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The United Negro College Fund Hosts the 3rd Annual Mayor’s Masked Ball



Chaka Khan will headline this year’s UNCF Mayor’s Masked Ball, with proceeds going to benefit the United Negro College Fund Programs at HBCU’s which includes our two local member institutions, Dillard and Xavier Universities.

By R.A. Burrell
Data News Weekly Contributor

The UNCF’s New Orleans area office and New Orleans mayor Mitch Landrieu will host the Annual UNCF Mayor’s Masked Ball on Saturday, March 12, at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans. The event will be emceed by Kevin Frazier, co-host of “Entertainment Tonight” and WDSU co-anchor Camille Whitworth. 2016 UNCF Masked Award recipient is William “Bill” Goldring, a giant of local philanthropy whose donations have literally changed the landscape and lives of New Orleans and many of its residents.

The fundraising event brings together more than 900 business, civic and education leaders in support of UNCF’s work providing area students the resources to get to and through college.

The event will be Chaired by Michael O. Smith, general manager of the Hyatt Regency New Orleans and Joel Villmenay, President and General Manager of WDSU-TV.

The UNCF Mayor’s Masked Ball is one of New Orleans’ signature fundraising galas and premier social events of the year. Hosted by a diverse group of corporate sponsors and individuals, it involves celebrities, dignitaries, civic leaders, public officials, alumni, volunteers, and others who support UNCF’s mission of investing in America’s future by getting students to and through college.

Last year’s Inaugural UNCF Mayor’s Masked Ball raised over \$1.5 million helping many local students to receive a higher education. Moreover, proceeds raised assisted our two local member institutions, Dillard and Xavier Universities.

This year’s presenting sponsors are LCMC Health and Ochsner Health System. Marquis sponsors are Hyatt Regency New Orleans, Entergy, Supreme Automotive Group, Paul and Donna Flower, Alan and Sherry Lowenthal, Mardi Gras Productions and WDSU.

Four time Grammy Award Winner Chaka Khan will headline the event along with entertainment from our own Davell Crawford. Superstar Chef Leah Chase will be among other chefs serving signature cuisine. “I’m delighted to be part of one of the city’s premier events,” said Kevin Frazier, co-host of Entertainment Tonight. “The importance of today’s UNCF cannot be overstated. The mission continues and so does the need for on-going financial support. This is going to be a great party, but it’s also a fantastic way to invest in the dreams and ambitions of some very talented young people,” said Kevin Frazier, Co-host Entertainment Tonight

The UNCF is the nation’s largest and most effective minority education organization. To serve youth, the community and the na-

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Clinton, Trump Win Louisiana Primaries, Protests in New Orleans

By Prinsey Walker
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Youth Rallies Held in the City of New Orleans

Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump racked up victories in the South, after both candidates won in Louisiana and Mississippi in the race for the Presidential Nominations of their parties. Both candidates campaigned across the South to secure their Super Saturday Primary wins on March 5th and then again on Tuesday, March 8th. Former President Bill Clinton rallied for his wife in New Orleans on March 4th at the Ashe Power House Theater. While Trump rallied in New Orleans on March 4th at 6 p.m. at the Lakefront Airport. Compared to Clinton's rally, many who opposed Trump, showed up to his rally ready to protest.

From the beginning of Trump's speech, security personnel removed protesters chanting "Black Lives Matter" at the request of Trump who was interrupted several times during his speech. Once the rally ended, several Trump protesters and supporters engaged in heated arguments outside. Trump



Protesters were ready to challenge supporters as soon as Trump's speech ended. Photo By Allana Barefield

supporters held signs at the rally with the words "KKK 4 Trump" written on them. Other Trump supporters said they felt Trump was a strong leader who would deliver on his positions.

"Donald said that he is willing to make America great again, which is what got my attention," said Jonathan Jenkins from New Orleans, and a Trump supporter. Some African-American supporters also backed the

candidate and his speech. "Donald Trump was funny, very entertaining, and touched on a lot of issues that were said in the debate last night," said Sandra Mitchel from Chicago, Ill. "He is just a great candidate."

