Xavier University to Host Traveling Panel Exhibition on Domestic Slave Trade

Newsmaker
Kamala Harris Announces 2020 Run for Presidency

State & Local
NOLA Film Business is Booming
Xavier University of Louisiana to Host Traveling Panel Exhibition on Domestic Slave Trade

“Purchased Lives: The American Slave Trade from 1808 to 1865” will be hosted by Xavier University of Louisiana beginning Monday, Jan. 21, 2019 through Feb. 28, 2019.

The portable panel display will be on view on the first floor of the Xavier University Library Resource Center, 7525 Dixon St., during regular Library hours (7:30 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. Sun-Thur.) (Fri. 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

Cover Story, Continued on page 3.
“Purchased Lives” examines the period between America’s 1808 abolition of the international slave trade and the end of the Civil War, during which an estimated two million people were forcibly moved among the nation’s states and territories.

Purchased Lives: A Human Story
The display is made up of 10 panels, which allows it to travel more widely. The informative yet vibrant design will feature reproductions of period artifacts such as broadsides, paintings and prints illustrating the domestic slave trade.
Senator Kamala Harris Announces Her Run For President In 2020

The California Senator announced her bid on Martin Luther King Jr. Day with the campaign theme “For the people.”

United States Senator Kamala Harris (D CA)

Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) announced Monday that she will be running for president in 2020.

The theme of Harris’ campaign will be “For the people,” and she is expected to formally announce her candidacy in a speech on Jan. 27 in Oakland, California.

The senator previewed her announcement in an interview with ABC’s “Good Morning America” on Monday, and her campaign released a short introductory video.

“I love my country,” Harris told ABC. “This is a moment in time that I feel a sense of responsibility to stand up and fight for the best of who we are.”

She added: “My entire career has been focused on keeping people safe. It is probably one of the things that motivates me more than anything else. And when I look at this moment in time, I know that the American people deserve to have someone who is going to fight for them.”

Harris recently published a memoir, The Truths We Hold: An American Journey, that dove into many of the messages she is expected to focus on during her campaign. In the book, she describes her upbringing in Oakland as a daughter of immigrants from India and Jamaica, and her personal history going from prosecutor to district attorney to senator.

According to a Harris aide, her priorities in the campaign will be addressing the cost of living, pushing for a more just society, expanding access to better quality of life and restoring dignity and responsibility to public office. Issues like immigration, education and criminal justice reform are expected to feature prominently in her agenda.

Elected to the Senate in 2016, Harris made history as the first Indian-American to serve in the body, as well as just the second black woman. As attorney general of California for six years, she was the first woman, African-American and Indian-American in that role.

Harris announced her presidential bid on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and her campaign’s logo and color scheme draw inspiration from the 1972 presidential bid of Shirley Chisholm, the first black woman to run for the presidency from one of the major parties.

“My parents were very active in the civil rights movement, and that’s the language that I grew up hearing,” Harris told ABC on Monday. “It was about a belief that we are a country that was founded on noble ideals and we are the best of who we are when we fight to achieve those ideals.”

The thing about Dr. King that always inspires me is he was aspirational,” she continued. “He was aspirational like our country is aspirational. We know that we have not yet reached those ideals, but our strength is that we fight to reach those ideals.”

Harris is expected to make her first campaign stop in one of the early states on Friday, in Columbia, South Carolina. She is slated to speak at the Pink Ice Gala, a major event held by the local chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. Harris was a member of the sorority during her time at Howard University.

Data News Weekly is Hiring

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

Editor/Reporters

About the Job

Journalists — tired of reading of layoffs, closings, the dire straights of the profession? Recent college graduates — think your job prospects are bleak? Not with us!

At Data News Weekly, we are expanding! This includes starting a print newspaper/digital endeavor in one of the most dynamic and exciting cities, New Orleans.

If you want to be an integral part of your community, tell stories in a multi-media environment — look no further.

