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New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

**The Tremé
Sidewalk Steppers
Celebrate their
25th Annual
Second-Line**

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive



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Southern University and the Pursuit of Black Excellence

A Look Inside the Only Historically Black University System in America



Southern University in Baton Rouge continues in its role advocating for equality; training leaders at its Nelson Mandela School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs.

Edwin Buggage Editor

Southern University has more than 130 years of excellence in higher education. From its beginning to the present day it sits at the forefront of educational institutions in the State of Louisiana; their faculty, students, and alumni have positively impacted society at every level.

It continues to produce graduates that are leaders in many fields of endeavor and lighting the

road to freedom, justice and equality.

Southern University and A&M College System also holds the distinction of being the only historically Black university system in America.

When accounting for all five campuses throughout Louisiana which includes, Southern University, Baton Rouge, Southern University, New Orleans, Southern University Law Center, Southern University, Shreveport and the Southern University Agricultural Re-

search and Extension Center, total enrollment exceeds more than 15,000 students coming from 46 states and from at least 40 foreign countries.

Southern University A&M (Baton Rouge) The Early Years and the continuing the spirit of black excellence.

What began as a dream more than 136 years ago is today a living legacy of determination, commitment, and success. The Southern University and A&M College System is the only historically Black

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university system in the United States.

Southern University and A&M College (often referred to as Southern University, Southern, SUBR or SU) is a public Historically Black College University (HBCU) in the Scotlandville area of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The campus encompasses 512 acres, with an agricultural experimental station on an addition-

life would have been like", said Tucker. Continuing he says, "Today kids have many more opportunities and access to education, but there are still those who are like Bill Tucker who arrived at Southern in 1969 looking for an opportunity for a better life and Southern provided that for me with a supportive staff, faculty and administration."

ates and has one of the nation's most racially diverse law schools.

The mission and tradition of the Law Center continues to provide access and opportunity to a diverse group of students from under-represented racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups to obtain a high-quality legal education with special emphasis on the Louisiana Civil Law. Additionally, their mission is

diverse approach to preparing and educating its students to leading the way to educational and professional success. Southern University at Shreveport in its over 50 years is committed to ensuring they leave an indelible footprint in our community and beyond.

It also holds the distinction as the only HBCU Comprehensive Community College in Louisiana,

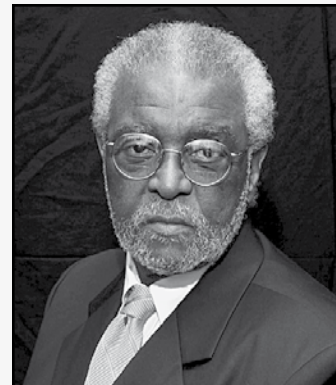
cess to traditional students in the New Orleans Metropolitan Area, it has long educated non-traditional, working adults."

SUNO continues to be important to New Orleans in so many ways explain Bishop, "Simply put, if there weren't an institution like SUNO, we would need to build one today. It provides quality educational opportunities to both traditional



Left: Members of the Southern University Law Center first graduating class of 1950 became much-needed additions to the legal arena, for African-Americans. Pictured from left are Alex L. Pitcher, Leroy White, Ellyson F. Dyson, Jesse Stone, and Alvin B. Jones

Right: The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SUAREC) was established on July 1, 2001, Programs in the Center focus on, but are not limited to, the following areas: Sustainable Agricultural System, Nutrition & Health, Family & Human Development, Urban Forestry & Natural Resources, Economic & Community Development.



Bill Tucker, who serves as a member of the Southern University System Foundation, Board of Directors where he chairs its Investment Committee. He is a member of the University Club, a charter member of the 1880 Society, and a life member of the Southern University Alumni Federation.



SUNO continues to be important to New Orleans in so many ways explains Wesley Bishop, who presently serves as Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs and is a SUNO Graduate, "SUNO provides quality educational opportunities to both traditional college aged students and adult learners. The majority of African-Americans who have bachelor's degrees in New Orleans earned their degrees at SUNO."

al 372-acre site, five miles north of the main campus.

The university is the largest HBCU in Louisiana. The history of Southern University is one founded by a race of people striving for equality and a chance to live with human dignity, full equality and access to opportunities that an education would afford them after the end of the Civil War during the Reconstruction Period. This tradition continues to this day.

An example of this living spirit is Bill Tucker, who serves as a member of the Southern University System Foundation, Board of Directors where he chairs its Investment Committee. He is a member of the University Club, a charter member of the 1880 Society, and a life member of the Southern University Alumni Federation.

In addition, he is a graduate of Southern University who is a venture capitalist who believes the early investment in his potential at an HBCU planted the seeds to him being successful. Today, he invests his time and resources to help young people get a quality education.

