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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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Bill Cosby Found Guilty on All Charges in Sex Assault Trial, Remains Free on \$1 Million Bail



Accompanied into the courthouse by a member of the TV family who cemented his nice-guy image as America's Dad, Bill Cosby went on trial Monday on sexual assault charges, his legacy and his freedom on the line. (Photo Houston Defender)

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

A Montgomery County jury last Thursday, found comedian Bill Cosby guilty on all three counts of aggravated indecent assault in the case involving Andrea Constand, a former Temple University employee, who

sought career advice and friendship from the entertainer.

The decision came after more than a day of deliberations and after having Cosby's deposition testimony read back to them.

Cosby, 80, faces up to 30 years in prison.

Bill Cosby will remain on house arrest until he's

sentenced this summer following his conviction on three counts of aggravated indecent sexual assault. He was released on \$1 million bail pending sentencing.

District Attorney Kevin Steele asked the judge to remand Cosby, citing his "enormous wealth and means." "He will flee," Steele said.

Judge Steven T. O'Neill argued that he doesn't have

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a plane and hasn't missed a courtroom.

"He doesn't have a plane, you a—hole," Cosby yelled out. "I'm sick of this."

He did not react to the verdict, even as each of the 12 members of the jury were polled individually.

Cosby's spokesman Andrew Wyatt said he was disappointed by the verdict.

His attorneys said they plan to appeal, citing numerous improper rulings by O'Neill and a juror who was kept on the panel after he was overheard saying, "he's guilty, we can all go home," before the trial began.

Judge Steven T. O'Neill ordered Cosby to get written permission from adult probation officials, if he wants to leave his Philadelphia area home to visit his doctor or to meet with lawyers.

Those are the only movements he's allowed, and they must be within a five-county radius of Montgomery County. Cosby has been fitted with a tracking device, so that court officials can monitor him.

"This was a man who had evaded this moment for far too long," Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin Steele said after the verdict.

Steele said that Cosby had "shown his true colors," when the legendary actor called the prosecutor an "a—hole" after Steele argued that he should immediately be locked up following the verdict.

O'Neill ruled that Cosby could remain free on the same \$1 million bail he posted when he was arraigned in December of 2015.

"We still believe that Mr. Cosby is innocent of these charges," lead defense attorney Tom Mesereau said. "The fight isn't over."

About an hour after the verdict and before Cosby left the courthouse, several of his defense team members huddled, including attorneys Jaya Gupta and Rachael Robinson, both sobbing.

An emotional Andrew Wyatt, Cosby's chief spokesman, said the trial was reminiscent of Emmett Till, the 14-year-old Mississippi African American whose lynching after he was accused of whistling at a White woman, ignited the Civil Rights Movement.

"This became a public lynching," Wyatt said. "What Gloria Allred was able to do, she took a salt and pepper shaker. She [shook] out a lot of salt and sprinkled in a little black pepper and the South came east."

Ebonee Benson, who joined Wyatt on morning television shows after the verdict, said the comparison to Emmett Till is real.



A Norristown jury found comedian Bill Cosby on three counts of aggravated indecent sexual assault. Some legal experts said that Cosby might get another trial. (POOL PHOTO)

"We can take a look at Emmett Till," she said. "Since when are all women honest?"

Several television analysts questioned the verdict.

Lawyer and famed CNN legal analyst Joey Jackson, who before the verdict said the case should have been declared a mistrial, said after the decision that Cosby's team has "many grounds for appeal." He said he was stunned by the verdict as well as the swiftness in which the jury delivered it.

"Certainly, the prosecution put up vigorous case ... but I thought the defense did a significant job of discrediting Andrea Constand giving the jury an indication that there was a number of lies she told over a period of time," Jackson said.

Jackson continued: "The first trial took them 52 hours and they were hung. This time it took 15 hours and they convict, so here we go. I think the most significant grounds were the five accusers. In the first trial, there was one and when you have five, they just have such prejudicial value and I think it just overwhelmed the jury. That's probably the biggest point in attempting to get Bill Cosby a new trial."

Jackson called the issue "significant" and one that might allow Cosby, whose facing 30 years in prison, to remain free through the appeal process.

This article was originally published on BlackPressUSA.com.

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Black Love is a Movement for Self Love, Panelists Share.

