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2019 Kicks Off!**

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February 23 - March 1, 2019 53rd Year Volume 43 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive



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New Orleans A City of Traditions

Black Carnival Season



2019 Zulu King George Rainey



2019 Zulu Queen Kailyn Rainey

Data Staff Edited Report

It's Carnival Time

Carnival 2019 is in full gear and Mardi Gras Day is steadily creeping upon us. It is a time where a city steeped in the spirit of festiveness is taking it to a

higher level. There are Mardi Gras Balls and Parades going on throughout the city; for it is an amazing spectacle for all to see.

Additionally, much of the festivities come from a rich and vibrant history; much of which come from the Black Cultural Heritage of New Orleans. It is often thought of as the secret ingredient that gives the city

its unique flavor. Data News Weekly, in its role of telling the story of the Black contributing to the city and being a window into the most international city is featuring four groups that are part of the great tradition of New Orleans Carnival Culture.

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Please call 504-309-9913 for subscription information or to obtain a back issue of the paper ONLY.
Dated material two weeks in advance. Not responsible for publishing or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.

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Zulu Social and Pleasure Club

For over a century the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club has been at the forefront as one of the pre-eminent Mardi Clubs where their throws are coveted by many most notably their hand decorated Coco-nuts. In addition to their annual ball that is a must go to event.

King Zulu 2019 George Rainey

This year is a special year as longtime club member joining in 1972 George Rainey is the reigning King of Zulu.

He is a man with so much history in the organization and in the City of New Orleans.

He was part of the first graduating class of Booker T. Washington in 1949. He also is part of the great culinary history of the City as the owner of Rainey's Restaurant and Catering, one of the premiere African-American owned eateries in the city for five decades.

In 1978, Mr. Rainey earned the title "Zulu Big Shot". In addition, he secured Zulu its first corporate sponsorship - the largest donation of any corporate sponsor. Mr. Rainey has secured more than 40 sponsors under his leadership.

He served as a Zulu Board Member from 1978 to 1993. He served as Vice-President from 1991-1996. Again, reelected as a board member from 1996-2007. Mr. Rainey has received many awards during his days. He was recognized by President George W. Bush and The Jefferson Award Foundation for his community services.

In 1983, Mr. Rainey spear-headed the production of Zulu's 1st Poster Series. In 1993, Mr. Rainey founded New Orleans' world re-known Zulu Lundi Gras Festival!

He is also a great humanitarian in 2005, when Hurricane Katrina hit the city, many families had no place to get food. Led by his Pastor, Bishop James Nelson Brown of Fisher Community Church, along with the 82nd Airborne Division cooks - Mr. Rainey returned home to serve and feed over one thousand people for 2 months daily and for free. But, his services to the community don't end there. In 2006, Mardi Gras was in jeopardy. However, Mr. Rainey co-authored a speech before the New Orleans' City Council that saved Mardi Gras.

A dedicated family man, Mr. Rainey has three daughters, one son, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Mr. Rainey would like to thank the City of New Orleans and the supporters that helped him become Zulu King 2019. Last but, certainly not least, a very special Thanks to, his son, Oscar Rainey, and friend, Larry



Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale Queen Pamela Prout Foxworth-Carter.



Members of the Bunch Club.



Jhai Monique Britton of Queen of YMI

Hammond for organizing a 'Great Committee'.

Zulu Queen 2019 Kailyn Lilly Rainey

This year's Zulu Queen is Kailyn Lilly Rainey was born on the 8th of March in 1999 to Michelle Patterson and Oscar Rainey. She is the beautiful granddaughter of Leontine Winding Dennis and the late Herman L. Dennis and George V. Rainey, King Zulu Elect 2019 and the late Jeanne Robinson Rainey. She had one sister, Kelsey La' Jeanne Rainey. Kailyn is the step-daughter of Joan Cooper-Rainey.

Kailyn graduated from St. Katharine Drexel Preparatory School in 2017 with honors and was included in the top 5 of her class. During her time at Prep she served on both the Principal's Honor Roll and the

Presidential Honor Roll. She was also the President of the St. Katharine Drexel Kiwanis International Key Club, a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, Co-Captain of the Tall Flag Marching Unit, Student Ambassador, Editor-in-Chief of the Yearbook, and a member of Bee Legacy. While being active in her school's community, Kailyn completed 20 credit hours as a dual enrollment student at Delgado Community College.