"HBCU's continue to be important and if it were not for Southern University providing me with the opportunity for an education, I don't know what my

Freedom and a Matter of Color: A History of Southern University Law Center (Baton Rouge)

On December 16, 1946, in response to a lawsuit by an African-American resident seeking to attend law school at a state institution, the Louisiana State Board of Education took "positive steps to establish a law school for Negroes at Southern University to be in operation for the 1947-1948 session."

Plans for the law school were approved by the State Board of Education at its January 10, 1947, meeting. On June 14, 1947, the Board of Liquidation of State Debt appropriated \$40,000 for the operation of the school. The Southern University Law School was officially opened in September 1947 to provide legal education for African-American students.

Southern University Law Center graduates, beginning with the legendary civil rights attorney, political leader, and educator, Jesse N. Stone, Jr., Alvin Basile Jones, Leroy White, Ellyson Fredrick Dyson, and Alex Louis Pitcher of the Class of 1950, have spread across the state and nation as trailblazers in the legal profession, securing equal rights for others. To date, the Law Center has more than 2,500 gradu-

ates to train a cadre of lawyers equipped with the skills necessary for the practice of law and for positions of leadership in society.

Expanding its Vision and Mission: SU Agricultural Research and Extension Center (Baton Rouge)

Founded in 2001 in Baton Rouge, Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center's, mission is to conduct basic and applied research, disseminate information to Louisiana residents and to help them address their scientific, technical, social, economic and cultural needs.

The Ag Center encompasses the Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives, the Center for Small Farm Research, the Cooperative Extension Program, the SU Livestock Show and its state-of-the-art arena, and a 385-acre agricultural research facility.

Giving Educational Opportunities to All: SUSLA (Shreveport) Boasts Being the only HBCU in Louisiana

Founded in Shreveport in 1964 SUSLA is an institute which its mission ranges from community workforce training or preparing students for four-year schools. With its

SUSLA serves an ever-growing population of full-time and part-time students. At SUSLA, they offer a high-quality education and opportunities for our students which in turn contributes to the vibrancy of our local, state, national and global economic community.

SUNO Continuing to Build Bridges of Opportunity

SUNO has been a jewel to the New Orleans Community educating and producing city leaders in many fields of endeavor. Located on a 17-acre site located in Historic Pontchartrain Park, a sub-division of primarily African-American single-family residences in Eastern New Orleans.

Wesley Bishop knows this campus well, where he was once Student Body President and today where he serves as Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs; a post he has held for over two-decades.

Speaking of the history and importance of Southern University at New Orleans he says, "As the only Public, Historically Black College/University (HBCU) in the City of New Orleans, Southern University at New Orleans provides an awesome education in a small-class, nurturing environment. While it's primary focus is to provide ac-

college aged students and adult learners. The majority of African-Americans who have bachelor's degrees in New Orleans earned their degrees at SUNO. Think about it - your teachers and superintendents, business people, police officers and chiefs, first responders, social workers, college chancellors, lawyers, judges and law school deans - all got their start at 6400 Press Drive.

HBCU's and the Pursuit of Black Excellence

HBCU's are beacons of light that lead to the road of freedom, justice and equality for African-Americans. They are sacred institutions that must be preserved.

HBCU's continue to shape the pursuit of black excellence. A fact not lost on Bishop, "My experience as a student at Southern University at New Orleans embodied me with the belief that nothing was beyond my grasp and that all dreams could be achieved. It shaped my belief in black excellence by exposing me to HBCU faculty and graduates who had excelled in every field of endeavor. That experience let me know that it was possible for me to succeed as well and now I am passing that on to the next generation of students."

Saints Fans Protest with Black and Gold Boycott Bowl

Story & Photos by
Hannah Joy Shareef
Data News Weekly
Contributor

For the Who Dat Nation, black and gold symbolized unity when thousands of fans gathered across the city to show their festive anger towards the NFL. In true New Orleans style, Saints fans swarmed into massive second-line parades throughout the city while singing “we got robbed.” To release anger and frustration, they turned New Orleans into a celebratory funeral from Jackson Square to the French Quarters on Sunday, Feb. 3rd. Instead of watching the Super Bowl, local New Orleans performers hosted a concert throughout the day at the intersection of Fulton and Lafayette Streets in support of Colin Kaepernick and what they felt was



Parade conductor leads black and gold fans down North Peters Street while chanting “O’Cheated but not Defeated” on Sunday, Feb. 3, 2019.



Local parader is dressed in his Mardi Gras Indian suit for the Black and Gold Second-Line Parade on Sunday, Feb. 3, 2019.

DBE OPPORTUNITY

Transdev North America, current operator of New Orleans regional transit services is looking for certified disadvantaged businesses to join our RFP Submission team.