By Brianna Montgomery
Data News Weekly
Contributor

The State of Black Love is hardly ever discussed, but on April 12, 2018, a panel of experts delved into the topic of intimate relationships among Black people. Touching on the meaning of Black Love and the influence of Black Love in today's society, the forum was part of a series on the State of Black America held at Xavier University.

"I had a student make a presentation on the young Black girls she mentors in New Orleans and they discussed love as [if] it should be violent, and they're talking about love as hurtful, and something you should be ashamed about," said Tia Smith, an Assistant Professor of Mass Communication, who also teaches Women Studies



Brian Turner, Nia Weeks, Tia Smith and Minister Willie Muhammad discuss the concept of Black Love as part of the State of Black American Series on April 12, 2018. (Photo by Brianna Montgomery)

be loved the right way, and how to make themselves happy for who they are," Weeks said.

However, women are not the only ones influenced through television and music. Young boys are also under the influence of social media. Turner said, for instance, that the Destiny's Child song "I Need A Solider" features these three beautiful women celebrating a type of love that is considered "gangster," and the kind of love given by a thug or hoodlum.

"These types of messages are being received by young Black boys and girls showing that their man should be a gangster and telling younger boys that the only way that they can get a beautiful woman is to be a hustler," Turner said.

Along with movie and television influences, other media sources such as Twitter and Facebook have an influence on how Black Love is portrayed. These social media images are not always based in reality, the panelists said.

"I am not for the cookie cutter type image and depiction of love," Smith said. "I think it problematizes Black relationships that often call out the Black woman as problematic, without any discussion of the structures of sexism and racism that contribute to the challenging issues that women face. So, I think we should reframe and rethink the narrative of Black Love and Black relationships," Smith said.

With all the happy pictures and hashtag goals that come with social media posts and videos, it can be easy for couples to get drawn into this false advertisement of Black Love, that steers away from the real hard work of building a foundation, that is needed. Some film representations of Black Love can be examined in popular movies, like most Tyler Perry Films, Smith said. Perry's work examines Black Love, but his way of portraying it is not always positive.

"Tyler Perry carries the angry Black women name in all his films, where he depicts most of his main African-American female characters as battered and angry," Smith noted.

The State of Black Love is natural and not only an emotion, but also involves commitment and action by both individuals.

"When you love somebody, you

**Black Love, Continued
on page 11.**

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courses at Xavier.

Smith shared these experiences alongside Brian Turner, an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Xavier who joined Nia Weeks, a Women's Empowerment Activist for the Greater New Orleans area, and Minister Willie Muhammad an active member of the Muslim Community in New Orleans, to discuss Black Love from multiple perspectives. The panel all shared similar ideas about defining Black Love, with the focus on Black Love building self-love and confidence among African-Americans.

Black Love and self-love were always part of Civil Rights Activism in the past, Turner noted.

"How he promoted Black individuals to love themselves and specified that the way you grow into loving yourself is by growing into knowledge of yourself," Turner said as he mentioned some of the teachings of Elijah Muhammad, an African-American religious figure, who led the Nation of Islam until his death.

Young people today are exposed to the concept of Black Love specifically through media and how couples portray it online, but parental influence is the thing that children recognize first.

"Being a mother of three girls, I realized that they get a lot of their perception of love through television, things such as music videos and reality TV shows," Weeks said. "But as their mother, I was able to show them and teach them how to

Derrick T. "Golden Blade" Hulin Golden Blade Tribe

By: Glenn Jones
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Tribal Timeline: Golden Blades
1936 – 1944's Big Chief Ben Clark
1945 – 1947 - Big Chief Leon
"Happy Peanut" Robinson
1948 – 1949 – Big Chief Robert
Nathaniel "Robbe" Lee
1949 – 1950 - Big Chief Leon
"Happy Peanut" Robinson
1950 – 1970 – Big Chief Paul
Longpre
1999 – present – Big Chief Derrick
"Golden Blade" Hulin

"When that machete hit that flag, all butterflies, all the nervousness, all that went out the door! Cause at that point I knew it was serious business."

Big Chief Derrick "Golden Blade" Hulin received his blessing to bring his own gang out by his, than Big Chief Bo Dollis Sr. of the Wild Magnolias as well as Curtis "Suge" Williams (first Chief Golden Blade), late Jake Millon of the White Eagles, Lil Walter Cook of the Creole Wild West, Charles Taylor of White Cloud, late Tootie Montana of Yellow Pocahunters, Big Chief Larry Baniot of Gold Star Hunters as well as Big Chief Sugar Bear of the Black Mohawks and Big Chief Paul Longpre to bring the tribe Golden Blades back on the streets.

