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New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

Dare to Wear White After Labor Day

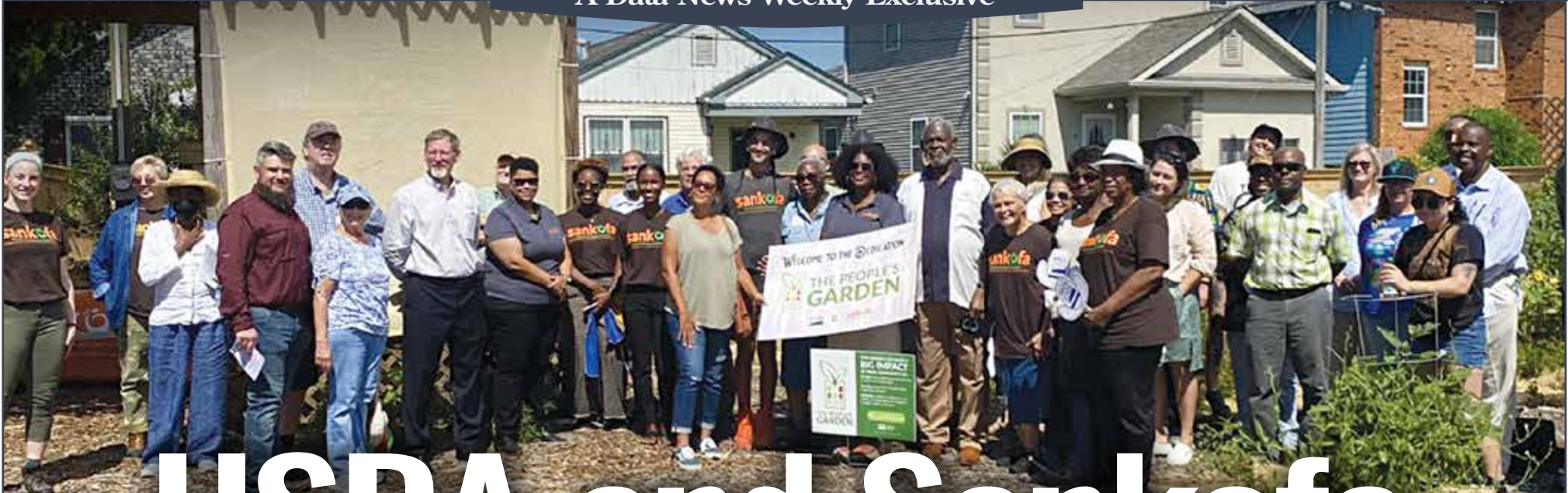


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A Data News Weekly Exclusive



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USDA and Sankofa Dedicate the People's Garden

Feeding the Community



Sankofa, USDA, and local residents gather in front of the garden for a group photo.

Tyana Jackson
Data News Weekly Contributor
Photos by Tyana Jackson

Among many of the challenges New Orleans faced after Hurricane Katrina, the need to preserve the land and environment is one often forgotten. Most predomi-

nately Black, underprivileged communities sometimes lack the access to fresh fruits and vegetables. Community-based organizations are working to bring together resources to educate and support the residents and on Sept. 1st, the People's Garden was dedicated in the Lower Ninth Ward located at 27 St. Claude Court at North Rampart.

The first of its kind garden in the city was a result of a partnership with The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) working with the Sankofa Community Development Corporation. The garden dedication ceremony promoted what is being called Louisiana's first People's Garden, which will further

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assist community members with growing fresh and healthy food.

"They have been supporting our food access, our environmental wetlands, educational work, and community garden work and it has been always about if the people in the neighborhood to have what they need," said Rashida Ferdinand, the Executive Director of Sankofa, who spoke of the partnership with USDA.

The lower ninth ward People's Garden is now one of seventeen flagship gardens in urban cities across the nation. The ability to understand where and how your food is grown is a privilege, some residents of the ninth ward do not have but with this partnership, they are now physically able to access many foods, Ferdinand explained. The garden grows vegetables and fruits that promote a healthier lifestyle in the community.

"It's all about the community, gardening is a communal healing experience," said Pamela Brown, Project Manager and Director of NewCorp Inc, a non-profit organization that provides assistance for minorities and women-owned businesses, who have difficulties accessing traditional funds. "Don't get me wrong I know it is hard and hot, but it is worth it in the end," Brown said.

At the ceremony, both organizations affirmed their commitment to support residents of the lower ninth ward to continue the process of rehabilitation for their community. In addition to food access, this includes access to healthcare, employment, and housing in order to rebuild that foundation around the culture that was passed from generation to generation, Brown said.

"We are here in New Orleans to help revitalize fruits and vegetables right here in the community, where moms and dads, sons and daughters need fresh fruits and vegetables while helping young men and women learn about agriculture," said James Tillman, the regional conservations for the USDA-NRCS.