In response to The Regional Transit Authority's RFP: “Performance-based Transit Services Operations and Maintenance” #2019-005, Transdev invites DBEs certified in security, janitorial, maintenance, paratransit, training, suppliers of goods, and other areas, to attend an information session at the time below:

DATE: Tuesday, February 12, 2019
TIME: 10 AM
LOCATION: New Orleans Jazz Market
1436 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd
New Orleans, LA 70113

If you cannot attend the meeting, but would like to be considered for RFP partnership, please visit www.transdevneworleans.com/dbe and complete the requested information by February 12, 2019.



the Saints’ illegitimate loss.

At the Boycott Bowl Concert, artists shared their passion about the city backing their team in defiance of the NFL. “This means that New Orleans can come together no matter what happens,” said singer Sarayah, a New Orleans native and recording artist. “We can do anything, we will continue to shine,” she said.

Adults, children, seniors and pets all celebrated the Who Dat Nation. The Boycott Bowl featured a Choppa-Style Dance Contest, profane remarks about NFL referees, and a second-line that embraced the culture of New Orleans. Later, the city danced and sang the day away to release negative emotions towards the NFL.

Despite the loss of the Saints not going to the Superbowl, New Orleans native and performer Soul Saint, considered a Saints superfan, said he wanted to participate to give back to the community.

Fans also said they wanted to support Quarterback Colin Kaepernick and his stance against racial injustices and police brutality. “The NFL is predominantly Black, everyone should be able to make their own decisions,” said James Alexander, a local vendor.

As long as sports overlook racial injustices, fans said they believe players will continue to use their platforms to fight for equality. “I think we should continue to boycott the NFL until they make some changes,” said Keva Holiday, a performer at the Boycott Bowl



Parade-goers participated in dancing in the street as they head to the French Quarters on Sunday, Feb. 3, 2019.



Sarayah and Mina Soul both performed for the Boycott Bowl at Fulton Street on Sunday, Feb. 3, 2019.

Concert. “I’m looking forward to it being an annual event,” she said.

Residents and travelers to New Orleans said that the NFL had lost their integrity because of their silence toward inequalities, and retaliation of players who protest. Even though New Orleans’ teams are often considered underdogs in sports, residents said the heart of the city has a way of unifying people around the world.

“The Saints for New Orleans

takes away racism, discrimination, and sexism. That’s why it’s called the “Who Dat Nation” we bring worlds together,” said Stacy Nixon, a New Orleans native. While supporting the New Orleans Saints, people around the world forget about their race, religion, sex or creed, Nixon said. “We are one, we don’t see color, all we see is black and gold,” she said.

Artist Dedicates Live Painting to NFL Protesters

By Darby Farr
Data News Weekly
Contributor

If not us, who? If not now, when?"

Those words floated in the horizon of the mural painted by New Orleans Artist, Brandan "Bmike" Odums. The mural featured Quarterback Colin Kaepernick in the front wearing his football jersey with his fist held high, safety Eric Reid kneeling to the right of him, and various other scenes of young Black men and women with their fists also held high while the police and angry mobs stand in the background. On Feb. 3, 2019, Odums, the "Queen Sugar" featured visual artist, hosted a live stream as he painted a mural in real time during the Super Bowl. Studio Be on Royal Street opened its doors so that viewers could get an inside look into the making of a mural in solidarity with the players.

"Knowing Kap [Colin Kaepernick] and Eric [Eric Reid]," Odums said, "it's important for them to know that people are with them and that their sacrifices, especially Kap's, are not in vain," he added.

Odums said that he believes art can make such a powerful statement, especially in the Black community, because African-Americans are visual people, continuously communicating through culture, food, music and art. He hopes to be a part of a group of people that will do something to help generations to come, so much so that people will look back in amazement at the impact they made.

It was certainly no coincidence that the live stream painting of the mural took place during halftime of Super Bowl LIII. Odums tweeted earlier that day that he was painting in solidarity with his brothers, Kaepernick and Reid. The quarterback immediately retweeted Odums' live stream to his millions of followers, thanking the artist for his support.



Artist Brandan "Bmike" Odums created a mural live and streamed during Super Bowl LIII on Feb. 3, 2019 in support of players Colin Kaepernick and Eric Reid. (Photos by Darby Farr)

While some Saints fans were protesting the Super Bowl because of a controversial no-call made by a referee, other fans were protesting the NFL because Kaepernick has not been signed to a team, since his refusal to stand during the National Anthem in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.


Sports fans said they remain conflicted about how to support Kaepernick and their love of the game. An uptown New Orleans resident Terri Searcy said that although she supports the painting of the mural and the movement started by Kaepernick, she does not believe that she has to boycott the NFL to show her support. Searcy said that she watches football and will continue to watch football to also support the players, who benefit from a major opportunity to play their sport, at such a large scale.

"I think some people watch it, not just because they're supporting some type of entity or organization, but more so because it makes me feel good or this is the only time I

can be with my family," said Victoria Alexis, a Marrero, LA native and supporter of the mural.