If interested, send your resume, cover letter and at least three clips of your work to Terry Jones Publisher, Data News Weekly, 3501 Napoleon Ave, New Orleans, LA 70125, or via email to terrybjones@bellsouth.net. or call (504) 821-7421.
U.S. Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., encouraged New Orleans Public School children to stand up for what they believe is right when he delivered keynote remarks at the Project LIVE & Achieve Rally on Jan. 18, 2019. Along with U.S. Rep. Cedric Richmond, D-New Orleans, the Congressmen, invited by InspireNOLA Charter Schools, addressed over 5000 students for the annual event that coincides with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and encourages non-violence, community engagement, and academic achievements. As the first African-American U.S. Senator elected from New Jersey, Booker spoke on staying true to his background, his morals, and taking action to fight injustices in this nation.

“I would leave this job tomorrow, if it meant violating my core values,” Booker told a smaller group of honor students just before his address at Xavier University’s Convocation Center. He shared with students that he is likely the only United States Senator to currently live in an inner city. The Newark native said that he continues to live in his city’s Central Ward in order to continue to stay humble and gain inspiration from the people right outside his door. This connection with his community allows him to stay committed to addressing the challenges of the people who elected him, even while he represents them in Washington, D.C.

“It’s where you come from that shapes who you are,” said Richmond, echoing Booker’s sentiments about the importance of speaking up for those who he serves as an elected official.

The impact of politics on ordinary people could not be clearer as the government has passed 27 days into the shutdown, Booker said, addressing President Donald Trump’s demand for funding for a Southern border wall. Booker urged students not to let the actions of others distract them, but instead to let it further push them to fight for what they believe in.

“The power of the people outweighs those in power,” Booker said.

He encouraged young people to not consider their age, but to get out, and to take action for change that brings equality and justice for everyone in the nation. “I want a reignition of the moral ideals in this country,” Booker said, and he hopes that this generation can end police brutality, racial profiling, and systemic discrimination that contribute to daily injustices for African-Americans. Booker said it was easy to become complacent about injustice, and it is that complacency that allows discrimination to continue. He said he believes that real change can only occur when citizens challenge those who govern to make change.

“Never ever believe your one voice is not enough; no matter who you are, you can make a difference,” said Booker, as he addressed students on the ground level from the main stage. He evoked Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. reminding students that all of humanity is connected and “Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly,” Booker said quoting King. He told students that just as King’s generation did before, young people are capable of taking action to achieve a more equal and just society. He urged students to get involved today, but on their own terms.

“Never let someone tell you what you should do to make a difference,” Booker said. He then added, “If it is to be, it is up to me.”

New Jersey Senator Cory Booker addresses InspireNOLA students for Project LIVE & Achieve Rally on Jan. 18, 2019. (Photos by Kotey Thomas)
NOLA Celebrates MLK Day 2019 – “Remember, Celebrate, Act”

Photos by Kichea S. Burt
Data News Contributor

On Monday, New Orleans came out to celebrate the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Day in a big way. Events included an opening program at the New Orleans Jazz Market, featuring speaker The Honorable Marc H. Morial, President and CEO of the National Urban League and former Mayor of New Orleans. The program was followed by the Official March, beginning at Oretha Castle Haley Blvd. and ending at A.L. Davis Park and ended with the “Remember, Celebrate, Act” MLK Day of Play which lasted until 3:00 p.m. at A.L. Davis Park. What a wonderful way to pay tribute to Dr. King, and of course, Data was there.

Data News Weekly is Hiring

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

Sales Manager/Retail Ad Manager

About the Job

Data News Weekly Newspaper is the leading African American media company in New Orleans, publishing a weekly newspaper. Additionally, its website under ladatanews.com is the most read Black website in the region.

We are currently seeking a strong leader to proactively manage broad aspects of the advertising division. You will be working in a positive team-oriented atmosphere which has a modern press, leading website and award-winning newspaper.