As impressive as this list of chiefs is, it doesn't surpass the relationship of his first major supporter his father Irving Hulin. At the age of 4 his father helped him make his first unofficial Indian suit (where pops played his first unofficial Spy Boy) and brought him to meet Indians on Mardi Gras. Going out from Holly-Grove at 5am in the morning at age 16 for the first time as Flag Boy for the Wild Magnolias he was met by a machete swinging spy boy who



Big Chief Derrick T. "Golden Blade" Hulin

grew up to be Big Chief Demond Melancon of the Young Seminoles.

From starting off with the Wild Magnolias as a Flag boy to becoming Chief in 1999 and bringing out his first Big Chief suit in 2001 till now, Big Chief Golden Blade attest his leadership to the lessons of Chiefs that came before him. In some of our past interviews we speak on the ways this culture can cause a riff in families. In this case we see the beautiful opposite.

Q. What is the difference between beading and bead work?

A. Running straight lines is beading. When you have details and intricate colors its beadwork.

Q. In your time of masking, what's a lost tradition you feel should come back?

A. The way they meet, the way how they play (Indian protocol), and signals. When we use to meet we use to be blocks away from each other and we did that for a reason to stretch the tribe out, so we could communicate with the signals.

Q. You've given blood, sweat, tears, and many years to this culture, what has this culture given you?

A. The culture has taught me so much in terms of being a leader amongst men and women, to have compassion in certain aspects, to be stern in certain aspects, to grow to be a man. If you're around the right people and being taught by the right people it teaches you to be that great leader, that great man to stand on your word, say what you mean, mean what you say, don't backbite on nothing. It's gonna come with repercussions but guess what, they will respect your mind better by telling the truth. The Indian Culture has taught me a lot and it don't owe me anything at the end of the day.

Q. What are your responsibilities as Chief?

A. First and foremost make sure that your Indians respect themselves, each other, and Indians from other tribes. Second of all they must learn the reasons of why they want to mask, not just because it's fun. They have to understand why we do what we do. We're not just doing it to have a ball. We have to make sure they know the value of signals because when you're

playing Indian you don't communicate verbally you communicate with your tribe via signals. We have to teach them the songs and the reasons why we're singing these songs and the meaning behind these songs. Whether it's a battle cry or respectable song we have reasons. You also have to learn how to sew. Everything you put in you have to learn how to thread that needle and sit there and put in the time and dedication to make it come alive. All of it works together, there's not one part greater than the other. You could have a nice suit and just don't know what you're doing and all you'll be is a manikin.

Q. As a Chief what does singing mean to you in this culture?

A. Your singing is your life, your singing is your years. You sing about your experiences so at that point it doesn't become a song it becomes your documentary.

Q. What role did this culture play in your relationship with your father?

A. When the Indian thing came about it gave us a chance to work together, we sewed together, we hung together and talked, he's seen my mistakes and I saw his mistakes, and we basically fed off each other. We were in tandem all the way up until about two or three years ago because his eye sight started getting a little weak. Whereas a lot of guys may have a lot of help on these suits, it's always been me and him, always.

Q. What is the spirit of your Tribe?

A. The spirit of Golden Blades is strictly old school tradition. I was brought up that way and I teach them the same values. I have Indians in my tribe that masked in the 60's and 70's. That's all we know is old school values.

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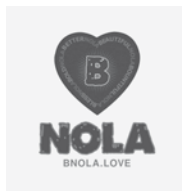
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Data Strut Award Winner Feature: Taylor Fields



Delaney George
Columnist

Data News Weekly's 2nd Data Strut Award winner for the 2018 year was announced at Xavier University's Spring Fashion Show. Miss Taylor Fields showed the most grace, poise, and style on the runway while modeling in multiple lines in the show. As a new comer in the modeling world, the 21-year-old California native was honored to have received the Data Strut Award.

"It was such a surprise, I just went out there with the utmost confidence and I guess it showed" said Fields.