Presently, Kailyn is a sophomore at Louisiana State University where she studies Finance. There is an abundance of goals that she wishes to accomplish prior to graduating from LSU. Besides being a full-time student, Kailyn is an active member in LSU's Chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants. Growing up in a family

filled with entrepreneurs, Kailyn was inspired early on to one day have a successful business of her own. Post-graduation, Kailyn would like to get a Master's in Business Administration and possibly attend Law School. She has spent the last 3 summers as a student worker in the Chambers of the Honorable Judge Edwin Lombard and Judge Paula Brown in the Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal.

"To the girls of New Orleans, don't let what you've been through, determine where you are going and don't let anyone try to stop you from achieving your dreams. You can do anything. I never would have thought in a million years that I would be crowned Queen Zulu at only 19 years old," Kailyn said in a press statement.

Kailyn would like to give special

thanks to her grandfather, George V. Rainey, King Zulu Elect 2019 and the members of the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club, Inc. for giving her an experience of a lifetime. She plans to continue honoring the Zulu traditions as she reigns as Queen Zulu 2019.

Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale

Founded by Ms. Gwendolyn Rainey, in 2013 the Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale continues in the spirit that the ladies of MKFF, "will always empower, encourage and uplift," according to the krewe's President, Mrs. Sharlayne Prevost.

This year they are planning another amazing extravaganza with an imaginative wonderland filled with mystery, fantasy and fun. The Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale will celebrate its sixth year of incorporation on Friday, February 22, 2019 in the La Nouvelle Orleans Ballroom of the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center with the theme, "MysticKrewe of Femme Fatale Presents Story Time." They will also have their parade that rolls on the traditional uptown route on Sunday, February 24th.

This year's queen is Mrs. Pamela Prout Foxworth-Carter, daughter of the late Mr. Clifford Prout and Mrs. Jeraldine Prout. The queen has one son James Cardriche, III, and two grandchildren, James IV and Ireyan.

A native New Orleanian, Mrs. Pamela Prout Foxworth-Carter is married to her life partner, Karen Foxworth-Carter, and she has always loved her city. Pamela grew up in the Upper Ninth Ward and graduated from George Washington Carver Senior High School and, later, Southern University at New Orleans. She is currently employed as a Project Manager with the Housing Authority of New Orleans.

Maids to the royal court are Mrs. Karen Foxworth-Carter, Mrs. Vonda Rhea Copes Dunn, Miss Ruth Hayes and Mrs. Trellis Thompson-Stevenson.

The 2019 Grand Marshals are Grammy Award Winner R&B and Blues Recording Artist Irma Thomas, and Gina Charbonnet, a New Orleans native and Essence Festival Empowerment Executive Producer.

Young Men Illinois

Founded on March 23, 1926 by a few Black male workers of the Illinois Central Railroad.

The Young Men Illinois Club, Inc. (YMI) was formed in 1926 to present eligible young ladies to society during New Orleans's Carnival Season.

Its mission is to promote closer social relationship among its mem-

Cover Story, Continued
on page 10.