Responsibilities include but not limited to:
• Prospect and develop sales leads for print and digital product lines
• Drive online and cross platform advertising sales
• Identify, create strategies, develop influential contacts, and help close new digital products
• Increase overall revenue opportunities in both print and online
• Develop a team sales atmosphere

Our ideal candidate will possess the following education, skills and experience:
• Minimum 5 years print and digital sales and manager experience
• Self-starter, capable of executing within all phases of sales cycle
• Strong relationship building and client service background
• Strong organizational, communication and presentation skills
• Team player and leader
• Understanding of Analytics and ad serving technology
• Strong motivational skills
• Recruit talent

Our company provides a competitive salary, and an environment that encourages personal and professional growth. We are an equal opportunity employer.

If you are interested in a rewarding career, email a cover letter and resume to: terrybjones@bellsouth.net or mail to: Data News Weekly, c/o Terry Jones, Publisher, 3501 Napoleon Avenue, New Orleans LA 70125
Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events.
The Next Attorney General Must Enforce Civil Rights Laws. William Barr Won’t

In light of this Administration’s relentless attacks on the enforcement of our civil rights laws, our nation desperately needs and deserves an Attorney General who is committed to that mission and to our country’s ongoing progress toward equal justice and racial equality.

For the past two years, the Justice Department has been led by an Attorney General intent on restricting civil and human rights at every turn. From rolling back voting rights enforcement to reverting to failed and harmful criminal justice policies, Attorney General Jeff Sessions used his office to carry out the extreme, anti-civil rights agenda he had advanced for decades in the U.S. Senate.

The nation needs an Attorney General who will dramatically change course and enforce federal civil rights laws with vigor and independence. Based on his alarming record, we are convinced that William Barr will not do so. Indeed, in a recent op-ed, Mr. Barr called Jeff Sessions “an outstanding attorney general” and offered praise for his anti-civil rights policies. It’s clear Mr. Barr intends to follow the same regressive roadmap Jeff Sessions has drawn.

In comments to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights last month, we raised the following concerns about the Justice Department’s civil rights actions under Sessions:

- Overturning a memo from former Attorney General Eric Holder aimed at reducing mass incarceration by avoiding mandatory sentencing. Sessions instead ordered federal prosecutors to seek the maximum criminal charges possible.
- Proposing to eliminate the Community Relations Service, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1964 – a key tool that addresses discrimination and community conflicts.
- Announcing the Justice Department’s “school safety” plan, which that militarizes schools, overpolices students, and disproportionately harms students of color.

Ordering a sweeping review of consent decrees with law enforcement agencies relating to police conduct – a crucial tool in the Justice Department’s efforts to ensure constitutional and accountable policing. The department also tried, unsuccessfully, to block a federal court in Baltimore from approving a consent decree between the city and the Baltimore Police Department to rein in discriminatory police practices that the department itself had negotiated over a multi-year period.

Arguing that it should be easier for states to purge registered voters from their rolls – reversing not only its longstanding legal interpretation, but also the position it had taken in the lower courts in that case.

Mr. Barr has a troubling record that tells us that there will be no redress of the Sessions’ blunders on civil rights.

African Americans face racial bias at every stage of the justice process, are more likely to be stopped by the police, more likely to be detained while awaiting trial, are charged with more serious crimes for the same offenses and sentenced more harshly than white people.

In 2018, after years of arduous work, we finally saw enactment of bipartisan legislation that finally begins to reform our criminal justice system through the First Step Act and the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018. William Barr’s record on criminal justice places these achievements at serious risk and gives us no confidence that these hard-fought reforms would be implemented.

Cash and King and Justice

“Hey Porter.” That same year, historians began recording King’s every word after he began the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Cash’s song asked a train porter, “How long before we cross the Mason Dixon Line?” Meanwhile, King was trying to eradicate the residue of slavery and Jim Crow that came with that line.

1965 saw Cash’s “I Walk the Line” on the radio airwaves and Dr. King was walking the line too, but his brother was literally cut in half.

Cash and King understood that the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.

— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
By Charlene Crowell  
NNPA Newswire Columnist

For many consumers, the New Year brings an annual effort to file taxes early enough to help pay off big bills, replace major appliances or tuck away a few bucks for the proverbial ‘rainy day’. With a continuing federal shutdown, this year there are also an estimated 800,000 federal workers who have not had a payday since December. For these consumers, an early tax refund could cover basic living needs like housing, food, child care and utilities. And across the country, advertising – particularly on urban radio – tempts listeners with easy ways to get a loan against anticipated tax refunds. But just like other predatory lending products, what is advertised is not quite what consumers receive. Convenient tax-related loans almost always come with a price that takes a big bite out of consumers’ money.

The bigger the refund, the more attention and helpful “tax preparers” will be in helping with e-filing, the electronic processing that typically results in refunds in two to three business days. Once the refund reaches the consumer’s bank account, either a prepaid card or a check is issued by the depository institution and once again, fees taken out of the refund reduce the amount of monies that consumers actually receive.

Neither product is as helpful as they appear.

RALs are usually marketed as an ‘advance’ instead of a loan. Instead of interest, many of these loans come with “fees” or a “finance charge.” Conversely, a Refund Anticipation Check or RAC is sold as a temporary bank account that exists exclusively to receive the IRS refund. Once the refund reaches the consumer’s bank account, either a prepaid card or a check is issued by the depository institution. And once again, fees taken out of the refund reduce the amount of monies that consumers actually receive.

Barr’s 1992 book, “The Case for More Incarceration,” argued that the country was “incarcerating too few criminals.” Barr led efforts in Virginia to abolish parole, build more prisons, and increase prison sentences by as much as 700 percent.

The Attorney General has a duty to defend our nation’s most critical laws; to protect the rights and liberties of all Americans; and to serve as an essential independent check on the excesses of an Administration. The evidence is overwhelmingly clear that William Barr is unfit to serve as chief enforcer of our civil rights laws.

As Attorney General under George H.W. Bush, Barr pursued harsh criminal justice policies that escalated mass incarceration and the founding “war on drugs.” More recently and alarmingly, he has supported mandatory minimum sentences and latitude for abusive police officers.

The biggest target for both of these products are consumers with the largest refunds, especially those who are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credits (EITCs), one of the few tax break programs available to low-to-moderate income consumers, and/or the Additional Child Tax Credit.

To be eligible for EITC, earned income and adjusted gross income can be as low as $15,270 for a single filer or head of household to as high as $54,884 for a married couple with three dependent children. This year, eligible EITC consumers could receive as much as $6,431 for families with three or more qualifying children to $3,593 for single filers.

Similarly, the Child Tax Credit is available to eligible filers with children under the age of 17. For each dependent child meeting the age requirement, filers receive a $2,000 credit that like EITC reduces the amount of taxes owed.

In 2017, 1.7 million RALs were sold, and another 20.5 million RACs valued at a half billion dollars were also sold, according to the National Consumer Law Center (NCLC).

“Tax-time is hard enough for most Americans, but they also face consumer protection challenges,” noted Chi Chi Wu, staff attorney at the National Consumer Law Center. “They need to avoid incompetent and abusive preparers and decide whether to choose financial products of varying costs.”

So much financial sense does it make to purchase an ‘advance’ or open a temporary bank account when the Internal Revenue Service can deposit the full refund into a checking account within two to three business days? Just because a refund-advance product isn’t called a loan, or doesn’t have an interest rate, doesn’t mean it’s free, said Scott Astrada, the Center for Responsible Lending’s Director of Federal Advocacy. “Carefully read the terms and conditions and ask plenty of questions.”

Everyone who works for a living should be entitled not only to a paycheck but 100 percent of their tax refunds. Charlene Crowell is the Center for Responsible Lending’s Communications Deputy Director. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

Commentary, Continued from page 8.

www.ladatanews.com January 26 - February 1, 2019
NEW ORLEANS -- The City of New Orleans is excited about recent good news in the local film industry, including award honors for “Green Book,” the fact-based historical drama shot in New Orleans in 2018. The film earned Golden Globe awards in January for Best Motion Picture, Best Screenplay and Best Supporting Actor (Mahershala Ali), as well as a Critics’ Choice Award for Best Supporting Actor (Ali).