But not all Republican voters had made up their minds on whether or not they should vote for Trump for the primaries. "I do not support Donald Trump, but I do not see another viable candidate," said Rallier Gordon, who attended the New Orleans Rally to help make up his mind. If Trump does finally get the nomination, Republican supporters said they would still vote for him in the presidential election over Clinton.

"In the end, if it comes down to Hilary Clinton versus Donald Trump, I will probably vote Trump," Gordon said. "However, if it is Sanders versus Trump, I will vote for Bernie Sanders," he said.

Protesters were ready to challenge supporters as soon as Trump's speech ended. Preceding the speech, several protesters tore up Trump signs and threw them on to the ground. "I think it is disgraceful how protesters were treated. The way they were treated is not how you treat someone in a rally," said Tulane University Student McKayla, who did not give her last name. Her mother, Marcia, who attended the rally with McKayla, said she was not moved by Trump's speech. She added that Trump will not do anything to benefit the country. "Donald Trump said nothing," Marcia said after the rally. "He repeated what he said before and said nothing that he was going to do for the country."

Another protester at the rally, Rick, who did not provide his last name, urged young adults to get out and vote.

"I am a part of the boomer generation," Rick said. "Right now millennials outnumber the boomer generation. The millennials better wake up and become engaged or they will lose the rights that they have, that were fought for many many years."

The primary elections will determine the final two candidates on the polls for Election Day on Nov. 8, 2016. Currently, Trump and Clinton lead the delegate count with over two-dozen primaries still to go. The final primary will end on June 7, 2016 for Republicans and June 14, 2016 for Democrats. The candidates look to the next big primary in Florida on March 15th to ensure their lead for the nomination for president given the large delegate count in that state.

Chores.

A perfect moment to talk about alcohol.

An alarming number of pre-teens are drinking alcohol — which makes it urgent to find every opportunity to talk to your kids about the dangers of underage drinking. For tips on how — and when — to begin the conversation, visit:

www.underagedrinking.samhsa.gov

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STEM Academy Aims to Prepare Local High School Students to Become Math and Science Teachers

By Tiauni Julien
Data News Weekly
Contributor

For the eighth year, Xavier University of Louisiana, a leader in science education for African-American students, will hold its Future Math and Science Teacher Academy Program this summer. Only 30 high school students, who are passionate about Science and Mathematics in Education, will be chosen to participate in the summer program at Xavier.

Students applying will have to submit an online application and turn in the required documents. In order to apply a student must be in either ninth or tenth grade while also being in good academic standing. The last day to submit applications will be April 1, 2016. Once accepted, the cost to attend is \$35. The summer program will start on July 11th and end on July 22, 2016 and runs from 8:30 a.m. to noon each day. Classes will be held in Xavier's Library on the fifth floor.

"[Students] gain the opportunity to learn scientific measurements and techniques used in the field of Environmental Science," said Ah-dija Baker Donatto, the Director for the program and a lead mentor for the Master of Arts in Teaching Program at Xavier. "[The students] engage in hands-on experiences through various

laboratory experiments, and gain a better understanding of advance concepts in the STEM field," Donatto said.

The academy is a program where students will gain knowledge in science and math along with teaching techniques, Donatto said. This two-week program allows rising ninth and tenth grade students to be exposed to higher education. The program encourages critical thinking in the sciences, Donatto said, as well as introduces high school students to the college environment. Participating in the summer program can enhance a students' high school resume, she added, and it creates new goals for students to accomplish for the future. The program is also for



students who desire to teach math or science, Donatto said.

Students who participate in this program could get a headstart on their future, Donatto explained. When applying for college, high school students sometimes ques-

tion what makes their application unique. Participating in the summer program will not only bring new knowledge to the student, but it will also better prepare them for the application process their senior year, Donatto said.

