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THROUGH THE STORM

After Hurricane Sandy left Daria Rose, 18, and her family homeless in 2012, the high school sophomore threw herself into her schoolwork as an escape. The payoff? Rose, who graduated in May, was **accepted to the seven Ivy League schools** to which she applied. She'll attend Harvard in the fall.

3 CLOSING THE GAP

New Orleans has seen big improvements in its education system since Hurricane Katrina. According to Educate Now, a nonprofit for education reform, underperforming schools with large Black populations saw their **average ACT score rise by two points since 2005**. The dropout rate among high school students in the city has fallen to 4 percent from 11 percent.

4 SETTING THE STANDARD

Communities with high numbers of Black-owned businesses are **more likely to have lower rates of violence among Black youth**, finds a recent study by the Urban Affairs Review. Researchers suspect that the correlation is due to the presence of positive role models and an increase in job opportunities for teens.

5 BLACK GIRL MAGIC

After noticing that her 7-year-old daughter Natalie was frustrated with her natural hair, Florida native Angela Nixon encouraged her to create a hair-positive comic book, *The Adventures of Moxie Girl*. It centers on a Black girl who uses her hair's superpowers to save a library from destruction. Natalie and her mother later entered it into a local competition, where **the comic won first place and a cash prize of more than \$16,000**. The money will be used to publish and sell the book nationwide.



“To the youth of the city, I will seek justice on your behalf. This is a moment. This is your moment. Let’s ensure we have peaceful and productive rallies that will develop structural and systemic changes for generations to come. You’re at the forefront of this cause, and as young people, our time is now.”

—Baltimore State’s Attorney Marilyn Mosby, at a May press conference where she announced that six officers would be charged in the death of Freddie Gray.

6



POLITICAL STAR

In April, 37-year-old Deesha Dyer was named the **White House’s new social secretary**, putting her in charge of coordinating presidential events, such as the White House Governors’ Ball, alongside First Lady Michelle Obama. The Philly native, who dropped out of college to pursue community advocacy and hip-hop journalism, returned to school before landing an internship at the White House just six years ago. She is the second Black woman in history to hold the job.

8 ON THE RISE

Black women-owned businesses are growing steadily. According to a report by American Express Open and Womenable, an organization dedicated to women’s entrepreneurship, there were **1,237,900 businesses owned by Black women in 2014**, a 296 percent jump since 1997. Our businesses today employ 287,100 workers and generate a whopping \$49.5 billion for the U.S. economy.

9 HISTORY MAKER

When Julieanna Richardson was a student, she noticed a void in Black archival and oral history. After college, she founded The HistoryMakers, a nonprofit that has compiled **the nation’s largest sound and video archive of African-American stories**. The collection is currently housed in the Library of Congress, and earlier this year, Brandeis University received a \$50,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation that will help expand The HistoryMakers’ reach to colleges across the country.



“If a little girl from North Carolina, who used to tell her grandfather in the fields to lift her up on the back of his mule so she could see, ‘Way up high, Granddaddy,’ can become the chief law enforcement officer of the United States of America, then we can do anything.”

—Attorney General Loretta Lynch, during her induction ceremony in April.



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