Field's interest in the modeling world began when she discovered modeling pictures of her mom. Her mother having given Fields the inspiration to start, provided Taylor the motivation to study the craft of modeling shown in programs like Next Top Model.

"I love shows about fashion, and I love how fashion lets you really express yourself. Your walk on the runway really can make your personality shine through, it's so expressive!" said Fields.

Fields went on to mention greats in the modeling industry such as Naomi Campbell, saying she tries to embody professionals like her on the runway.

"Any model making an impact in fashion really inspires me. Being on the runway or on the camera can sometimes make me nervous, especially pictures, but after I practice and see the reaction from the crowd I tell myself, 'ok ok I got this'" said Fields.

When Taylor isn't on the runway, she is catering to the things most important to her. Fields enjoys time with family, friends, drawing, and photography. Fields prides herself in helping and inspiring others in any way she can.

"My family is the reason I do everything, I love them so much and I love to surround myself with those who truly support me" said Fields.

Fields is currently a rising senior at Xavier University of Louisiana majoring in Psychology with an Art minor. The studious model is driven by balancing her personal and professional goals in life.

"After graduation I plan to work within the Criminal Justice System in prisons and with inmates. I would also love to use my Art minor as a therapy outlet" said Fields.

In the future Fields intends on doing more fashion shows and photoshoots. Fields hopes to gain more knowledge on Fashion and land more gigs outside of her school network.

For more information on Fields visit ladatanews.com and browse our gallery for more shots of our 2nd Data Strut Award winner.



Taylor Fields ripping the runway at Xavier University of Louisiana's 2018 Spring Fashion Show.



Data Strut Award Winner Taylor Fields photographed by Delaney George @ Laneslense & glammed by Creative Director & Beauty Specialist Zariane Nunez @ Czarcosmetics.



Winner of Data Strut Award, Taylor Fields receive her honorary gifts presented by Delaney George of Delaney's Armoire & Laneslense.



Data Strut Award Winner Taylor Fields receive her award with delight and excitement.



The Fields. Data Strut Award winner Taylor Fields pictured with loved ones.



Downtime with Friends. Fields is pictured with some of her supporters and good friends.

2018 Jazz Fest Weekend 1 Brings the Music

Photos by Kichea S. Burt
Data News Weekly Contributor

With none of the weather shenanigans that cancelled the first day of the French Quarter Festival, The 49th Annual New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival rolled in with plenty of sunshine, amazing food and an incredible array of musical acts from around with country this past Friday through Sunday. The Fairgrounds was host for the first half of the famed event, with that included Common, Kidd Jordan, Bobby Rush, The Ron Carter Trio, Big Freedia and Big Chief Donald Harrison. One of the standout moments on Saturday was an all-star tribute to the late Fats Domino featuring an all-star array of contributors that included Davell Crawford, Irma Thomas, Jon Batiste and more performing some of Fats' most beloved songs." The second week will be as great as the first, so of course, Data will see you there!!!



Ron Carter Trio



Kidd Jordan



Bobby Rush



Henry Butler



Irma Thomas & Davell Crawford



Jon Batiste



Fats Ancestor Installation



Kahlid

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

10,000 Small Businesses Has Potential to Close the Racial Wealth Gap



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

"Investing to support the launch and growth of Black-owned businesses could build wealth for individuals and their families, assist with closing the wealth gap, revitalize communities, and contribute to an overall healthier economy, which benefits us all. To do so, thoughtful and innovative approaches are required to overcome the exponential effects of the interplay among the wealth gap, the credit gap, and the trust gap. While challenging, this is worth striving for so that we can move one step closer to an inclusive

economy." – Association of Enterprise Opportunity, "The Tapestry of Black Business Ownership in America"

Applications Are Being Accepted for Goldman Sachs Entrepreneurship Program through Babson College

If every Black-owned business with employees added two Black workers and 15% of those with no employees hired just one Black worker, the racial unemployment gap in the United States would be virtually eliminated.

A recent study on Black entrepreneurship concluded that Black-owned businesses could be a key to closing the racial wealth gap. While white adults have 13 times the wealth of Black adults, the gap between white and Black business owners is only three to one. The median net worth for Black business owners is 12 times higher than Black nonbusiness owners.

That's why supporting and

nurturing small business growth is one of the National Urban League's top priorities, and Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses is one of our most important partnerships. Through greater access to education, capital and business support services, 10,000 Small Businesses graduates are able to grow their revenues and create jobs at rates that outperform the economy in general.