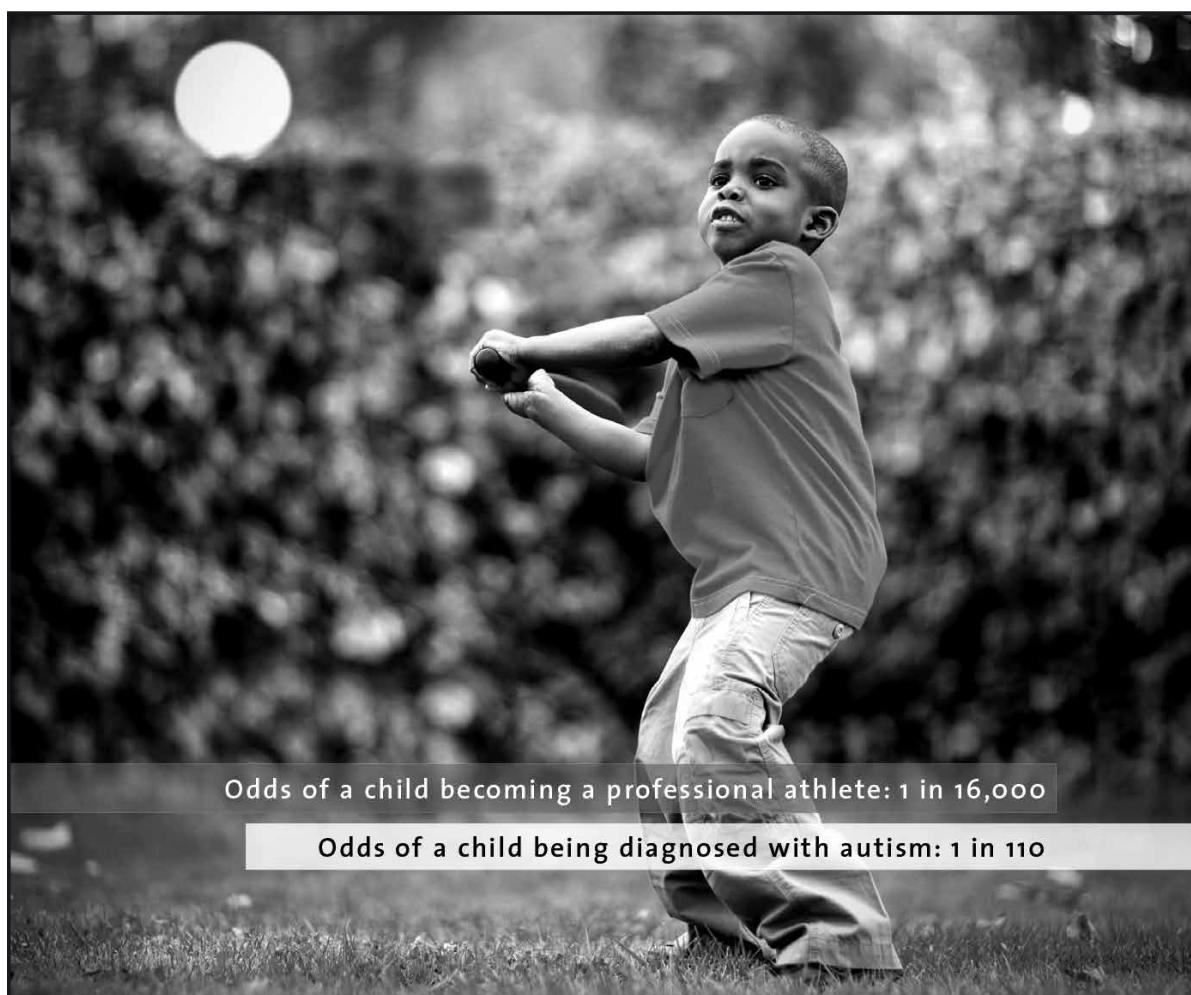
The program also benefits both high school students and Xavier who nurture future students who will pursue the sciences. "I think if the students who participate in the program allow themselves to see what college may possibly be like and when they apply to go to Xavier that will set them apart from the crowd," said Brittani Lewis, a Biology/Pre-med Major at Xavier. "They took the steps toward bettering their education, so they might

as well be here."

The program will be taught by two local High School Science Teachers, Lectoria Epperson and Henry Davis. "The experience I would say is a hands-on experiment every day," Davis said. "We allow the students to develop their own idea of the task at hand. Davis, who has been teaching at the Academy since 2011.