She said she does not watch the NFL; however, she believes that whether or not someone chooses to watch it is a personal choice. Alexis added that even when she worked in sports advertising, she still did not fully support the NFL, but since football is synonymous with America, she does not judge anyone for continuing to watch the NFL. She said she supports Kaepernick like the majority of the Black community because he stood for social and political change. He had the courage to do something that most public figures do not have the courage to do, she said.

"To see someone that's outside of politics that actually cares, inspired all of us to do something different," she said.




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The Tremé Sidewalk Steppers Celebrate their 25th Annual Second-Line

Photos by Kichea S. Burt
Data News Weekly
Contributor

In New Orleans, there is always something to celebrate, and this past Sunday was the prescription to cure what could have been the Super Bowl Blues. But when The Tremé Sidewalk Steppers celebrated their 25th Second-Line, that game was forgotten, and the celebration took over. Queen, Leonzell "Lee" Brown and King Tyron "Tut-tie" were highlights of the parade and the theme "25 years and still strong. Ain't no stopping us now", was the perfect backdrop for the Tremé Sidewalk Steppers and for the City of New Orleans. Congratulations to The Tremé Sidewalk Steppers on your 25th Anniversary Second-Line. And of course, where there is a celebration happening, Data was there!!!



Data News Weekly is Hiring

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

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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.

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- Team player and leader
- Understanding of Analytics and ad serving technology
- Strong motivational skills
- Recruit talent

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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

Best Of The Beat Awards Highlights

Photos by Kichea S. Burt
Data News Weekly
Contributor

OffBeat's Best of The Beat Music Awards! The Best of The Beat is a project of the OffBeat Music and Cultural Arts Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is a co-production of Positive Vibrations Foundation. OffBeat's Best of The Beat Awards held on January 31, 2019, was created to honor local musicians for their contributions to New Orleans and Louisiana music and culture. The Best of The Beat Awards also honors the "behind the scenes" members of the music community: the clubs, businesses, festivals, recording studios and the gamut of music industry businesses who contribute to keeping New Orleans' and the Louisiana's music scene vital, thriving and growing.



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

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Raise the Wage Act Is a Long-Overdue Dose of Economic Reality



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

In a nation that calls itself the land of opportunity, where we claim as a value an honest day's pay for an honest day's work, our dismally insufficient federal minimum wage is practically a crime. That's why the National Urban League has thrown its support behind legislation recently introduced by Rep. Bobby Scott, the Raise the Wage Act of 2019.

The bill would gradually raise the minimum wage to \$15 by 2024, index future minimum wage increases to median wage growth and guarantee that all workers are paid at least the full federal minimum wage by phasing out the subminimum wages for tipped workers, youth workers and workers with disabilities.

Had the minimum wage kept pace with worker productivity since the 1940s, it would be just under \$22 per hour – more than

Nowhere in the entire country can a full-time worker earning the federal or state minimum wage afford a two-bedroom apartment at fair market rent.

One in nine U.S. workers are paid wages that can leave them in poverty, even when working full time.

Over the last 40 years, wages for the lowest-paid workers have barely budged, while wages for the wealthiest have more than tripled.

“In my Inaugural I laid down the simple proposition that nobody is going to starve in this country. It seems to me to be equally plain that no business which depends for existence on paying less than living wages to its workers has any right to continue in this country. By “business” I mean the whole of commerce as well as the whole of industry; by workers I mean all workers, the white collar class as well as the men in overalls; and by living wages I mean more than a bare subsistence level – I mean the wages of decent living.”

– President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, upon signing the National Industrial Recovery Act in 1933

In fact, researchers estimate that a 10 percent increase in the minimum wage would increase sales by around \$2 billion each year.

