since opening its doors to the public September 1, 1990, the Aquarium has welcomed nearly 30 million visitors, expanded its habitats to include the 4,200-square-foot Great Maya Reef and opened Entergy Giant Screen Theater. Now, the Aquarium is excited to debut Shark Discovery, the shark and ray touchpool opening in the Spring of 2020.

To celebrate this pearl “aquaversary,” Audubon will be asking New Orleanians and visitors to the city



More than 20 African Penguins, ranging in ages, make up the Penguin Colony at Audubon Aquarium.

ping bags to help reduce plastic waste

- Refuse plastic straws when buying a drink
- Bring reusable water bottles instead of buying plastic ones

As a member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Audubon Aquarium has supported conservation efforts for many endangered species, including the African Penguin. In accordance with the species survival plan, 54 penguin chicks have hatched over the last thirty years. Nine of those chicks remain here in the Aquarium Colony. The Aquarium also receive birds from all over the country to keep a genetically diverse population, and in 2000, Audubon sent 15 penguins to the Monterrey Bay Aquarium to open their new penguin habitat.

Five rescued California sea otters have also lived at the Aquarium

SOUL FEST

A Celebration of
African American Culture

March 7-8

11 AM - 5 PM Audubon Zoo



To celebrate this pearl “aquaversary” Audubon will be asking New Orleanians and visitors to the city to join in the year long celebration by coming out to enjoy many of the events that will be held at the aquarium.

to join in the fun all year long with activities such as - ticket giveaways, animal enrichment activities, scavenger hunts, and most importantly, seeking out opportunities to help protect the natural world.

“The Aquarium has meant so much to the people and visitors of the city for the past 30 years, and now we are asking the public to look ahead to the next 30 years and see

how they can take action to help make an impact in their everyday lives to make our natural world a better place,” says Vice President and Managing Director of Audubon Aquarium of the Americas Rich Toth.

As part of this “Aquaversary” Celebration Audubon Aquarium is asking the public to do things such as,


- Use a reusable coffee cup
- Bring your own reusable shop-

ping bags to help reduce plastic waste

including the two current otter residents, Ruby and Clara. In October 1989, Woldenberg Riverfront Park opened to the public, and, 11 months later, the Aquarium’s Inaugural Day in business saw 13,623 visitors, breaking all opening day records for any U.S. aquarium.

To join the party, Audubon supporters can check Audubon social media to see what fun surprises await—there will be something new each month.

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First Black Woman Graduate to be Inducted into Tulane Law Hall of Fame

Alina Hernandez
Tulane University

NEW ORLEANS - In the fall of 1967, Janice Martin Foster walked into Tulane Law School as one of only four women – and the only African American female – starting courses that year.

“It took me a little while, but I didn’t realize that I was the only Black woman until I got to class, and no one looked like me,” she recalled.

Foster graduated in 1970, two years after Michael Starks became the first Black student to earn his Juris Doctor. She was only the second Black law graduate.

A full 50 years later, with a career that has been spent at Jones Walker practicing estate planning, estate administration and tax law, Foster’s legacy will include membership in the 2020 Class of the Tulane Law School Hall of Fame.

“We’re enormously proud of Janice Foster’s accomplishments and leadership in the legal profession, and deeply grateful to her for helping to open doors through which hundreds of other talented students and alumni have followed,” said Law Dean David Meyer.

Joining Foster in the 2020 Hall of Fame Class are Prof. Oliver Houck and Prof. William Lovett, both iconic academics at Tulane Law; the Hon. L. Felipe Restrepo (L ’86); Susan Talley (L ’81); and The Hon. Walter F. Marcus, Jr., who is receiving the honor posthumously.

Being among the first, and a woman, wasn’t easy in the post-segregation era.

Foster sought friends and support throughout law school, she said, but mostly, she worked hard. No one treated her poorly, but she does remember one professor who



Then and Now: Janice Foster, 50 years after her law school graduation; “I would not have changed my choice of going into law.”



nized for her civic and professional leadership, including the Young Leadership Council Role Model Award in 2007, the New Orleans CityBusiness Leadership in Law Award, the Michaelle Pitard Wynne Professionalism Award from the New Orleans Women Attorneys Association in 1996, and the Monte’ Lemann Award for distinguished contributions to the Louisiana Civil Service System in 1984.