Residents received a variety of the plants and herbs grown in the garden that were given away samples of what the garden can produce. And beyond food, the garden will be a site to educate residents on how to practice gardening with conservation methods, and it will also serve as greenspace in the community that will be a habitat for pollinators and wildlife.

"I work with a fabulous team of staff members, that I am really honored to have worked with for so many years and our work has always been centered around the people in the community," Ferdinand said.



Rashida Ferdinand, Founder and CEO of Sankofa Community Development Corporation.



Sankofa's Community Coordinator, Royliene Johnson (left) and Pamela Broom (right), New/Corp Project Manager & Director catches up together under the shade after the dedication of the People's Garden on Sept. 1.



During the ceremony, attendees spread out to learn more about getting involved in community outreach events.



Ronald Guidry, Jr. the Executive Director for USDA and Louisiana Farm Service Agency attends the People's Garden dedication on Sept. 1st.



Pamela Broom, Community Advocate and Project Manager & Director for NewCorp, spoke with a few attendees about her organization and promotion of gardening within the community.

Dare to Wear White After Labor Day



Tracee Dundas
Fashion Stylist

No White After Labor Day . . .

No Opaque Tights with Open Toe Shoes . . .

No Hats Indoors . . .

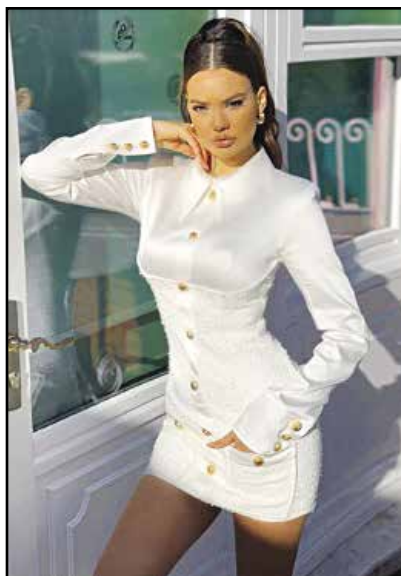


Really? Who made these rules? Will the fashion police issue a citation to the fashion influencers that breaks the rule?

The no white after Labor Day is a fashion debate that has been going on for decades. Labor Day is considered the official end of the summer season. After all, everyone is winding down from vacations, returning to school and ready for the leaves to turn to autumn colors. It only seems appropriate that Labor Day be the stopping point for wearing white. Some blame it on a high society form of segregation that distinguished the wealthy from the less fortunate. Regardless of how it all started it is beyond time to give this age-old sartorial cliché the proverbial boot!

Fashion has progressed considerable since this antiquated rule was a thing. While trends are constantly evolving and changing, there is one thing we can be sure of when it comes to fashion – rules were meant to be broken. The secret is to do it with style and finesse that will make everyone stop to take note. The weight of the fabric is key. Lightweight materials, like linen, chiffon, eyelet, and charmeuse, are meant for pool parties and summer barbecues. Heavier materials, such as white denim, stonewashed khaki, and crisp white button front shirt are more suitable for the pre-fall time of year. Swap out your accessories; add metallic pieces, ankle booties and pair with earthy tones to seamlessly bring the look into fall.”

When it comes to fashion, break the rules . . . We Dare You!



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

Announcing “West Bank Prospers”: New Foundation To Be Established By Greenfield To Invest Millions In Students, Local Farmers, Community Health And Heritage

Foundation to Invest Millions in Students, Local Farmers, Community Health and Heritage

New community-driven foundation dedicated to serving the West Bank of St. John the Baptist will launch with \$3.85 million to fund West St. John High School, open a new community health clinic, award scholarships and honor cultural heritage

Additionally, Greenfield will dedicate the first \$500,000 in net profits each year in perpetuity to support ongoing grants by the foundation, directed by the community

Data News Staff Edited Report

Greenfield Louisiana recently announced its plans to found West Bank Prospers, a new foundation that will invest millions of dollars in new grants to West St. John High School, a new community health clinic, scholarships to River Parishes Community College and more.

West Bank Prospers will target its initial \$3.85 million in directed grants toward education, job training, commu-

nity health, local farmers, and cultural preservation through \$3.85 million in directed grants. That funding will be provided by Greenfield Louisiana, the agriculture business working to build a new state-of-the-art Grain Export Facility on the West Bank, pending final permitting. Greenfield is also committing to donate the first \$500,000 of its profits at the export facility every year in perpetuity to the Foundation directly to additional community priorities.