In 2016, 47 percent of businesses grew their revenues. But 30 months after graduation, nearly 78 percent of 10,000 Small Businesses alumni increased revenues. About 25 percent of businesses added jobs. But, at 30 months, more than 56 percent of 10,000 Small Businesses alumni created jobs.

In this 50th anniversary year of examining racial progress since the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., the enormous role of Black-owned businesses in the Civil Rights Movement cannot be

overstated. As Boston University historian Louis Ferleger notes, the success of the Montgomery bus boycott depended upon Montgomery's 18 black-owned taxi companies, operating more than 200 cabs.

"Histories of the civil rights movement that emphasize the glory and successes of charismatic leaders only tell part of the story," Ferleger writes. "Small Black-owned businesses were critical because they were empowered to engage in civic participation. These businesses were uniquely situated to support the civil rights movement and also parted the waters."

Today's Black entrepreneurs, supported and empowered by partnerships like 10,000 Small Businesses, are a continuation of that civil rights legacy.

The more than 6,700 10,000 Small Businesses alumni include nearly 1,000 graduates of the National Cohort at Babson College - a blended online and face-to-face pro-

gram that delivers intensive entrepreneurship training and practical training from Babson's business experts and peers, alongside educational teams who teach the 10,000 Small Businesses program at community colleges across the country.

For 11 weeks, these small business owners connect with peers and work together through practical business education delivered through a blend of online and in-person sessions.

To apply for the 10,000 Small Businesses business and management education program, please visit www.10KSBAppl.com.

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>.

State & Local News

Walmart to Louisiana Entrepreneurs: We Want Your Products

Walmart's 5th Annual Open Call Event Registration open NOW; deals on the spot possible at daylong event June 13

Data Staff Reports

Often times, the best ideas are right in our own back yard. So, why not you? Attention entrepreneurs, Walmart is looking to serve up the big break you've been looking for during Walmart's Open Call scheduled for June 13, 2018 in Bentonville, Arkansas. You can apply now for a chance to secure a seat at a table with one of the company's buyers by visiting walmart-jump.com; the deadline is May 4.

"Since participating in Open Call last year, our EPA Safer Choice Certified Direct Release product, BOOYAH CLEAN BOAT WASH is on the shelves of more than 900 Walmart stores," said Harahan, Louisiana-based Mike Wisecarver, owner of BOOYAH CLEAN BOAT WASH. "Walmart recognizes the

ingenuity of our line of award winning (2017 First Place – EPA Gulf Guardian Award) marine cleaning products, that are safer for the environment, our customers and their families. This experience has given our product national recognition, and I encourage local entrepreneurs to participate in Open Call."

"Walmart's investment in U.S.-manufactured products goes beyond the shelf. The investment is also in the entrepreneurs' dream, and that can be an emotional experience for everyone involved," said Cindi Marsiglio, Walmart's vice president of Merchandise Services and U.S. Manufacturing. "By investing in products that support American jobs, we're able to bring new products to our shelves and new jobs to our communities."

Attendees at this year's Open

Call could secure deals ranging from a handful of stores in a local market, to supplying hundreds or even thousands of stores, Sam's Club locations and Walmart.com. The daylong event informs, empowers and encourages all who attend while providing a great networking opportunity for local entrepreneurs.

A brand new batch of products identified during the 2017 Open Call event recently landed on Walmart store shelves, representing the dreams of dozens of entrepreneurs across the country, including:

Louisiana-based business owner Mike Wisecarver pitched BOOYAH CLEAN BOAT WASH at Open Call 2017. His product is now at more than 900 stores.

Louisiana's woman-owned Southern Design secured a deal with

Walmart to sell University specific wall art. The unique product caught the eye of buyers with the on trend look and uniqueness.

Orlando residents are beaming with pride after O'Dang Hummus fulfilled founder Jesse Wolfe's childhood dream and secured a deal to put their low calorie healthy snack on Walmart shelves. As of today, the O'Dang Hummus products can be found in more than 2,000 stores.

ZolliPops CEO, Alina Morse, proves that age is only a number. The 12-year old entrepreneur from Michigan landed her products on the shelves of over 4,500 Walmart locations.