In between her illustrious career, she raised two children and was active in civic organizations.

“The law has been good to me, and I really enjoyed those first years practicing,” she said. “Whether it was Tulane, or the firm or the courthouse, people were always helpful and kind. I would not have changed my choice of going into law.”

didn’t expect any of the women to get top grades in his class.

“I just listened and moved on,” Foster said. “And, with anonymous grading, I was one of the top grades in his class after all.”

Not just in one class – Foster was tops in a number of classes. Her grades enabled her to join the staff of the prestigious Tulane Law Review – and eventually become associate editor. She graduated Order of the Coif; an honor bestowed on the top 10 percent of the graduating class.

“I know some older students paved the way for me into the city’s law firms,” she said, which led to her clerkship at Jones Walker. Over the years she has advised clients on the preparation of wills, marital trusts, exemption trusts, life insurance trusts, powers of attorney, and charitable gifts.

She has been widely recog-



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Crowned Twice



Tracee Dundas
Fashion Stylist

Not all fashion designers get their start by studying the intricate details of textiles and apparel design in college or by spending years sewing, draping and working as a fashion apprentice in NYC.

Such was the case for Brianna Thomas, a 21-year-old college student studying marketing at Dillard University who wears a double crown as New Orleans Fashion Week 2019 Top Design Winner and the coveted crown of Miss Dillard University 2019.

Although she chose to pursue marketing in college, she maintained her love for fashion and art; and decided to combine these two passions together by trying her hand at fashion designing.

However, art and design is nothing new to Brianna.

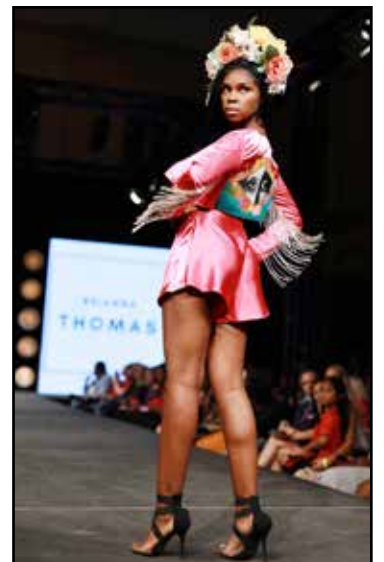
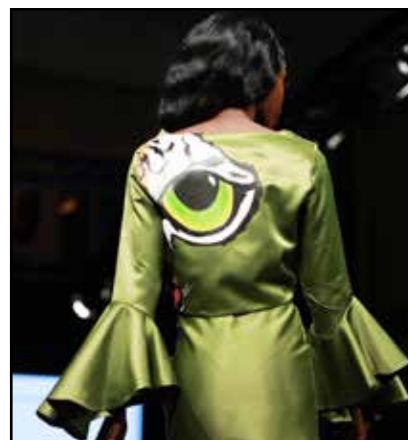
She's had creative ambition since childhood and remembers wanting to be a fashion designer since the age of nine but didn't know if it was a viable career option.

"I love art, drawing and painting. I'm really into anything creative. It's very natural for me to have an idea or vision and intuitively start creating something. It was because of this that I was drawn to the idea of incorporating my art into fashion," says Brianna Thomas.

What started as a hobby has fueled her entrepreneurial spirit and her desire for designing fashion. It was upon her signing up to be a member of Canal Place Style Board where the opportunity presented itself for Brianna to design a garment in celebration of New Orleans' tricentennial birthday.

Her winning collection was inspired by her longtime desire to wear her canvases, as such she began experimenting with painting on different textiles and clothing items. Building from this she incorporated her love and appreciation for nature and color, adding embellishments for dimension and interest to her garment.

Brianna's winning prize package included a , Microsoft Surface Pro, Project Runway Brother's Sewing Machine from Allbrands.com, an in-store placement of her fashion collection at Wear NOLA , a photo shoot with photographer Eduardo Benitez and a Feature Designer Runway Show New Orleans Fashion Week 2020.