NFL Settles Collusion Case with Kaepernick

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire
Correspondent

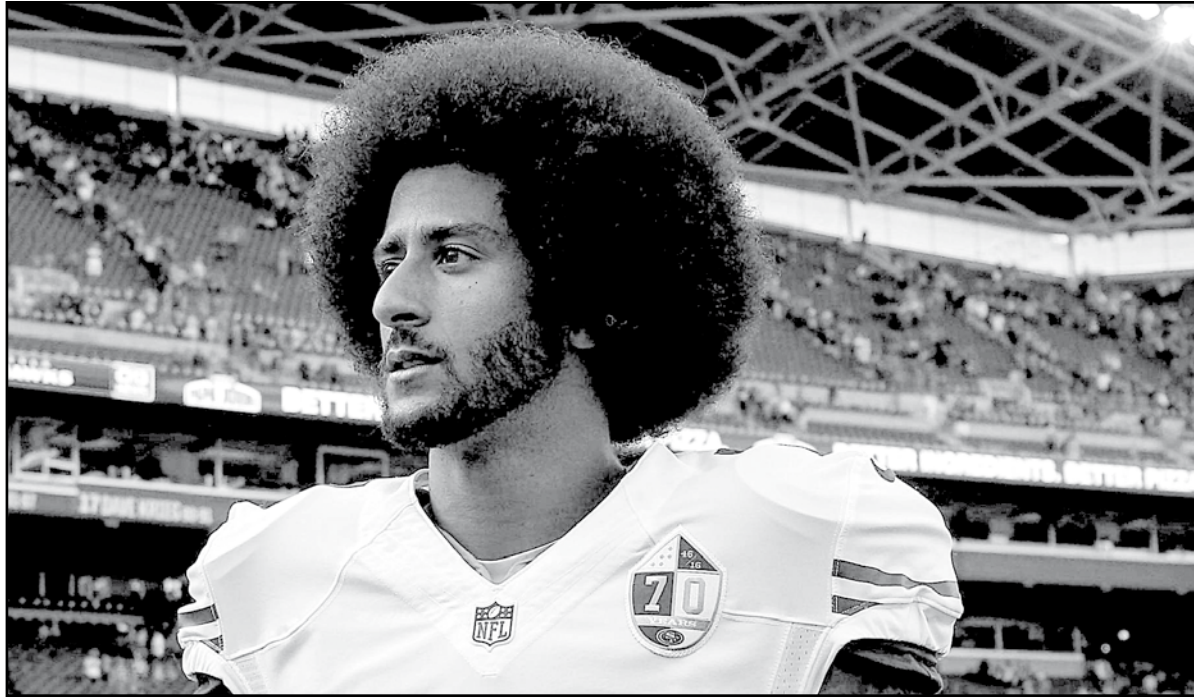
Colin Kaepernick's more than two year battle with the NFL has come to an end.

The former NFL quarterback and the league have reached a financial settlement in Kaepernick's collusion complaint against football's owners.

The settlement comes just one day after it was revealed that the former San Francisco 49er, who led the team to a Super Bowl in 2013, turned down a contract offer to play in a new developmental league.

Terms of the settlement, which also included a payout to Carolina Panthers star safety Eric Reid, were not made public.

Kaepernick was effectively blacklisted from the league after



The settlement came just one day after it was revealed that the former San Francisco 49er, who led the team to a Super Bowl in 2013, turned down a contract offer to play in a new developmental league.

subject to a confidentiality agreement so there will be no further comment by any party."

The agreement comes as Kaepernick's case against the NFL was to set to be heard before arbitrator Stephen Burbank later this month.

Kaepernick had alleged that since 2016, the league conspired to keep him out.

Multiple NFL players adopted Kaepernick's protest in 2017, hoping to draw attention to social justice and racial inequality issues.

The actions sparked a political firestorm from President Donald Trump and the furor became such a central issue for the league for nearly one year that it instituted a rule that banned protests during the national anthem.

That rule has since been shelved by the NFL and now appears to be dead, according to the Yahoo Sports report.

The NFLPA also released a statement Friday, supporting the settlement between the league and players.

"Today, we were informed by the NFL of the settlement of the Colin Kaepernick and Eric Reid collusion cases," the NFLPA said.

"We are not privy to the details of the settlement but support the decision by the players and their counsel. We continuously supported Colin and Eric from the start of their protests, participated with their lawyers throughout their legal proceedings and were prepared to participate in the upcoming trial in pursuit of both truth and justice for what we believe the NFL and its clubs did to them.

"We are glad that Eric has earned a job and a new contract [from the Carolina Panthers], and we continue to hope that Colin gets his opportunity as well."

kneeling during the national anthem to protest police brutality and other social ills.

Yahoo Sports reported that Kaepernick and Reid would only settle the complaint if a lucrative financial agreement was reached between the players and the NFL.

The league and Kaepernick's attorneys released a statement Friday saying the matter had been resolved confidentially.

As part of that confidentiality, it is believed both sides signed a non-disclosure agreement agreeing not to speak publicly about details of the case or settlement.

"For the past several months, counsel for Mr. Kaepernick and Mr. Reid have engaged in an ongoing dialogue with representatives of the NFL," the statement said.

"As a result of those discussions, the parties have decided to resolve the pending grievances. The resolution of this matter is

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Purchased Lives Exhibit Examines the African-American Experience

By Avane Ervin
Data News Weekly
Contributor

This year marks the 400th year that enslaved Africans arrived in the United States. The slave narratives they left behind provides a history to African-American culture. Retired Dillard University Professor of English and Literary Critic, Jerry W. Ward Jr., and Assistant Professor of English at Xavier University of Louisiana, Jimmy Worthy shared why these slave narratives capture the abilities of African-American ancestors, at a public lecture on Feb. 5, 2019 for the exhibit: "Purchased Lives: The American Slave Trade from 1808 to 1865."