Sleep is essential and Terra Beauty Products Bars showcased their Florida-manufactured Go To Sleep Natural Pillow Mist to buy-

ers, earning the product a trial in 85 stores.

Curries by Nature Simmer Sauces is a Texas-based business that landed a deal to sell its authentic Indian Simmer Sauce in more than 400 stores.

The health & beauty category is testing Sundari, LLC's Neem Hand Oil in approx. 100 stores. The quality hand oil is manufactured in California.

RedHead Wine of Youngstown, Ohio, is the product of a third generation wine maker who paired perfectly with Walmart during Open Call in 2017, securing a deal to be on the shelves of 150-plus stores.

Room décor takes on a whole new perspective with Decalomania's Augmented Reality Wall Posters, currently available in 1,000 stores and manufactured in Idaho.

Millennials Are Entering Real Estate Market

As They Pay Down College Loans, Millennials Are Taking a Hard Look at Homeownership



Christopher G. Cox
Publishing/Managing Editor,
www.realesavvy.com

As the U.S. economy recovers from a decade of slow growth, more and more millennials—generally defined as people born between the early 1980s and about 2004—are becoming a significant factor in the real estate market, as they pay off student loans and become established in their professions.

And with more and more millennials hitting peaks within their education, Brooke Cashion, a broker with Allen Tate Realtors and the president of the Winston-Salem Regional Association of Realtors, said that she could see the correlation between education levels and higher real estate investments.

“I work with many, well-educated millennials who are finally working in the professions they trained so hard for and are settling down and getting married,” Cashion said. “Some are looking for more traditional properties, while others prefer modern construction, but they are all looking for a good real estate investment that will help them to grow their money.”

As millennials begin to get on their feet financially—after years of struggling with student debt and difficulty finding jobs in their cho-



sen fields—Cashion explained that these same young people, tend to be conservative in their financial planning and want to avoid taking on more debt than they can comfortably afford.

In addition, Cashion also said that millennials are looking for homes that reflect their lifestyles, that allow them to live among like-minded neighbors, and that offer them the opportunity to be a part of the communities where they live.

“I find that millennials are very empathetic,” Cashion said. “They want to play a role in making their communities better places to live.”

Brian A. Hudson, the executive director and CEO of the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, agreed with Cashion, that community is very important to millennials.

“They want to live close to where

they work, especially when they can obtain a mortgage that is less than the rent they are paying,” Hudson said.

In addition, Hudson said that the hot rental market in the last five years has caused more and more millennials to evaluate the tipping point between paying rent and paying a mortgage.

“Even if they are not sure how

long they will be in a certain community, many believe it makes sense to transition from renting to owning, when rent payments equal or exceed mortgage payments,” Cashion said.

However, homeownership is not without obstacles for millennials, with Cashion noting a lack of housing inventory, as one of the major conflicts.

“I recently had a listing that had seven offers only a short time after it went on the market,” Cashion said.

Millennials comprise 30 to 40 percent of Hudson’s client base. Hudson noted that this level of interest is not unusual for quality properties in the current real estate market.

In addition, Hudson also said that another important factor in reaching millennials, is making use of digital media.

“Running magazine and newspaper ads, as we did for years, does not work well with millennials. These days you have to be on Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter and other social media, because that’s what they rely on to get information,” Hudson said.

Christopher G. Cox is the Publisher/Managing Editor of Reale Savvy.com. His monthly column, focusing on community and economic development, appears in the Winston-Salem Chronicle. He also has a monthly radio program that can be heard on WTOB (980 AM) in Winston-Salem. Follow Chris on Twitter @realesavvy.

LA Sec. of State Resigns Amid Sexual Misconduct Scandal

Data Staff Reports

Baton Rouge, LA - As reported by the Associated Press, Louisiana Secretary of State Tom Schedler is leaving his elected position as calls for his resignation have increased amid allegations that the state elections chief, sexually harassed one of his employees.

Schedler announced on Tuesday, that he will be stepping down May 8 from the position he’s held since 2010. He becomes the highest-level public official in Louisiana to be felled by sexual misconduct accusations since the #MeToo movement began.

The Republican previously announced plans to stay until his term ended in January 2020, de-



Scandal embattled Louisiana Secretary of State Tom Schedler submitted a letter of resignation to Gov. John Bel Edwards on Tuesday morning. The letter gives an effective date of May 8.

spite a pending sexual harassment lawsuit against him by an employee.