Makeup: **Magnolia Make-up Glam Squad.**

Hair: **Vanguard-Paul Mitchell Hair Team.**

Photos: **James Fair.**

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

Southern University Held a Fundraiser Mixer

LaVerne Toombs
Office of Community Outreach
& University Advancement

On Thursday, February 13th, Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) held a successful Fundraiser Mixer! We would like to express a special thank you to our sponsor Attorney Edwin Shortly and a surprised appearance by Mayor LaToya Cantrell. The event was to raise funds for scholarships to deserving students with the chance to pursue a quality education, a life-changing experience at Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO). We greatly appreciate the support of the alumni, faculty, staff, and friends for their commitments to the University.



If I could do one thing, I'd tell the world she counts.

Communities are as rich and diverse as their needs. That's why completing the 2020 Census matters. It's a safe and confidential step toward having an impact on how public funds flow through our communities. That could mean more resources in your area for special needs. It's within your control.

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The Greatest Love of All



Charles Dickerson
Data News Weekly Columnist

As we have just celebrated Valentine's Day and in the coming days will be celebrating Mardi Gras; I can say that it is great to be in a City where people find a reason to celebrate all the time.

This amazing place and outlook on life is a great thing that people come to New Orleans to experi-

ence; but for us who live here we have to be honest with ourselves and become serious about some of the things we have to work on.

I am someone who has been on the frontlines of educating and mentoring our young and it saddens me that every time I turn on the news, I see some of our young people resorting to crime and violence.

I see this in my own neighborhood, where on any given day someone's car has either been stolen or broken into. Last week there was a story of an 11-year-old boy who was part of a car break-in ring of older boys.

I saw his parents on a local news station and sympathized with them for I know they may be doing the

best they can, but as a parent myself sometimes you have to work harder to make sure your kids are doing what they are supposed to. Am I an advocate that parents should be arrested or have to go to court for the crimes of their kids? No, but they should be held accountable and responsible for the actions of their kids.

Furthermore, I can remember there was a time not so long ago where parents stressed choices and consequences when raising their children. I believe some do not do this enough in the age of parenting where some kids talk to their parents any kind of way and the lines between who is the child and the parent are blurred. This

in my view can lead to bad outcomes, not just for the child but the community as a whole.

It should be noted that I am not advocating corporal punishment of young people, but the lines between adult and child must be redrawn and having standards and expectations for our children. This begins with us being better examples, where all adults especially our Black men decide to behave, act, think, talk and dress like adults. They must become the models of behavior for our youth, because in their absence and malfeasance as parents this is the result and we must reverse this trend.

We as men in the community have to be the first line of defense

for our young men, to teach them to love themselves and others. If they had this then they would not do some of the things that are a detriment to our community.

We have to make them as the lyrics to the song "The Greatest Love of All" by the great George Benson and remade by Whitney Houston realize that they need to learn to love themselves. This would make them work to become their best selves and love others as well.

Finally, we adults, especially our men have to work harder to make sure this is the road our young people take. For these young men will be the ones replacing us and it is my hope to leave our community in good hands.

National Gun Violence Survivors Week Highlights Those Whose Lives Have Been Changed Forever



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

Sometimes, Cleopatra Pendleton walks to her closet and runs her hands through a sequined yellow dress. It was the dress her daughter Hadiya wore to her eighth-grade graduation luncheon.

"Sometimes, for just a moment, I imagine that I'm saving it for the children that she will never get a chance to have," Cleopatra says.

Hadiya was shot and killed seven

years ago, while standing in a Chicago park with friends after taking her final exams. Just a week earlier, she had marched with pride in President Obama's Inauguration Ceremony.

Thirteen-year-old Malachi Hemphill accidentally shot himself while playing with a gun that his friend stole from a neighbor. The owner, who'd kept it in a console in his unlocked car, didn't report it stolen and didn't even notice it was missing.

"When his heart stopped, so did ours," his mother, Shaniqua Stephens, says.