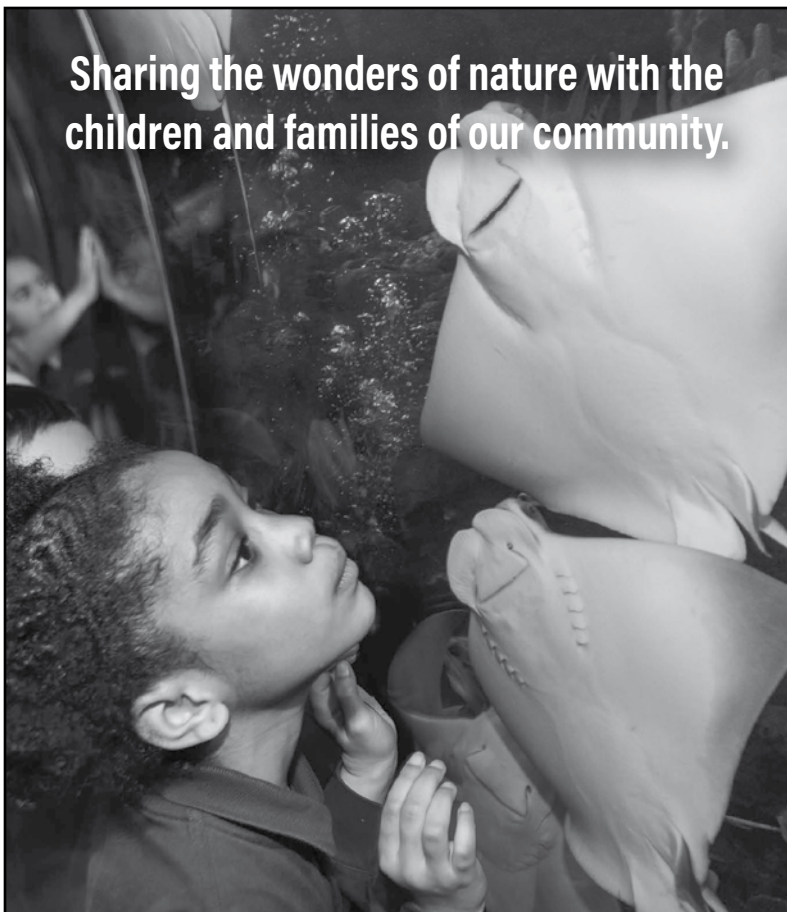
Raising the minimum wage to \$15 by 2024 would lift wages for 41 million American workers, including 40 percent of all African-American workers. The average age of workers who will benefit from the bill is 36.

Contrary to claims by opponents of a fair federal living wage, moderate increases in the minimum wage have little to no impact on employment. A University of California at Berkeley study last year examined the effect of minimum wage increases in six cities and found pay increases for workers and no significant employment reductions. A more extensive study by the London School of Economics examined the impact of 138 separate minimum wage increases implemented between 1979 and 2016, and found no overall reduction in low-wage jobs.

Income inequality in the United States is out of control and threatens not just economic stability of our nation, but our democracy itself. Full-time workers shouldn't live in poverty anywhere, but especially not in the wealthiest nation on earth. The Raise the Wage Act would bring the federal minimum wage in line with economic reality and bring us closer to the promise of the American Dream.

Marc H. Morial is President & CEO of the National Urban League. Connect with the National Urban League Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NationalUrbanLeague> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/naturbanleague> Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/naturbanleague> Website: <https://www.NUL.org>

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Celebrate Black History Month

Remember Ahmad Nelson Just Acquittal

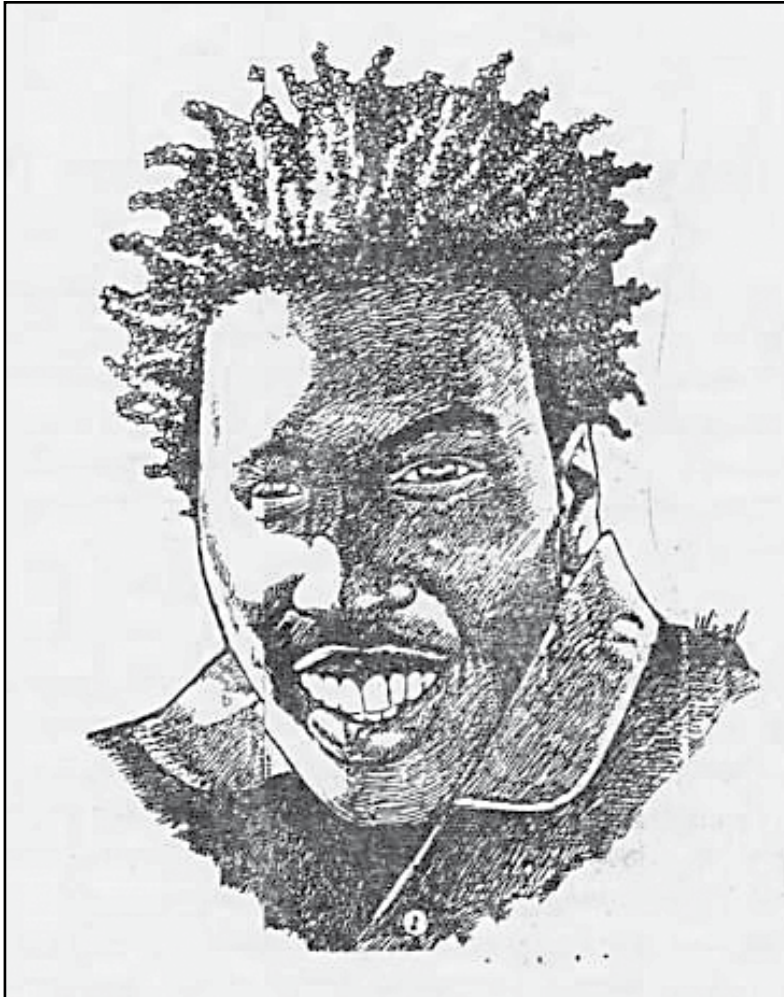
Over a Shameful Police Murder

Leon A. Waters
Data News Weekly
Contributor

On Wednesday, August 20, 2003, Ahmad Nelson, a young twenty-two-year-old African-American worker and father was found not guilty of second-degree murder in the April 2002 shooting death of New Orleans Policeman Wes Williams. Williams was killed on April 12, 2002 in the 1600 block of Governor Nicholls Street.