The travelling exhibit, which coincided with the 2019 National Day of Racial Healing, runs six weeks up to Feb. 28th. The third lecture in the series examined "Why does our history matter," said Robin Vander, an Associate Professor of Literature and African-American and Diaspora studies at Xavier, who coordinated the "Purchased Lives" Public Lecture Series.

On Feb. 19th, the exhibit will host its fifth talk "Family Histories" featuring Genealogists, and the last installment of the lecture series takes place on Feb. 26th on "Reclaiming African-American Legacies and the Human Spirit." The public series are held on Tuesdays



Literary Scholar Jerry W. Ward and Xavier University English Professor Jimmy Worthy discuss slave narratives at the Purchased Lives Exhibit Public Lecture on Feb. 5, 2019. (Photos by Avane Ervin)

at 6:30 p.m. at Xavier's Library Nisan Room. The exhibit is provided by the Historic New Orleans Collection and the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. Entergy Corporation, the National Park Service, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Kabacoff Family Foundation also provided support for the exhibit.

"All of our programs are based on the exhibition as a way to allow everyone to understand its importance in the shaping of African-American culture," Vander added.

Both Ward and Worthy, who teach African-American Literature shared how recording slave narratives first started in the Black community.

"Human beings are not hardwired to write," Worthy said. "We are hardwired to dance, to sing, to have particular interactions with the natural world, but writing allows us to better address the immediate concerns of the political times and environment in which we live," he added.

Writing has been connected to power, Worthy reminded the audi-

ence. It was not a privilege allowed to enslaved peoples. So, for African-Americans to write their lived experiences, they announced then that they too were also human, through the means of being able to read and write, he explained.

"Literacy was the prerequisite for being afforded the rights of human status," Worthy said. "It is important that we recognize slave narratives as revealing the psychological and emotional scars of negotiating cataclysmic change, and recognize those individuals who offer

themselves as renewed," he added.

The function of slave narratives reveals more than stories of African-American history and their psychological state at the time, but slave narratives also provide a way to examine life after being "property."

"A sense of ending for them is a sense of beginning for us," Ward told the audience as he highlighted the influence of African-American literary writers from the past to today. He added that African-American literary figures allowed the public to understand the impacts of living an enslaved life, not just while in bondage, but as freed people still fighting systemic oppression.

"Africans aren't just like other beings on this planet, they get no special privilege," Ward said after sharing how he believes that although the History of African-Americans may be an uncomfortable topic for some, the truth of racism should not be watered down.

Both Worthy and Ward believe it is essential for African-Americans to become aware of the history of the culture in order to understand the world around them today.

"You must learn to read differently," Ward said to the audience. "Not just slave narratives, but you must learn to read the text of the world differently."

Cricket Wireless Presents Smart Money Financial Literacy Tour

Data Staff Report

Americans are already thinking about how they'll use their tax refund.¹ Some save, some splurge and some decide to stretch those dollars as far as they can go. That's why Cricket is introducing financial literacy classes to help customers get out of the money pit this year.

Cricket Wireless, kicked off The Cricket Wireless Smart Money Financial Literacy Tour on Tuesday in New Orleans at the Salvation Army, 4500 South Claiborne Street. The tour features Deborah Owens, America's Wealth Coach™. Owens, a financial expert and author, is touring the country on the Cricket Wire-



Cricket Wireless kicked off their Smart Money Financial Literacy Workshop at the Salvation Army in New Orleans Monday, February 18th - Tommie Henry (Cricket), Ruth Nickelson (Salvation Army), Deborah Owens (America's Wealth Coach), Trevis Herrington (Cricket)

less Smart Money Financial Literacy Tour to share what people of all incomes can do to thrive during uncertain times.

According to Owens, "The days of lifetime employment and a pension-funded retirement are the exception, not the rule". How do you navigate your career and finances in this new financial normal? America's Wealth Coach, Deborah Owens provides the rules of engagement that are required to succeed in this new economic landscape.

Through her research and published works, Ms. Owens has identified the attitudes, beliefs and behaviors that are essential to achieving personal, professional and financial success in a dynamic

economic environment. She stresses in the workshops that anyone can save and invest, no matter who you are, and no matter how much money you have.

In addition to hosting the tour, Cricket Wireless is providing a free copy of Deborah Owens' book, "Nickle and Dime Your Way to Wealth" to workshop participants. Workshops will be held at local non-profit organizations that offer career and trade training programs. The six cities included on the tour are New Orleans, Phoenix, Atlanta, Dallas, Miami and Houston.