Jerri Mauldin Green has been affected by gun violence three times. She grew up hearing the tragic story of her grandparents' murder-suicide when her mother was only 6 years old. Her childhood best friend

was murdered by the father of her children when the boys were only 2 and 4 years old. And just this year, a new friend she'd met at a leadership course was shot and killed in his home.

In honor of National Gun Violence Survivors Week, Everytown For Gun Safety is sharing the stories of those whose lives have been forever changed by gun violence. National Urban League is proud to be a partner of Everytown, a coalition that includes parents, students, responsible gun owners, teachers, police officers, elected officials and social justice organizations, working together to end gun violence and build safer communities.

National Gun Violence Survivors Week which began last year, is focused on sharing and amplifying the stories of gun violence survivors

who live with the impact of gun violence every day of the year. The week is observed in early February because this marks the approximate time that gun deaths in the United States surpass the number of gun deaths experienced by our peer countries in an entire calendar year.

Hundreds of survivors like Cleopatra, Shaniqua and Jerri, who have lost loved ones, along with those who have witnessed an act of gun violence, or been threatened or wounded with a gun, are sharing their stories on the Moments that Survive story wall. Survivors and allies are amplifying their voices on social media using the hashtag #MomentsthatSurvive, to represent the moments and memories that endure for survivors after experiencing gun violence.

There are more survivors than we might imagine. A shocking 58 percent of American adults have experienced gun violence or are close to someone who has.

They are mothers like Tonjula Mason-Shelby, who felt that her reason for living was taken from her when her only child, Kimondra Mason, was gunned down. They are women who found the courage to leave their abusers, like Laura Morris who bears the scar of a gunshot wound on her shoulder. They are daughters like Khary Penebaker, whose mother Joyce took her own life with a gun when Khary was a child.

Their lives have been changed forever. Sharing their stories highlights the devastating human consequences of gun violence in America.

The History of All Black Towns

Rosewood and other Black Towns Across America

Part 4



Freedmen's Town, Texas: Houston's 'Little Harlem'

Data News Weekly Staff Edited Report

During the time after the Civil War and into the early 20th Century, these towns emerged in the face of segregation and lynching.

Many of them flourished, and in some cases the Blacks who lived in these areas were better off than the Whites in neighboring towns. This shows that Blacks if polling their resources and were enterprising could thrive.

Today we are giving our readers a snapshot of these cities to inspire the Black Communities across America that they can become examples of Black Excellence.

Rosewood, Fla.: A Massacre That Won't Be Forgotten

Rosewood, established in 1870, was the site of what could be considered one of the worst race riots in

U.S. History. By 1915 it was a small, predominantly Black town — with a population of just slightly more than 300. On New Year's Day in 1923, a young White woman claimed that a Black man sexually assaulted her; Rosewood was destroyed by a band of White men searching for the alleged suspect. The number of those killed is still unknown.

Freedmen's Town, Texas: Houston's 'Little Harlem'

At the end of the Civil War, thousands of freed slaves purchased land and built their homes along the Buffalo Bayou, dubbing it "Freedmen's Town." And over six decades the town thrived, with churches, schools, stores, theaters and jazz spots lining the cobblestone roadways. By the 1920s it was known as "Little Harlem," but the Great Depression caused many to lose their homes. Some longtime residents moved

to other Houston neighborhoods; others stayed and watched the community deteriorate. In 1984 Freedmen's was designated a historic district.

Five Points District, N.Y.: High Stakes in Lower Manhattan

Today we know it as Wall Street, but from the 1830s to the 1860s, this area was the site of Manhattan's first free Black settlement. Located on the five-cornered intersection of what were then Anthony, Cross, Orange and Little Water streets, it also became known as a notorious slum, with its dance halls, bars, gambling and prostitution. Many Blacks fled the area to escape the draft riots of 1863.