On the early morning of April 12, 2002, Nelson was released from Central Lockup. He walked home to the 1500 block of Governor Nicholls arriving about 3:00 a.m. The police officer was fatally shot several minutes before Nelson arrived home. Nelson's home was across the street from the shooting.

The Committee to Free Ahmad Nelson had maintained that this case was a classic frame-up. The police and District Attorney Harry Connick had no evidence except the lying testimony of police witnesses who claimed they witnessed Nelson shoot Officer Williams in the dark of the night. Nelson had just been released from Central



Ahmad Nelson

Lockup. He walked from Central Lockup to Popeye's at the corner of Canal and N. Rampart St. He was to meet his girlfriend there. By the time he reached Popeye's, it had started to rain. His girlfriend had returned home. So, he walked over to his mother's home in the Iberville Housing Projects. There he telephoned his girlfriend to advise her that he was on his way home. As he hung the phone up, his girlfriend heard shots rang out from outside their home. About 15 minutes later, Nelson arrived home. His girlfriend tells him that someone may have been shot. They go to sleep and learn the next morning that a police officer was killed. Two weeks later police arrive at Nelson's home where he is standing outside. Police attack him, whip him up in his yard and then arrest him for murder. Police claim that the suspect they were looking for had the same style of dread locks that Nelson had. DA Connick charged Nelson with second-degree murder.

After a 16-month campaign for justice, Criminal Court Judge Arthur Hunter would rule that the state had no evidence against Ahmad Nelson and set him free. The

only so-called evidence the state presented was the lying testimony of two police stool pigeons, Eugene Fisher and Brandon Henry. The two shameful 'witnesses' contradicted each other and made outrageous claims in their first statements on the morning of the murder. The lead detective, Joseph Catalenatto, testified that the star witness, Eugene Fisher, had lied about 'seeing the perpetrator's face'. The other witness against Ahmad, Cory Thomas, testified that the police beat him and made him finger Ahmad. These horrible police conduct convinced the judge that this was another attempt by the state to railroad a clearly innocent man.

The committee recognized that the masses had to be rallied to Ahmad's defense. The committee organized public rallies, held protests, and raised funds. What was importantly learned from this campaign was that militant and radical struggles can produce victories. We need more of this kind of struggle to win more victories today!

Leon A. Waters is Chair of Louisiana Museum of African-American History and Manager of Hidden History Tours@ www.HiddenHistory.us

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Activists Push for Death Penalty Reform

By Morgan Jackson
Data News Weekly
Contributors

Community members, organization leaders, and former Angola inmates gathered to discuss issues regarding the death penalty in New Orleans at Café Istanbul in the Healing Center on Jan. 28, 2019. There are currently 67 people on Louisiana's Death Row; 73 percent of which are African-American or Hispanic.

"If there was ever an example of why you shouldn't have the death penalty, Willy Frances the famous Louisiana Case, would be the perfect example," said Michael Cahoon, the organizer for the Promise of Justice Initiative. "A 16-year-old boy was convicted, had to be executed twice because he was so small, he could not fit in the electric chair. That should be enough right there, but it still persists."

Cahoon joined Laverne Thompson,



son, the wife of former inmate, John Thompson, and Jerome Morgan, who was placed in solitary confinement in the Louisiana State Peni-

tentiary in Angola to advocate for repealing the death penalty.

Justice & Beyond, a New Orleans-based association of community leaders and organizations that come together to discuss challenging problems hosted this event to educate the public on injustices facing the incarcerated and prisoners facing the death penalty. Racial disparities also exist when examining who received the death penalty, the advocates said.

"Conditions in the East Baton Rouge Parish Prison produce a death rate of 300 percent higher than the national average, mostly due to inadequate Mental Health Care and inhumane treatment of the prisoners that are held there," Cahoon said.

It is also an expensive burden on the state. "The death penalty takes an immense amount of resources for such a small number of people. Since 2000, we have spent \$155 million on our death penalty, which has

yielded two executions," Cahoon added.

Executions cost millions of dollars to perform, experts said. Studies show that executions also do not result in a drop in the crime rate.

"The first study done in Louisiana on whether or not the death penalty prevents violent crime was done in 1833," Cahoon said. "States that have gotten rid of the death penalty; crime has actually gone down," Cahoon added. This shows that there is no relation between the death penalty and crime.