The program is also a way for Xavier, which holds the record of sending the highest number of African-Americans on to Medical School, to consider studying sciences at Historically Black Institutions. The program also hopes to attract students to pursue careers as science teachers as well. Donatto said she wants the high school students to also consider "to major in our education program in the fields of science and mathematics."

Students can find out how to apply at <http://www.xula.edu/programs/fmsta>.



Odds of a child becoming a professional athlete: 1 in 16,000

Odds of a child being diagnosed with autism: 1 in 110

Some signs to look for:

No big smiles or other joyful expressions by 6 months.

No babbling by 12 months.

No words by 16 months.

To learn more of the signs of autism, visit autismspeaks.org



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Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Soul Fest Honors Black Pioneers; Celebrates Black Culture

Story & photos by Eric Craig
Data News Weekly Contributor

What happens when you get New Orleans-based performers, food and organizations together? Soul Fest.

During March 5-6, the Annual Soul Festival was held at Audubon Zoo in New Orleans, LA. Thousands of people listened to several New Orleans musical artists perform a variety of genres, including jazz, gospel and popular music. New Orleans restaurants served soul food, while many organizations held informational sessions in tents.

Musical Duo Big Frank and Lil Frank performed on the Capital One Stage during Soul Fest.

"It felt good to perform. We've been waiting a long time to do something at this level. Now we've made it and we had a good time," Big Frank said.

The father-son duo weren't the only ones happy to perform at Soul Fest. Tara Alexander, who has performed at Soul Fest for the last five years, felt the event was important to the City.

"I like Soul Fest because it's a big party. We celebrate our culture and all that's good about our people. This is the perfect Uptown party in the zoo," Alexander said.

Soul Fest also held an African-American First event, where several African-American's were honored for being the first African-American in their field of work. The event was hosted by Medical Broadcast Journalist Dr. Corey Hébert.

"I like doing this event because it means so much to the people of New Orleans because they really need to see people that are successful," Hébert said.

Hébert said that the combination of music, food and performances demonstrates to Soul Fest attendees that hard work can payoff for anyone.



Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Data Zone, Continued from page 6



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



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Where is Today's Madam C.J. Walker?



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

Women entrepreneurs have a powerful role model when they consider Madam C.J. Walker. One of our nation's first female self-made millionaires, her story of combining herbs to develop and manufacture a hair pomade, of empowering tens of

thousands of women as sales agents for her products, and of establishing a beauty school to teach beauty techniques (and provide economic empowerment for even more women) are the stuff of legend. She was not only an entrepreneur, but also a philanthropist. She "lived large," owning two cars and a sprawling estate, Villa Lewaro in Irvington, New York, but she shared her wealth (Black millionaire Harold Doley purchased Villa Lewaro in 1993. It is a National Historic Landmark). She was possessed with an amazing self-confidence that served her well in business and in life.

Madam (as she is called by her great-granddaughter, A'Lelia

Bundles, the keeper of the family history and author of books about her ancestor (On Her Own Ground: The Life and Times of Madam C. J. Walker), Madam C. J. Walker: Entrepreneur (Chelsea House, 1991; revised 2008), Madam Walker Theatre Center: An Indianapolis Treasure (Arcadia Publishing, 2013)), was a character! She changed her name from Sarah Breedlove to Madam C.J. Walker to provide herself with a "classier" sounding name, and to help prevent white people from calling her "Aunt", as they called so many African American women. She didn't want whites calling her the demeaning "Aunt" (to close to Mammy, for my think-

ing), nor did she want the patronizing attitudes of Black men to affect the way she went about her business. For years, she sought the opportunity to speak at Booker T. Washington's National Business League, but was denied. As legend goes, she went to one of the meetings and took the mic and made her speech, despite official denial. Why should she not have spoken? She was one of the most successful business people of her generation. She was one of the most generous philanthropists. She financially sponsored the anti-lynching campaign. Perhaps Booker T. Washington was being a sexist, or perhaps (it is sometimes said) he had an ideologi-

cal opposition to a woman whose product was perceived as straightening hair. By the way, Walker did not invent the straightening comb. Annie Malone, who preceded Madam Walker in making her fortune with beauty products and a beauty school that Walker attended, invented the straightening comb.