For more information on Deborah Owens, visit www.deborahowens.com and visit cricketwireless.com

Mardi Gras Season 2019 Kicks Off

Photos by Kichea S. Burt
Data News Weekly Contributor

To kick-start the 2019 season, the satire of Mardi Gras was displayed by New Orleans walking parades made up of mini Krewe from several neighborhoods within the city. One of them, 'tit Rex, included micro floats. This past weekend in NOLA we managed to catch four walking parades: Krewe Du Vieux, Krewe Boheme, Krewe Delusion and 'tit Rex, all in the Marigny/Bywater areas. As always, when it's Mardi Gras season, find highlights here in Data News Weekly.



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SALUTE TO BLACK HISTORY MONTH
FROM
MAYOR LaTOYA CANTRELL

To Be Equal

Vaping – More Dangerous Than Once Thought Is An Epidemic Among Teens That We Must End



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

“We must take aggressive steps to protect our children from these highly potent products that risk exposing a new generation of young people to nicotine. The bad news is that e-cigarette use has become an epidemic among our nation’s young people. However, the good news is that we know what works to effectively protect our kids from all forms of tobacco product use, including e-cigarettes. We must now apply these strategies to e-cigarettes, including USB flash drive shaped products such as JUUL. To achieve success, we must work together, aligning and coordinating efforts across both old and new part-

ners at the national, state, and local levels. Everyone can play an important role in protecting our nation’s young people from the risks of e-cigarettes.”
– U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams

A decade after the introduction of vaping – the inhalation of nicotine vapor rather than smoke produced by a cigarette – a growing body of evidence shows the practice is far more dangerous than assumed, and is a major gateway for teens to become addicted to nicotine.

The U.S. Surgeon General calls vaping among teens an epidemic. A recent study suggested that teens who vape are more likely to smoke cigarettes, and more likely to start smoking at a younger age.

Furthermore, the new generation of devices are capable of delivering higher doses of nicotine, leading to greater incidence of addiction as well as nicotine toxicity and psychiatric symptoms among teenagers that haven’t been observed in adult smokers.

“We let this Frankenstein loose without knowing what was going to happen,” Dr. Sharon Levy, Director of the Adolescent Substance Use



and Addiction Program at Boston Children’s Hospital, ominously observed in a report by CNN.

Research has also shown another possible danger in vaping among African Americans. Black smokers were more likely than whites to turn to vaping as a means of quitting smoking, but former smokers who began using e-cigarettes were more than 16 times as likely to re-

sume tobacco smoking.

Monica Webb Hooper and Stephanie K. Kolar, who studied racial differences in e-cigarette use, concluded: “If e-cigarette use truly lowers the chances of cessation, this could have a negative impact on the health of African American/Black smokers and widen disparities in quitting.”

For these reasons, we were glad to see recent efforts at the state and federal level to curb the use of e-cigarettes and battle nicotine addiction. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has said it will limit

sales of many flavored e-cigarettes to bricks-and-mortar outlets that require proof of age for purchase or do not admit people under 19. Stricter verification will be required for online sales And the agency held a hearing last month to consider the potential role of drug therapies in helping teens quit e-cigarettes.

Meanwhile, on the state level, legislators in Maine are considering a bill that would ban the use of e-cigarettes or vaping on school grounds. In Florida, a House committee has just approved a measure that would ban electronic smoking devices in workplaces.

As the Surgeon General noted in his advisory: parents, teachers, health professionals, elected officials and community leaders must work together to address the vaping epidemic. Talk to the young people in your life about the risks of vaping. Support community efforts to restrict the use of e-cigarettes, and tell your representatives to enact tough laws aimed at restricting access to nicotine.

Marc H. Morial is President & CEO of the National Urban League, and former Mayor of New Orleans. 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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MHSD Launches Mobile Unit Outreach Safe Zones this Mardi Gras Season

NEW ORLEANS, LA - Metropolitan Human Services District has received a \$740 thousand grant for the Louisiana State Opioid Response (LaSOR) program from the Louisiana Department of Health – Office of Behavioral Health. This funding will allow MHSD to enhance existing statewide prevention, treatment, and recovery support services through outreach.