"John Thompson was the sixth Louisiana Death Row exoneree in 2003," said Laverne Thompson, his wife. On May 8, 1985, John Thompson was sentenced to death row on two separate crimes: murder and carjacking. An investigator found evidence that had never been disclosed 30 days before his execution – the bloodstain of one of the carjacking victims. The blood was found not to be Thompson's. A

prosecutor admitted to intentionally suppressing evidence. In 2002, he had a retrial based on deliberate government misconduct and was sent home in 2003. Unfortunately, in October 2017 he died of a heart attack.

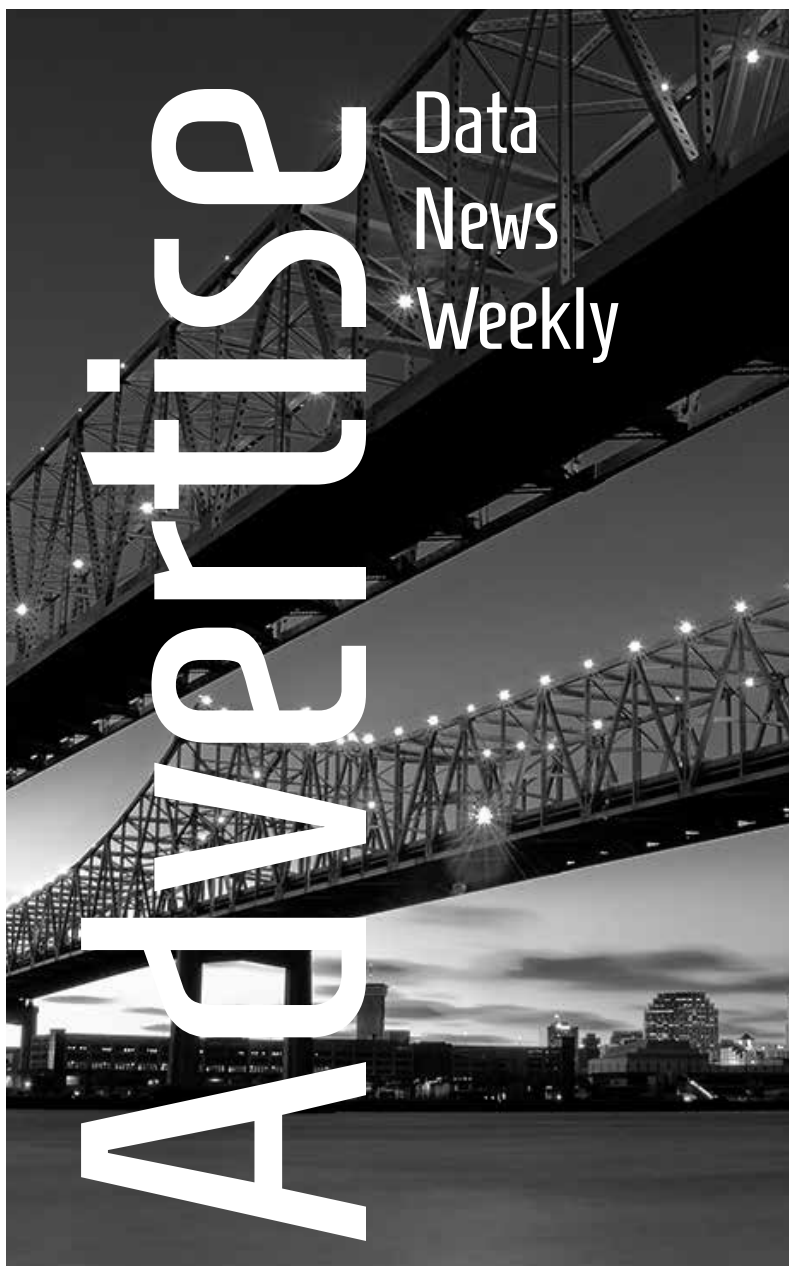
Most of the people on death row are wrongfully convicted and serve time based on a crime they never committed, activists said. Since Thompson's exoneration in 2003, five other men have had their innocence discovered.

"I was incarcerated during the time John was released and I remember hearing the news and being encouraged and motivated; I felt like John was a hero," Morgan said. Not many people are released from death row and hearing the news of someone being released brought a sense of hope to Morgan. Morgan was wrongfully arrested at the age of 17 and sentenced to die in Angola for the rest of his natural life for the second-degree murder of Clarence Landry III.

After Morgan's release he wrote a book with two other inmates titled, "Unbreakable Resolve," and he is now working on another book, "Go to Jail: Confronting the System of Oppression," which discusses his experiences in solitary confinement.

Residents who attended the public forum shared personal experiences fighting for loved ones caught up in the Criminal Justice System.