Whether Washington wanted Madam Walker to speak, she had the audacity to take the mic and say her piece. She noted that she had promoted herself from a washerwoman to a businesswoman, speaking to the fact that few were available to help her to achieve her

Commentary,
Continued on page 9.

Blackonomics

Hypocrites, Hucksters, Histrionics and Hype



By James Clingman
NNPA News Wire
Columnist

Aren't you tired of the rap and clap sessions by political wannabes and their respective contingents? I know I am. The so-called "debates" are downright insulting and embarrassing, especially on the Republican side, reminiscent of a stand-up comedy show, or "throwing shade" as young folks say. Over on the Democratic stage (Or should I say in their "ring"?), what was a fight has turned into a face-saving swan song for Sanders since he was, in his own words, "decimated" in South Carolina. Black folks strike again!

With all the money these candidates have in the bank this "theater of the absurd" could go on for months, and when it's all over Black

folks will have not moved one inch toward real empowerment. Unless we get serious about our own economic and political future, by establishing our political platform and being willing to promote, support, and leverage it, Blacks will continue to be relegated to the clown ring in this current political three-ring circus. We will be the diversions, the ones who turn the lion's attention away from the performers, the clowns who turn the bull's ire away from the bull rider by yelling and then jumping into a barrel.

The "Yo Mama!" debates in the Republican ring are really not debates, in case you have not noticed; they are rap sessions, Ronald Reagan séances, and pseudo-patriotic diatribes, repeated ad nauseam by guys who swear they are the answer to our problems. The only one who has any kind of real record of having actually solved a few political problems is John Kasich. But he's so far behind the others that a victory for him is very unlikely.

Over in the Democratic ring we have two combatants who offer condescending words and platitudes

directly to Black folks, as opposed to the Republicans who say absolutely nothing to Blacks. The Dem candidates rail against the business establishment and tell us that we really need more jobs to solve our problems. I don't know how they expect to bring us more jobs, which are created by private businesses, when they are constantly denigrating business. It's just hype. By the way, why do you suppose the Black candidate, Willie Wilson, has been invisible?

Post Super Tuesday shouting matches about who cares for Black people the most now dominate, as though being embroiled in these kinds of discussions will move us forward. Top that off with MSNBC's U-turn in firing, demoting, or exiling their Black Barack Obama-can-do-no-wrong hosts and we have a real firestorm on our hands, don't we?

Aren't you tired of being hustled and huckstered? Aren't you tired of the hype and the political histrionics? Those of us who are absolutely tired of it all have made a commitment to DO something about it.

First of all, we refuse to be swayed by patronizing pundits and condescending candidates. It matters not what they say; their actions are what matters.

Understanding how the system works with regard to what they said versus what they do when they get into office, why are many of our people spending inordinate amounts of time arguing over whose plantation is more comfortable? Rather than organizing ourselves into a voting bloc that must be reckoned with and leveraging our votes, we end up acquiescing to political parties and their selected candidates. Rather than asking the candidates what they will do for us, we must present our demands to them, and rather than settle for lip-service we must have them sign an agreement signifying their support of our issues.

I can hear the moanin' and groanin' now. "Jim, they would never do that. So why ask them to?" That kind of defeatist attitude and subsequent surrender is indicative of why we are in the shape we are in today. If they refuse to support our demands, verbally and in writing,

then why should we vote for them? What do we have to lose? Why vote for any candidate who does not support reciprocity for those who vote for him or her? That's just stupid.

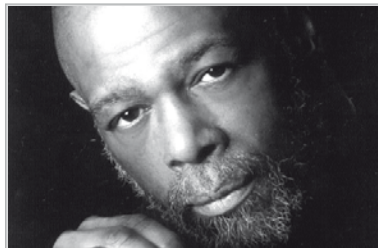
We must stop accepting the hypocrisy of candidates who say one thing and do another; we must not get sidetracked by arguments among political hacks and commentators that mean absolutely nothing to us in the scheme of things. We must stop doing our best impression of Pavlov's dog when they come to call on us. If nothing is funny, don't laugh; if you are not itching, don't scratch. We must change the silly way we deal with politics by collectively leveraging something of substance in return for our votes. If we don't change, the hucksters, Black ones and White ones, will always win.