The LaSOR Mobile Outreach Team will consist of a Licensed Practical Nurse, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, a Peer Support Specialist, Prevention Specialist, and a Mobile Unit Driver. “As we

know, most individuals normally don’t seek help on their own. This award will allow MHSD to meet the people we serve where they are.” Dr. Rochelle Head-Dunham, MHSD Executive and Medical Director says. She added that one of MHSD’s goals is to constantly be engaged with the community we serve.

The grant funding is anticipated to increase public awareness of addiction and mental illness and also educate individuals on the services that are provided at MHSD. This grant will also increase awareness and education for prevention and treatment of



CELEBRATE CARNIVAL WITHOUT THE TEMPTATIONS!

PARADE LOCATIONS:

Saturday, February 23, Chalmette
Knights of Nemesis
LOCATION: Chalmette High School

Sunday, February 24, New Orleans
The Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale, Krewe of Carrollton, Krewe of King Arthur, Krewe of Alla
LOCATION: Watson Memorial Teaching Ministries

Sunday, March 3, New Orleans
Krewe of Okeanos, Krewe of Mid-City, Krewe of Thoth, Krewe of Bacchus
LOCATION: Watson Memorial Teaching Ministries

METROPOLITAN HUMAN SERVICES DISTRICT

opioid use disorder. The LaSOR team will begin outreach efforts at various parades this Mardi Gras season including Femme Fatale, Alla, Mid-City and Bacchus.

Metropolitan Human Services District is the local lead agency for mental illness, addictive disorders and intellectual/development disability services. MHSD provides community-based services for all ages in Orleans, St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes through agency clinics and community partners. State and Federal funding are the primary resources for MHSD. For more information, visit www.mhsdla.org or call 504-568-3130.

Lady Jaguars top Valley 67-46

Southern University junior Alyric Scott and freshman Tanera Moore each posted double-doubles as the Jaguars led wire-to-wire in a lopsided 67-46 win on the road at Mississippi Valley State Monday night.

The duo of Scott and Moore combined to score 38 points and 27 rebounds for the Jaguars, who quickly built a nine-point advantage in the first quarter before pushing that margin to 11 at halftime.

Moore, a freshman from Baltimore, Md., shot 8 of 9 from the field, scored 19 points off the bench and grabbed a game-high 15 rebounds, 10 on the defensive glass.

Not to be outdone, Scott, a Rich-ton, Miss native, scored 19 points on 7 for 14 shooting with 12 rebounds and a game-high four assists. Scott also knocked down two 3-pointer field goals and finished a perfect 3 for 3 at the foul line.

As a team, Southern (13-11, 10-3) pounded MVSU (4-20, 3-10) on the inside, scoring a 32-19 edge on



points in the paint. But it was what the Jaguars did on the defensive end that set the tone for Southern’s dominating win.

The Jaguars pressure defense limited the Devilettes to 30 percent shooting in the first half and stifled Valley to a 5 for 24 shooting exhibitions in the second half. Southern forced Valley into 12 turnovers but committed 17 turnovers of their own.

Kristy Parker led Valley with a team-high 11 points off the bench.

Southern welcomes the start of a three-game homestand Saturday, February 23rd, against Alabama A&M to conclude the home portion of the regular season.

Tipoff is set for 3 p.m. and the game will air live on the Southern University Athletics YouTube Channel (Southern_u_Athletics). Fans can also listen to the live audio broadcast on WXOK 1460 AM and online via the GoJagSports.com audio stream.

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Recognizing Our Black History, A Call to Join the Slave Revolt Reenactment

Leon A. Waters
Chair of the Louisiana
Museum of African-American
History, and Manager of
Hidden History Tours

This January 12, 2019 marked the 208th Anniversary of Louisiana's Heroic 1811 Slave Revolt and the re-start of its public commemoration. Before 2005, Hurricane Katrina, annual public commemorations were once organized by Leon A. Waters and Malcolm Suber. The Louisiana Museum of African-American History in partnership with community organizations, performing artists, historians, activists, and small vendors convened this year's event. Over 200 participants attended which included presentations from Marie-Helene Leotin, historian and author from Martinique; Bayyinah Bello, educator and anthropologist from Haiti; Mark Roudane', public lecturer and author from St. Paul, Minnesota; and Titos Sompá and Co., master dancer and drummer from the Kongo.

A very exciting feature of the celebration was the call to join the Slave Revolt Reenactment by its artistic organizer, Dread Scott. The SRR will be a two-day reenactment of the 1811 Slave Revolt along the River Road in St. Charles and St.