"Numerous members of my family have been slaughtered in the City of New Orleans; my spirit is broken. Our justice system is a big racist killer," said Eloise Williams, a member of Mark Louis Williams and Victims of Homicide. "I haven't been behind any bars, but I am incarcerated," Williams added.



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Sen. Cory Booker Announces 2020 Run for the White House

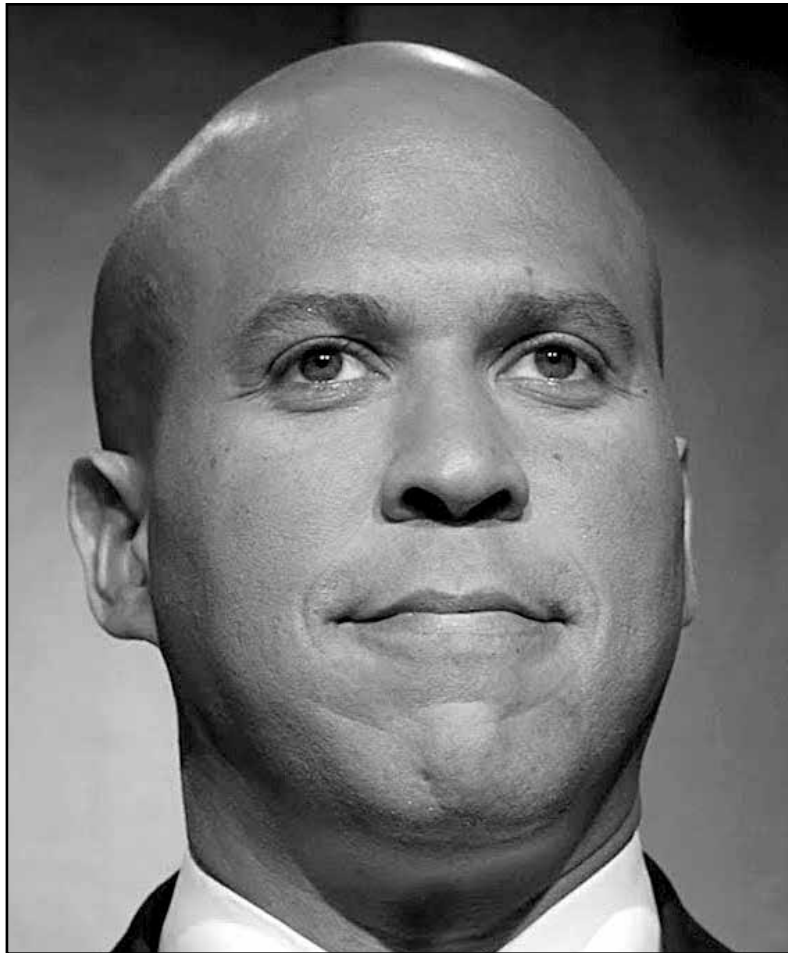
By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire
Correspondent

Though much of the 2020 Election attention this week went to former Starbucks Coffee executive Howard Schultz, the end of the week held a surprise entry: Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey.

It was widely expected that Sen. Booker would run, the former mayor of Newark with a high-flying social media presence and an affable personality has been rumored to be a contender for the White House for years.

Booker, 49, is likely to project an upbeat positive tone at a time when President Donald Trump is winning comparisons to some of the worst presidents in U.S. history. If either Senators Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) or Booker win the White House, they would become the second African American president in history, after Barack Obama.

Booker announced his candidacy via a video called "Rise." The video focuses on many of the issues he confronted as Mayor of Newark such as housing and poverty. The video's narrative features the New Jersey Senator affirming that he still lives in the inner-city Newark.



New Jersey Senator Cory Booker, (D-NJ) announced his candidacy for the Presidency of the United States via a video called "Rise." The video focuses on many of the issues he confronted as Mayor of Newark such as housing and poverty.

"I still live there today, and I'm the only senator who goes home to a low-income, inner city community. The first community that took a chance on me," Booker says in the announcement video.

"I believe that we can build a country where no one is forgotten, no one is left behind, where parents can put food on the table. Where there are good paying jobs with good benefits in every neighborhood. Where our criminal justice system keeps us safe, instead of shuffling more children into cages and coffins. Where we see the faces of our leaders on television and feel pride, not shame," Booker continues.

Sen. Booker will join Sen. Harris, Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI), former Housing Secretary Julian Castro (D-Texas) and South Bend Indiana Mayor Pete Buttigieg, have all announced that they will run for the White House in 2020.

Sen. Booker has already made stops in key primary states over the last few months. He now plans to travel more extensively as he joins the most diverse presidential field in American history.

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- ☐ Social Security cards for everyone claimed.
- ☐ Previous tax returns (if any).
- ☐ Health Insurance Marketplace Statement, Form 1095-A.
- ☐ For direct deposit: checking and savings account numbers (canceled or voided check).



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