“Green Book,” directed by Peter Farrelly, is based on the true story of the friendship between an Italian American (Viggo Mortensen) and African American (Ali), addressing themes of racism and tolerance at the height of the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s-era Deep South.

The City of New Orleans is proud to have played a role in bringing this important film to the screen.

“The film industry in New Orleans -- a vital part of the Hollywood industry -- continues to grow and provide job opportunities for local residents. In 2018, New Orleans served host to 51 film and television projects, whose productions spent $670 million in New Orleans,” said Film New Orleans Interim Director Carroll Morton. “The revenue generated by the industry goes to pay local vendors, caterers and actors, including the rental of venues, spaces and studios. Most significantly, an average of 85 percent of the film crews, which can be seen all over the city, feature local residents. The film industry in New Orleans is not a Hollywood industry; it is a local industry that shows no signs of slowing down in 2019.”

The City is also announced that New Orleans has been named one of the “Best Small Cities to Live and Work in the Film Industry” for the second year in a row by Moviemaker Magazine. Television series such as “Queen Sugar,” “NCIS: New Orleans,” “Claws” and “Cloak” and the Netflix film “Power” have helped maintain the city’s position as a top choice for productions.

Data Staff Report

A Sunday night item explaining a rule that, in theory, gives the Commissioner the power to order a do-over as the remedy for extraordinary unfair outcomes apparently has fueled one lawsuit, and counting.

Via WDSU.com, a New Orleans lawyer has filed a lawsuit seeking to compel Commissioner Roger Goodell to invoke Rule 17 of the official rulebook and replay the balance of the NFC Championship game from the moment Rams defensive back Nickell Robey-Coleman wiped out, without consequence, Saints receiver Tommylee Lewis before a pass intended for Lewis arrived.

Frank D’Amico, also has issued a press release that copies and pastes extensively from the original PFT story on the issue, without attribution. (Hopefully, D’Amico’s legal skills far exceed his PR abilities.)

A Lafayette law firm separately has informed the NFL that litigation over the outcome could be coming. Lawsuits like this very rarely prevail. But the league will have to do some ifs and cross some ts to get out of this one, especially since D’Amico’s lawsuit undoubtedly will seek emergency relief aimed at forcing the Rams and Saints to reconvene in New Orleans for the final 149 of regulation, with the score tied at 20 and the Saints having a first down just inside the L.A. five.

Given that the lawsuit has been filed in Louisiana state court, the publicly-elected local judges may be inclined to take a more favorable look at this, forcing the NFL to potentially scramble through appeals courts and/or federal courts to avoid what could start as a half-joke and quickly become a deadly-serious problem for the league. At a minimum, a state-court judge could force the NFL to emerge from hiding and answer pointed questions about what happened on Sunday, when Rule 17 applies, and why it shouldn’t apply here.
Sony Drops R. Kelly Amid Allegations from Epic Intern

Sony Music bowed to pressure from activists on Friday when the company and its label RCA dropped R. Kelly two weeks after a disturbing documentary called renewed attention to the singer’s long history of alleged abuse, multiple outlets have reported, citing sources with knowledge of the matter.

The move also comes as one of Kelly’s accusers, Tracy Sampson, gave a new interview to NBC’s “Dateline” to share her alarming story. Sampson and the singer sexually abused her beginning when she was 16 years old and working as an intern for Epic Records, which is also owned by Sony.

“I just didn’t know what to do. Like, I didn’t know if this was normal. I didn’t know if this is how adults acted,” she said on the program.

Kelly has denied any wrongdoing.

The appeal was filed by three New York residents and New York’s National Rifle Association could signal a revived interest in gun rights by a more conservative court. The case won’t be argued until October.

The challengers are represented by prominent lawyer Paul Clement, who has been urging the justices to elaborate on the extent of constitutional gun rights the Supreme Court declared in decisions in 2008 and 2010. The court had previously rejected several appeals.

Clement says the court should “reaffirm that those decisions and the constitutional text have consequences.”

This space can be yours for only $80

CALL NOW!!!

504-821-7421
This moment brought to you by dad.

Take time to be a dad today.

fatherhood.gov

#DadJokesRule