The West Bank Prospers Foundation's initial seed funding includes:

- \$1-million, 10-year partnership to fund new learning equipment, technology, and curriculum at West St. John High School, including full scholarships to River Parishes Community College for students
- \$1.5 million for the construction and operation of a new community health clinic on the West Bank of St. John the Baptist Parish
- \$250,000 directed to organizations supporting local farmers in Louisiana
- \$1.1 million for community heritage, scholarship, and cultural preservation on the West Bank, as well as the dedication of 6



acres of land adjacent to the Export Grain Terminal to foster cultural development and historic preservation

West Bank Prospers will be a true community foundation. It will announce the first of its board members in the coming weeks, as well as launch a process for members of the community to join the board and shape its grant-making. Once incorporated, West Bank Prospers will be able to raise funds from other sources and pursue work across the West Bank at

the direction of its community board.

“In every conversation we have with our neighbors, we’ve heard people’s hopes for a revitalized West Bank. Good jobs are part of that, but so are stronger schools for kids, improved local health care for seniors, workforce training for our young people and helping farmers make ends meet. West Bank Prospers will be an engine for good, driven by this community and for this community,” said Tanisha Marshall, Project Manager at Greenfield.



I asked what kind of family Amina wanted. She said, ‘A family like yours.’ That’s when I knew I had to adopt her.

Denise, adopted 17-year-old Amina

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Former New Orleans Mayor Maurice “Moon” Landrieu, a Racial Bridge Builder Passes Away at Age 92

Data News Staff Edited Report

On September 5, 2022, former New Orleans Mayor Moon Landrieu — whose early, lonely stand against segregationists in the Louisiana Legislature launched a political career where he was at the forefront of sweeping changes on race in the city, died Monday, at the age of ninety-two.

He lived a life dedicated to justice. First serving as state legislator, then on the City Council during the tide of social change in New Orleans, where many were still resistant desegregation.



Maurice “Moon” Landrieu, former Mayor and leader of racial change in the city and state passed away at the age of 92. He will be remembered as a principled and ethical leader that built bridges of understanding between the races and created opportunities for African Americans to ascend to power in New Orleans.

Eventually, Landrieu became the mayor of the city in 1970, in part by promising to make jobs and other opportunities available to Black New Orleanians, who were up to that point disenfranchised.

“He took the important first step of integrating City Hall and thereby sending a strong message about the future of the city when it came to racial justice,” said Marc Morial, son of Ernest “Dutch” Morial, the

first Black Mayor of New Orleans. Also, Marc served as mayor from 1994 to 2002. Presently, he serves as President and CEO of the National Urban League.

Leaders from around the city, state and nation have sent their condolences. Council President Helena Moreno released the following statement on the loss of former Mayor Moon Landrieu:

“Mayor Landrieu transformed civic and political life with his courageous fights on behalf of the people of New Orleans, particularly around racial and economic justice. Along with his extraordinary wife Verna, Moon built a sprawling family deeply commit-

ted to public service and progress towards a better world. He will be long remembered as a leader who ignited transformative changes for racial justice, desegregation, and economic equality. His children, among them a Mayor, a Senator, a Judge, lawyers, and civic leaders, continue his example of servant leadership to our community, building a legacy of change in their wake.

Moon never stopped serving, mentoring countless civic and political leaders, lending his time and attention to causes here at home and across the world. He has left an indelible mark on our City and will be greatly missed.”

Family and Friends of Slain 20-Year Old Orin D. Grant, Jr. Along with Elected Officials Gathered to Wage War Against Gun Violence

‘Stop the Violence’ Prayer Vigil and Rally

Eric Connerly Data News Weekly Contributor

Joined by local elected officials, the family and friends of slain Orin D. Grant, Jr. took their fight for justice to the next level by securing the united engagement of law enforcement and the community at the ‘Stop the Violence’ Prayer Vigil and Rally.

The objective of the ‘Stop the Violence’ Prayer Vigil and Rally was to provide a platform for local residents and elected officials to work in concert to combat armed violence. According to a Jefferson Parish Crime Statistics Report, the crime rate for the first half of this year was 78.7%. It is imperative that the community and law enforcement work together to end senseless murder.

“Losing my son to violence has been extremely heart-wrenching,” said Reverend Dr. Orin D. Grant, Sr. “This rally for justice for my son will create a space for everyone to put aside any differences they may have and unite as one to get criminals off of the streets and secure justice for all.”

Organizers of the ‘Stop the Violence’ Prayer Vigil and Rally hoped to bring visibility to Orin D. Grant, Jr.’s story and others like it.



Community and Elected leaders from several parishes unite in the fight against violent crime.



Rev. Dr. Orin D. Grant, Sr. father of Orin Grant Jr., who was shot and killed in an act of senseless violence is working to bring an end to the gun violence that is plaguing the community



Louisiana State Representative Delisha Boyd, surrounded by supporters speaking of what can be done to stop the gun violence.