Join the One Million Conscious Black Voters and Contributors and let's make a real difference this time.

James Clingman is the nation's most prolific writer on economic empowerment for Black people. His latest book, Black Dollars Matter! Teach your dollars how to make more sense, is available on his website, Blackonomics.com.

Spiritually Speaking

Drop and Give Me 20



James Washington
Guest Columnist

There is a perspective prevalent in our faith that our suffering is an integral part of God's plan to ready us for the struggle of spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. Depending on your point of view you might think that to be a fact of faith. I just don't believe it's always true. However, I do believe suffering in some ways is a prerequisite for strengthening one's spiritual muscle. Like Jesus in the desert, you do have to

get ready for what's in store for you travelling down God's path. For me it's always been hard to respect the opinion of someone who has led the so called "charmed life" or, someone who was born with the proverbial silver spoon in a cavity free mouth. It's hard, if not impossible (for me), to listen to someone talk with certainty about things they've never seen or places they've never been. My belief is that God teaches in a manner few of us will ever truly understand. I believe that when He chooses you, when it's your time, He has a unique way of communicating who's really in charge. And, if the truth be told, only He is. Experience has taught me that when God is talking to you, eventually you come to know it. Your recognition of this can come with a price, if you get my meaning.

Take notes on this. "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but (rather) painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it." Hebrews 12:11. As far as I'm concerned, we're all in training, believe it or not, to fight in God's war. Whether being forged in a fiery furnace or stuck in a tailspin of perceived despair and hopelessness, each one of us is being battle tested in anticipation that one day, we will be called to arms. This struggle, these experiences, they bring about wisdom; a spiritual wisdom from a spiritual perspective that I believe we are commanded to share. It's called testimony! Otherwise, God keeps you in a perpetual classroom where life constantly gives you a new place to go to the bathroom. You haven't learned any-

thing, so life keeps kicking your... well, you get the picture. When you finally realize the one trying to tell you something is God, then a wondrous thing begins to happen. You listen more intently and learn more eagerly. Like the child who discovers walking leads to the joy of running, or the baby who discovers his own hand, the possibilities seem endless. The mind says 'tell me more.' The spirit says 'thank you Jesus.' At that very moment, it my belief that God let's us know we're able to withstand, overcome, rise above and win the battle of carrying the message of salvation. Christ is savior. At that moment, we also move from being in the classroom to being on the battlefield where Satan keeps score. You remember those days back in school when you actually studied and were prepared

for the test? Confidence oozed from you. When God has been the lesson planner, the study partner, the instructor, it doesn't matter how much Satan wants it to be a Net Flix Night. "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him." James 1:12.

Our job then is to recognize and represent; recognize the hell we think we're going through has heaven as its reward. Your struggles are not without purpose. The most important message of the day is to understand who (Jesus) has suffered the most and why. "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom." Luke 12:32. Remember it's already yours.

May God

Commentary, Continued from page 8.

goals and the goals of tens of thousands of other women. Her audacity, her self-possession, her activism were notable during a time when few women, regardless of race, promoted themselves, instead choosing to walk softly and speak quietly. Today, women like Cathy Liggon Hughes (TV/Radio One), Sheila Johnson (co-founder of BET), and Oprah Winfrey stand on her shoulders.

And today, in time for Women's History Month, Madam C.J. Walker's products are making a comeback. Her historic formulas have been modified for contemporary use, with four formulas made available based on hair texture. A'lelia Bundles has been supportive of the line which, as of March 4, is exclusively available at the Sephora cosmetics stores. I've not tried the products yet, but I can't wait to shampoo my hair with a little bit of history, with a product that derives from the formulas of Madam C.J. Walker.

The Madam C.J. Walker story takes on a special significance in these economic times. You may have heard that there has been an economic recovery, but if you are like most people in these United States, you haven't felt it. Incomes have hardly risen since 2009, when our current President took office. Not his fault – but that's not the point. The point is that too many people are hurting, and some of the pain is joblessness.

Barriers to employment entry are high, especially for some young African Americans who, despite similar qualifications to their White counterparts, take much longer to find meaningful and remunerative work. If the labor market won't absorb these young people, African American entrepreneurs, the inheritors of Madam C.J. Walker, must. Where is the business leader who can create tens of thousands of sales agents and provide entrepreneurship opportunities for so many?