Pictured from left to right: Dread Scott, Dr. Denise Frazier, Nic Brierre Aziz, Raven Crane, and Malcolm Suber

John the Baptist Parishes in November 2019.

This revolt was the largest slave uprising in the History of the U.S.A. involving over 500 people.

It was led by a man named Charles, a laborer on the Deslondes

Plantation. The revolt began on the evening of January 8th when slaves led by Charles and his lieutenants rose up near the Plantation of Col. Manuel Andry, which was located about 50 miles north of New Orleans. They overwhelmed their op-

pressors. Armed with cane knives, axes, machetes and some firearms, the rebels marched down the River Road towards New Orleans. Their slogan was "On to New Orleans" and "Freedom or Death!" They gained in number as they moved

from plantation to plantation on the East Bank of the river, traversing about 28 miles between the towns of LaPlace and Kenner. They were intent on creating a slave army, capturing the City of New Orleans, Capital of Orleans Territory, and establishing an independent Black Republic from which they would liberate the tens of thousands of slaves held in bondage in the territory of Orleans.

However, despite their best efforts, they were not able to succeed. The revolt was put down by January 11th and many of the leaders and participants were killed by slave owner's militia and the U.S. Federal Troops. Some of the leaders were captured, charged with the crime of insurrection, placed on trial, found guilty and executed. Their heads were cut off and placed on poles along the River Road for 60 miles in order to frighten and intimidate the other enslaved.

Yet the sacrifice of these brave men and women were not in vain. The revolt reasserted their humanity and redeemed the honor of their people. The uprising weakened the System of Chattel Slavery, stimulated more revolts in the following years and set the stage for the final battle, the Civil War (1861- 1865) that put an end to this horrible system.

Cover Story/ Continued from page 3.

bers and enable them to perfect any movement that will be for the mutual benefit of the community in general.

The YMI Ball varies from year-to-year, but its ball date is always in close proximity to Mardi Gras; usually on the Friday 1-2 weeks prior to Fat Tuesday. This year's ball was held on Friday, February 15, 2019 at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans, Empire Ballroom.

This year's queen is Zoie Elizabeth Trevigne Legeaux. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Legeaux. Members of her royal court includes: First Maid Ko'Rea Vennese Barre', granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stanford Barre' daughter of Ms. Keisha M. White and Corey Barre'.

Princesses: Ava Rose Robert-

son, daughter of attorney Natalie Robertson and Dr. Corey A. Robertson. Madison Olivia Robinson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Branch Alexander Robinson. Jasmine Mariah Williams, daughter of Ms. Chantell Washington and Mr. Hassan H. Williams.

Debutantes: Camryn Dechele McCoy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Comadore. Summer Indigo Perkins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charleston Perkins. Kandyce Nicole Williams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Williams. Paige Jordan Wilson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Michael Wilson.

Pages: Christian Noah Legeaux, son of Tiffany Legeaux. Maddyn Christina Peck, daughter of Ms. Brandy Barre' and Mr. Brandon Peck. Allison Cecilia Raymond, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Atari L. Raymond, Sr. Gian Laje Rutherford, daughter of Ms. Gian Laje Durand and Mr. Jonathan Rutherford, Sr.

Ronald Vigee, a member of the organization, whose daughter Taylor Nicole Vigee, was the ball's 2018 Queen says of Young Men Illinois, "Our organization, YMI, gives young ladies the opportunity to showcase their successes to their family and community. The debts participate in various activities that builds their social character as well as the awareness and importance of giving back to the community."

Ravi Bates echoes some of these same thoughts regarding YMI and its mission, "For me it helps to showcase and present to the world young African-American women and all their achievements before they take a step into adulthood. As a father of two girls I can't think of a better way to help empower them. I also enjoy the camaraderie amongst all the brothers in the group who also have daughters and share similar interests."

Bunch Club

Established in 1917 the Bunch Club is one of New Orleans oldest Carnival Clubs in the City. Unlike others it is less of a Carnival Krewe and more of a Fraternal Organization. But it has come to be known for the Bunch Club Carnival Dance. Held on the Friday before Mardi Gras, the members of the Bunch Club and their guests celebrate the carnival season with music, dancing, refreshments, and revelry.

At the stroke of midnight, they escort their wives or sweethearts in a Grand March. Clad in tuxedos, crimson capes, plumed hats, white gloves, and club medallions, the Bunch Club's members reenact a Mardi Gras Tradition that has lasted nearly a century. The music and libation start promptly at 10:00 pm and lasts well into the morning.