Department of Education Seeking Loan Forgiveness Applications by November 15th

Stacy M. Brown NNPA
Newswire Senior National
Correspondent

Following President Joe Biden's announcement canceling student loan debt of up to \$20,000 for specific borrowers, the U.S. Department of Education said applications for relief under the plan should be submitted by Nov. 15th.

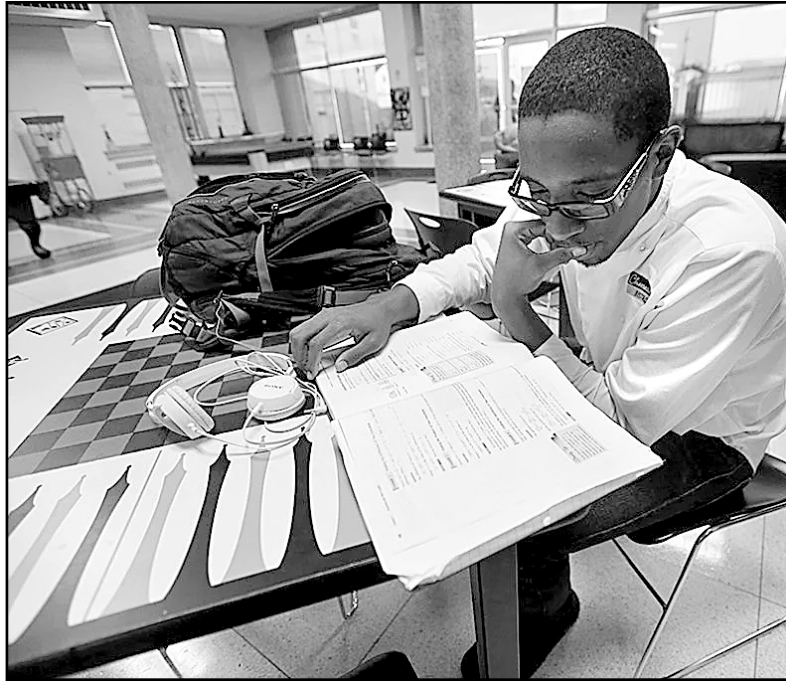
Department officials said they've made the application process simple, and if borrowers fail to apply by Nov. 15, they'd still have until the end of 2023 to file for forgiveness.

However, by waiting until after Nov. 15th, borrowers' risk having to resume payments after the federal pause in repayment ends on Dec. 31.

Biden said it's vital for the more than 43 million eligible borrowers to take advantage of the loan forgiveness plan.

"All this means people can start to finally crawl out from under that mountain of debt to get on top of their rent and utilities, to finally think about buying a home or starting a family or starting a business," Biden stated.

And while earlier reports revealed that about 13 states could still tax borrowers on the amount of debt forgiven, Mississippi and Virginia are the latest to come off that original list as officials said they would refrain from levying taxes on individuals who receive loan for-



giveness.

How do you know if you're eligible for debt cancellation? Here are the criteria set forth by the Department of Education:

- Your annual income must have fallen below \$125,000 (for individuals) or \$250,000 (for married couples or heads of households)
- If you received a Pell Grant in college and meet the income threshold, you will be eligible for up to \$20,000 in debt cancellation.
- If you did not receive a Pell Grant in college and meet the income threshold, you would be eligible for up to \$10,000 in debt cancellation.

What does the "up to" in "up to \$20,000" or "up to \$10,000" mean?

- Your relief is capped at the amount of your outstanding debt.
- For example: If you are eligible for \$20,000 in debt relief but have a balance of \$15,000 remaining, you will only receive \$15,000 in relief.

What do I need to do to receive

loan forgiveness?

- Nearly 8 million borrowers may be eligible to receive relief automatically because relevant income data is already available to the U.S. Department of Education.
- If the U.S. Department of Education doesn't have your income data, the Administration will launch a simple application available by early October.
- Please sign up on the Department of Education subscription page if you want notification of when the application is open.

Once borrowers complete the application, they can expect relief within 4-6 weeks.

Everyone is encouraged to apply, but there are 8 million individuals for whom the Education Department has data and who will get the relief automatically.

Borrowers are advised to apply before Nov. 15 to receive relief before the payment pause expires on Dec. 31, 2022.

The Department of Education will continue to process applications as they are received, even after the pause expires on Dec. 31, 2022.

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Job Opportunity

Freelance Writers Wanted

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for freelance writers to join our team print and digital team. We need writers who can cover New Orleans news stories, ranging from local high school sports, community events, City Hall and entertainment. Experience in print is necessary, experience in digital and social media are encouraged.

Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

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

We can't wait to
hear from you!

Job Opportunity

Administrative Assistant Wanted

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for an administrative assistant.

Compensation is competitive and detail orientation will be appreciated.

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