African American women are increasingly likely to take up the mantle of Madam C.J. Walker and start businesses. Younger women, especially, are motivated by job markets that they perceive to be unwelcoming. While our colleges teach some educational fundamentals, they ought also be encouraged to teach entrepreneurship. If job market continues to generate an official Black unemployment rate of around ten percent, and an employment population ratio of sixty percent (which means that just 60 percent of the adult population is working – it is closer to 70 percent for whites, then the need for black entrepreneurs is critical. In the name of Madam C.J. Walker, let's keep our entrepreneurial gene thriving!

Data News Weekly is Hiring

Data News Weekly Newspaper,
The People's Paper, is hiring for
positions in our New Orleans Office.

Editor/Reporters

About the Job

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Going Grassless!

By LMG Calla Victoria
Data News Weekly Columnist

Hello all of my fellow gardening enthusiasts! As spring has finally sprung and the garden is coming back alive, and you've taken the covers off the tender vegetation; just before you go high tailing it to your favorite plant sales and nurseries, put together a game plan and that will quale a lot of Impulse shopping.

First take a slow stroll through your garden. Note what did not work during the winter, pockets of ugliness, and what needs to be replaced. From the "pockets of ugliness" you noticed during the winter you now know that you will need some evergreen foundation shrubs like camellias, jasmine, or evergreen trees there so that



dening Group I joined and love. Well, I decided to do the sheet mulching.

The process of sheet mulching entails covering the grass with cardboard. The cardboard blocks the grass from getting sun thereby thwarting the grass' ability to photosynthesize thus causing the grass to die. I made many trips to the back lots of dollar stores to get boxes, and it was not until I began this process that I realized how large my backyard really was. After many trips to dollars stores all of the grass was finally covered. Then the cardboard was covered with leaf mulching making the process not look too sloppy and keeps the cardboard in place. So now I needed leaves, lots of leaves! I contacted a dear friend of mine who lives on an oak tree lined street and she would inform me when the landscapers were out racking leaves, so I was out scavenging bags of leaves. Even though this process is a little more time consuming, I like the fact that now I can work at my own pace as with reference to planting out my new grassless garden. I can plant a small area, and the rest of the yard is just covered with mulch. Another benefit of this technique is that when the cardboard and leaves breakdown they become compost making your soil even richer.

The first step now is to put my garden design on paper and lay out the pathways through my garden. Then I will place my existing plant material in various locations to see what works, some of which has to be moved as they have outgrown their current locations. I want to add to my existing orchard, shade garden and veggie garden. I will deal with privacy issues by strategically planting trees and climbing vines. And everything will be planted adding some slow-release fertilizer, a pre-emergent weed killer, soaker hoses for irrigation, and solar lighting. I will keep you guys posted on the progress.

Check out my Gardening Tip of the Week at www.thegardeningdiva.com

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Remember, never get too busy to stop and enjoy the beautiful flowers!



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your garden is lovely year around. Then take inventory of what is already in your backyard and how you plan to build on that. Write down your plan and plant selections based on your needs.

Well dear friends I have decided to go grassless! That's right I have sworn off grass in my backyard, who really needs it and why do I have to keep paying someone to cut it when I could have more area to plant something interesting. Grassless backyards are fast becoming the rage because of minimal maintenance required, and contrary to what you might think grassless yards can be quite lush as you can see from the image above. In my front yard I will be replacing the St. Augustine grass with dwarf mondo grass. It

is a lovely deep green color and stays that way year round and only grows a couple of inches tall, so no cutting is required and it always looks like a lush green carpet.

But back to my massive backyard which is 60ft by 90ft. In order to get rid of the existing grass there was I had two choices. First, I could have someone come over with a sod cutter and remove all of the grass which was #1 costly, and #2 after all of the sod was gone I would then be on a time clock as to getting plants in the ground before the grass started growing again. The second choice was sheeting mulching which was the suggestion of one of the garden group members on New Orleans Plant and Swap, a Facebook Gar-



Cover Story/ Continued from page 2.



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