But the drumbeat for Schedler’s resignation grew louder after the release of sexually themed emails Schedler had sent the woman who sued him. A special election will fill the remainder of Schedler’s term.

Gov. John Bel Edwards in a statement says he believes Schedler made the right decision.

“Given the serious nature of the allegations, in February, I called on Secretary of State Tom Schedler to resign,” Edwards says. “In light of the additional information that has been disclosed, I believe this is the best course of action for Tom, his family, and the state of Louisiana.”



AT&T Contributes \$100,000 to Support New Orleans-based Camelback Ventures

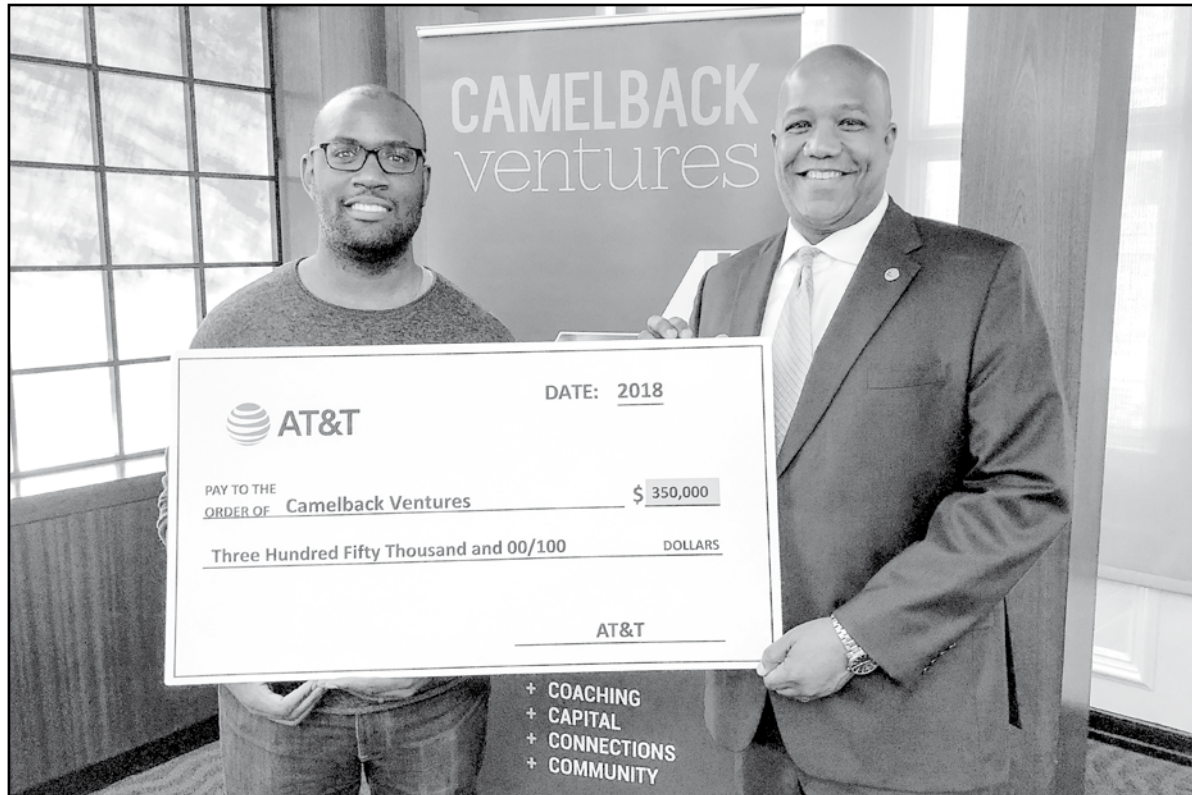
Contribution supports diverse social entrepreneurs by helping fund the infrastructure for the 2018 Fellowship program.

Data Staff Reports

New Orleans, Louisiana — On Thursday, April 26, AT&T announced a contribution of \$100,000 to New Orleans-based Camelback Ventures (Camelback) as part of AT&T Aspire, the company's initiative to help provide access to education and training people need to get and keep good jobs.

At an event held at Camelback's office in New Orleans, representatives from AT&T and Camelback made remarks about the contribution. Aaron Walker, CEO of Camelback stated, "This contribution from AT&T will make a strong impact on helping our efforts and the entrepreneurs we are working with to advance their goals to become more successful in the future. Thank you to AT&T for its continued commitment to our community, our state and the leaders of tomorrow's economy."