Allensworth, Calif.: A California Dream

In 1908 Lt. Col. Allen Allensworth and four others set up



Rosewood, Fla.: A Massacre That Won't Be Forgotten



Allensworth, Calif.: A California Dream

the California Colony and Home Promoting Association with the mind-set of establishing the state's first all-Black township. Located on the Santa Fe' rail line, by 1914 the town housed the first Black school district, a judicial system and a hotel. The town struggled to stay afloat in

the face of setbacks, from water-supply issues to the railroad closing its stop there. The township is now preserved as Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park.

Profiles of cities originally appeared in the *theroot.com* article entitled "History's Lost Black Towns" by Brandee Sanders

A Winning Proposition

Kent State University offers 4 years of Free Tuition to 1st Graduating Class from LeBron James' I Promise Network

Edwin Buggage Editor-in-Chief

Many speak of athletes disconnecting and not giving back. LeBron James is bucking that myth as he is putting his money where his mouth is.

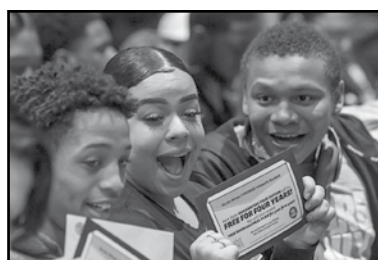
LeBron James keeps responding to his motto 'More Than An Athlete', and he is showing of why he is a champion both on and off the court.

In 2018 James partnered with

the Akron Public School System and opened the I Promise School, it is focused on the education of at-risk youth in James' hometown, where he has inspired a generation that through hard work they can succeed.

Recently, the first graduating class with the I Promise Network got exciting news that would potentially change their lives.

That they are eligible for four



Students celebrating upon hearing of 4 years of free tuition to Kent State as part of the first graduating class from the "I Promise School" started by LeBron James.

years of free tuition at Kent State University.

The school announced the offer at a ceremony with members of the I Promise Class and their families.

"We are so pleased to take our partnership with the LeBron James Family Foundation to this next level and welcome these students fully into the Kent State family," KSU President Todd Diacon said. "Kent State looks forward to the time

when our campus is teaming with I Promise students."

On their way to pursue their greatness comes with being held accountable; to remain eligible for free tuition each year, the students must remain in good academic standing, must complete a minimum number of credit hours during the academic year and must take part in a required number of community service or volunteer hours.

It's Carnival Time

Fleur De Lis Data News Weekly Columnist

Yes, it is Fleur De Lis, in full Mardi Gras mode, ready to let the good times roll. People from all over will be coming to our great City in the coming week, as well as locals will be out for the biggest party of the year for our City.

Yes its "Carnival Time" and we know many of you will be out enjoying the parades; here is a listing of the remaining parades in New Orleans. We encourage all to go out and have fun and party responsibly.

Until Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent, let your hair down and Laisezz Le Bon Temps Rouler!!!

Wednesday Feb 19, 2020

♣ Uptown New Orleans

Krewe of Druids 6:15 pm
Krewe of Nyx 6:45 pm

Thursday Feb 20, 2020

♣ Uptown New Orleans

Knights of Babylon 5:30 pm
Knights of Chaos 6:15 pm
Krewe of Muses 6:30 pm

Friday Feb 21, 2020

♣ French Quarter

Krewe of Bosom Buddies 11:30 am

♣ Uptown New Orleans

Krewe of Hermes 5:30 pm
Krewe d'Etat 6:30 pm
Krewe of Morpheus 7:00 pm

Saturday Feb 22, 2020

♣ Uptown New Orleans

Krewe of Iris 11:00 am
Krewe of Tucks 12:00 pm



The legendary and spectacular St. Augustine Marching 100 is always great to see and experience at any Mardi Gras parade.



People come from all over to enjoy Mardi Gras and experience everything from the parades and things only seen in New Orleans, such as the Black Masking Culture (Mardi Gras Indians) and the Baby Dolls (pictured right.)