The club members represent educators, university presidents, bankers, government workers, no-

table attorneys, doctors, writers and entrepreneurs whose professions keep them involved in the well-being of the city. The Bunch Club was among the first clubs to boycott Mardi Gras during the integration crisis of the 1960s. Unlike many other Mardi Gras affairs, the Bunch Club does not present debutantes.

Black Mardi Gras and Celebrating the Culture of New Orleans

Mardi Gras is a wonderful time for the city as people from around the country come to re-unite with relatives or simply engage in the amazing culture of New Orleans. There are so many more traditions that exist in our beautiful city. Not just during Mardi Gras, but year-round. We at Data News Weekly asks of our citizens and those who love New Orleans to go out and enjoy this beautiful city and all it has to offer.

Black Millennials Embrace the Struggle and Message of Rapper 21 Savage

By Malika Elmengad and Franklin Chavis

Black Millennial Voices

Becoming a well-known hip-hop rapper involves displaying creative genius and talent on the stage and in recording studios. Unfortunately, for some young aspiring hip-hop artists, unjust confrontations with law enforcement appear to be inevitable. This is currently the case with the Grammy-nominated rapper professionally known as 21 Savage.

Based now in Atlanta, Georgia, 21 Savage was born in London in the United Kingdom on October 22, 1992. The 26-year-old talented rapper's name at birth was Sheyaa Bin Abraham-Joseph. He immigrated legally to the United States as a minor back in 2005 with his family.

Although 21 Savage has lived in the U.S. for the past 14 years, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is attempting to expedite his deportation back to the United Kingdom. Savage was detained but was able to post bail from ICE last week.

Yet, in the aftermath of being released from ICE detention and appearing in a taped television show interview on ABC's Good Morning America, police officials in Southern Georgia's Liberty County re-arrested 21 Savage and charged him with "felony theft" because he did not perform at a paid gig in Georgia 3 years ago.

The fact of the matter is that 21 Savage actually turned himself into the Liberty County Sheriff's office and was immediately released on another bail posting. According to one of his attorneys, Abby Taylor, "This is really a civil contract dispute. We are optimistic that it will be resolved to the satisfaction of all of the parties and dismissed."

From the perspective of millions of Black American millennials



across the nation, the unjust ordeals that 21 Savage is facing are all symptomatic and representative of racism in the U.S. Immigration System combined with long-standing cultural and racial profiling of hip-hop artists by the so-called Criminal Justice System.

The constant run-ins that Tupac Shakur and DMX and many other hip-hop artists have had with the police are on point and relevant to what 21 Savage is now enduring. Some news reports have revealed that ICE officials were trying to intimidate and force 21 Savage to give up his fight to remain in the U.S. Immigration procedures could possibly lead to both his unjust deportation and a 10-year ban from reentering the country.

But it is good to witness that 21 Savage is keeping his faith strong, hiring good experienced defense lawyers, and that there is a growing vocal and visible support for him now coming from hip-hop icons like Jay Z, Diddy and Meek Mills.

Attorney Charles Kuck, one of the other lawyers representing 21 Savage, stated, "[21 Savage] never hid his immigration status." Attorney Kuck also said that he has a pending U Visa Application that could permit him to remain in the U.S. 21 Savage also has two U.S. born children whom he supports, which could make him eligible to stay here and to continue his growing career as a gifted artist and musician.

Attorney Kuck concluded, "In fact, his contributions to local communities and schools that he grew up in are the examples of the type of immigrant we want in America."

When the New York Times recently asked 21 Savage if he felt a responsibility to speak up about his circumstances. He responded in a classic 21 Savage manner spitting truth to power: "Yeah, I feel a responsibility. My situation is important 'cause I represent poor Black Americans and I represent poor immigrant Americans. You gotta think

about all the millions of people that ain't 21 Savage that's in 21 Savage shoes."

Thus, 21 Savage speaks for all of us across the nation who are young and fed up with the mass incarcerations, intimidations, and racial oppression. His voice is our voice. Hip-hop is not going anywhere. We embrace the courage and the creative genius of 21 Savage today and into the future.

Malika Elmengad and Franklin Chavis are Co-Founders of Black Millennial Voices, a national and global advocacy group of millennials who are now writing and reporting for the NNPA: The Black Press of America. They can be reached at www.BlackMillennialVoices.com

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