Sonia Perez, President of AT&T Louisiana said, "AT&T is pleased this year to continue our support of Camelback and its work be-



Aaron Walker, CEO of New Orleans based Camelback Ventures is presented with a check from AT&T as part of AT&T Aspire, the company's initiative to help provide access to education and training people need to get and keep good jobs. The contribution from AT&T supports the group's mission and efforts.

cause we share the vision of supporting local entrepreneurs who will cultivate jobs and economic growth in the future."

AT&T's contribution supports diverse social entrepreneurs by

helping fund the infrastructure for the 2018 Fellowship program. AT&T also supported Camelback's 2017 program bringing AT&T's total amount contributed to \$350,000.

Camelback aims to address the inequities of entrepreneurship by providing coaching, capital, and connections to underrepresented entrepreneurs. The contribution from AT&T supports the group's mission and efforts.

AT&T invests in education and job training to create a skilled and diverse workforce that powers our company – and our country – for the future. Through the AT&T Aspire initiative, AT&T helps provide access to education and training people need to get and keep good jobs. Since 2008, we've committed \$400 million to programs to help millions of students in all 50 states and around the world. AT&T Aspire brings together the power of our network – our employees, our technology and organizations – to connect people to opportunities through education and job training.



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"Black Panther" to Deliver Keynote Speech at Howard University's Graduation

Howard University Graduate Chadwick Boseman to Speak at the School's 150th Commencement Ceremony on May 12

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Howard University Alumnus Chadwick Boseman, 40, will give the keynote address at the school's 150th Commencement Ceremony on May 12. The star of the movie "Black Panther" will also be presented with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

"I'm excited to return to the Mecca in celebration of the achievements of our illustrious students," Boseman said in a statement announcing the keynote address. "Let's listen, learn and build with one another."

The movie "Black Panther" has become a worldwide phenomenon. It has now grossed more money than the hit movie "Titanic." "Black Panther" has now grossed over \$1.3 billion worldwide and is the highest-grossing film of 2018. The movie is also now the third-highest-grossing film ever in the United States and the 10th-highest-grossing film of all time.

Boseman graduated from Howard University and attended the British American Dramatic Academy at Oxford. Boseman can currently be seen starring as T'Challa/



"Black Panther" star Chadwick Boseman will deliver the keynote address during Howard University's 150th Commencement Ceremony. In this photo, Boseman speaks during the 2016 San Diego Comic Con International at the San Diego Convention Center in San Diego, Calif. (Gage Skidmore/Wikimedia Commons)

Black Panther in Marvel Studios' "Black Panther" and "Avengers: Infinity War."

He made his debut in the Marvel Cinematic Universe as the African superhero in Marvel Studios' "Captain America: Civil War," in May 2016. Boseman's breakout performance came in 2013 when he received rave reviews for his portrayal of the legendary Jackie Robinson in Warner Bros' "42" opposite Harrison Ford. He also portrayed James Brown in Universal Pictures' "Get on Up."

Boseman, to deliver the 2018 commencement address. He has played some of the most iconic African Americans that have transformed history, including Jackie Robinson, James Brown and Howard's own Thurgood Marshall."

In a statement about Howard University's 150th commencement ceremony, Howard President Wayne Frederick said that Boseman's role in the blockbuster film "Black Panther" reminds us of the excellence found in the African diaspora.

"Howard continues to be a gem that produces the next generation of artist-scholars, humanitarians, scientists, engineers and doctors," said Frederick. "Mr. Boseman exemplifies the monumental heights and levels Howard graduates can achieve by using the skills and knowledge they acquired at the university."

This story was originally posted at BlackPressUSA.com. Lauren Victoria Burke is a Congressional Correspondent for the NNPA Newswire. Lauren also works independently as a political analyst and communications strategist. You can reach Lauren by email at LVBurke007@gmail.com and on Twitter at @LVBurke.

Black Love, Continued from page 4.

will go to the top of the highest mountain and not care who hears it," Weeks said. "When you marry somebody and right after you say I do, they get into a car accident and they're paralyzed from the waist

down, you will take care of them," she added.

That is the essence of real love, she explained, not just words, but actions.

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