♣ Westbank

Krewe of NOMTOC 10:45 am

♣ Mid-City

Krewe of Endymion 4:15 pm

Sunday Feb 23, 2020

♣ Uptown New Orleans

Krewe of Okeanos 11:00 am
Krewe of Mid-City 11:45 am
Krewe of Thoth 12:00 pm
Krewe of Bacchus 5:15 pm

Monday Feb 24, 2020 Lundi Gras

♣ Uptown New Orleans

Krewe of Proteus 5:15 pm
Krewe of Orpheus 6:00 pm

Tuesday Feb 25, 2020 Mardi Gras

♣ Uptown New Orleans

Krewe of Zulu 8:00 am
Krewe of Rex 10:00 am
Krewe of Elks Orleans

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Young Black Americans Who Want To Explore Their Roots Can Take A Free Birthright Trip To Africa. Here's How

Kevin Mwanza
Moguldom.com

Young Black Americans have in recent years been given the opportunity to travel to their ancestral African countries and connect with their roots by nonprofit organizations.

One such nonprofit is Birthright Africa which has its headquarters in New York City.

"This isn't about validating Black identity. It's about providing an opportunity for people to explore their ancestry," Birthright Africa co-founder Diallo Shabaz told CNN.

Another nonprofit organization that does a similar thing is Birthright Israel. It was initiated in 1994 by Charles Bronfman and Michael Steinhardt in collaboration with the Israeli government.

Birthright Israel sponsors free 10-day heritage trips to Israel for young adults aged 18-32.

Since the trips began in 1999, more than 600,000 people from 67 countries have participated in the Birthright Israel program. Around 80 percent of the participants have been from the U.S. and Canada.

During the trips to Israel, Participants are encouraged to discover new meaning in their personal Jewish identity.

Other countries that do this include Greece, Hungary, Macedonia, Armenia, Cuba, and Ireland.

Bright Africa's goal is to give young people knowledge and understanding about Africa that the American school system does not provide.

To be eligible for a birthright trip to Africa, one has to be a U.S. citizen and between 13 and 30 years



Nonprofit Birthright Africa gives Black Americans the opportunity to visit Africa on an all-expenses-paid trip to reconnect with their ancestral roots. Photo by Muhammadtaha Ibrahim Ma'aji from Pexels



Bright Africa's goal is to give young people knowledge and understanding about Africa that the American school system does not provide.

old. The person also has to be of African descent.

The trips are free. Flights, hotels, food, and the cost of museums are

covered by Birthright Africa and its partners.

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If you are interested, please email your resume and 3 writing samples to: terrybjones@bellsouth.net and datanewseditor@bellsouth.net.

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*From the desk of***MIKE BLOOMBERG**

Dear Reader,

Thank you for taking the time to learn about The Greenwood Initiative.

As someone who has been very lucky in life, I often say my story would only have been possible in America – and that's true. But I also know that because of the artificial barriers of discrimination, my story likely would have turned out very differently if I had been Black, and that more Black Americans of my generation would have ended up with far more wealth, had they been white.

Building Generational Wealth for Black Families is Critical. That's why I launched The Greenwood Initiative in Tulsa last month. I visited the site of the Black Wall Street Massacre, where a white mob decimated the prosperous community of Greenwood. It is to the memory of the lost lives and promise of Greenwood that we've dedicated The Greenwood Initiative: a plan to address the systematic bias that has kept Black Americans from building wealth.

THE GREENWOOD PLAN WILL:

- Create 1 million new Black homeowners
- Double the number of new Black-owned businesses
- Invest \$70 billion in the country's 100 most disadvantaged neighborhoods

Fixing the System for Black Families. When I was mayor of New York, I was proud to take on the systematic inequality that held back too many New Yorkers. **We increased education funding, built 650 new schools and raised Black graduation rates to record highs.** We led an ambitious effort to reduce poverty and managed the largest amount of affordable housing in the nation. And as President, I will work even more aggressively to combat inequality nationwide.

I understand that undoing generations of systematic discrimination won't happen overnight, but we can make progress with a clear vision and a comprehensive plan. I've included a pamphlet along with this letter that lays out my plan. When I'm President, implementing The Greenwood Initiative will be a top priority.

Join me in ending the systemic inequality that has held Black Americans back for too long!

Sincerely,



Mike Bloomberg



PAID FOR BY MIKE BLOOMBERG 2020

For more information visit

MikeForBlackAmerica.com