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New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

**Anthony Bean
Community
Theater and
Acting School
Celebrate 20th
Season in 2020**



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**Data Zone
Page 6**

December 29, 2019 - January 3, 2020 54th Year Volume 35 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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2019

The Year in Review

By Renetta Burrell Perry
Contributor

On the eve of a brand-new year, Data News Weekly pause to remember the ebb and flow of 2019 as we meandered through 12 tumultuous, yet sometimes momentous months. We remember the gut-wrenching blows like the back-to-back deaths of three of the City's icons: Leah Chase, Dr. John and Dave Bartholomew; and one of our most beloved local television personalities, award-winning journalist and newscaster Nancy Parker. And we unforgivingly recount the heartbreaking missed pass interference call which happened during the Saints/Rams playoff game, an egregious mishap which ultimately robbed the Saints of the possibility of a second Super Bowl appearance.

While those losses dragged us to our knees in sorrow, despair, and bitter anger, there were gains that lifted us into the stratosphere, filling our hearts with the hope of things to come. After all, the Saints are once again poised to potentially reach the Super Bowl as they wow us once again with a season of outstanding football. The Essence Festival has extended its contract with the City, agreeing to stay for at least five more years. And New Orleans' voters were credited by our Mayor as being a game-changing factor in the re-election of incumbent Democratic Governor John Bel Edwards.

So, as we welcome 2020 with all of its possibilities, we pay homage to 2019 by highlighting 10 stories that inspired us along the way.

1

January 12 – January 18, 2019

Black and Gold and the Soul of New Orleans - The Boys in Black and Gold

This has been a banner year for the Boys in Black and Gold. With a regular-season record of 13-3, they are the number one seed in the NFC headed into the playoffs. Meaning that the Saints will have home-field advantage throughout the playoffs. The 2018 season has been reminiscent of that magical 2009 season when the Saints went on in 2010 to win its first Super Bowl in franchise history.

Saints and the Sounds of a People

As a city with many amazing traditions and festivals that bring the city together, football season and the Saints games bring people together for the usual recipe for a New Orleans party. Good food, great music, and amazing people. Bo Dollis Jr., Big Chief of the Wild Magnolias and son of legendary Big Chief, the late Bo Dollis said, "It is amazing how the Saints bring so many people from different backgrounds together to support the team. In these moments we are all one. People laughing, talking, second-lining, our fans are like no other because being from New Orleans we have so much pride in our city."



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2

March 2 - March 8, 2019

Mayor Cantrell Speaks with Data News Weekly

On the eve of the Mayor's Annual Mardi Gras Ball, Data News Weekly sat down with New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell, where she spoke to Editor, Edwin Buggage and Publisher, Terry Jones regarding a host of issues on this day.

Fair Share and Infrastructure Improvements

At the forefront of her agenda was her "Fair Share Initiative" Cantrell said, "We need to get our fair share of the revenue from the state and business community to help rebuild the City's infrastructure problems." With a sense of urgency in her voice, she says, "We've kicked that can down the road and it can't go any further."

One project she spoke of pressing concern was Sewerage and Water Board

"All of the reserves being before our administration upwards to 85 million dollars. Right now, we are asking for 75 million dollars to repair in some cases 100-year-old drains. This is something that as many of our citizens know affects our quality of life and our safety as well."

Equity and Opportunity for All

As the City possibly has more infrastructure projects coming down the pipeline; it is important that more minorities are able to access contracting and employment opportunities.

"Making history as our first woman mayor in our city in 300 years is an awesome responsibility and knowing I might be the first, but will not be the last," she says with a smile and sense of accomplishment and triumph. Understanding her role in being a trailblazer bringing hope to generations of other women that they can achieve greatness. "I realize the significance of my election and breaking the ceiling, but the most satisfying part is that it is not just about me, but it can inspire so many other women."



3

April 13 - April 19, 2019

Unity 1 on the Road to Rebuilding

On March 20th NOPD officers were in pursuit of what they believed was a car that was stolen. As officers became disengaged the car sped away and tragedy arose as the car crashed into Unity-1 Beauty Salon, causing a three-alarm fire that left the iconic Broadmoor business building engulfed in flames leaving it presently inoperable. Also, three lives were lost, the two young men in the vehicle and one woman inside the salon who later succumbed to burns sustained in the fire.

**Community Comes Together to Help Re-Open Iconic Business**

After the fire, an outpouring of support came from all over the city, state, and nation regarding the rebuilding of what has become an institution in the African American community. Data News Weekly spoke with Beverly Smith DPC (Doctor of Professional Cosmetology) who owns the business with her husband John Smith, who founded the business in 1981.

"We are a family business that began in 1981 by my husband John Smith. I met him in 1982 and began working with him building our business that at one point had five locations and was the number one distributor of Black hair care products in the Southeast region," states Ms. Beverly, a name many have come to know her by in the community.

Fire Damages Historic Business in Broadmoor

"Unity means coming together as one. We need to unite and be on one accord. Whenever there is someone in need. The community can come together to help; together we can stand but divided we will fall. Together we can accomplish more. The whole city, not just Broadmoor."

4

June 15 - June 21, 2019

Leah Chase - A Recipe for an Amazing Life

She came a long way from segregated Madisonville, Louisiana to become a World-Renowned Chef and Cultural Icon in the City of New Orleans. Upon hearing of her death, well-wishers from around the globe are paying their respect to Leah Chase, "The Queen of Creole Cuisine," who recently passed away at the age of 96. Leah Chase, whose life personified dignity, courage, strength and her philosophy of "Pray, Work Hard and Do for Others" created a divine recipe for what it means to live a great life.

Reflections from Sybil H. Morial - Sybil Remembers Her Good Friend Leah Chase

Data News Weekly had the opportunity to speak with her close friend Sybil H. Morial, wife of Ernest "Dutch" Morial, the City's first Black Mayor and mother of Marc H. Morial, who also served as Mayor of New Orleans. Morial, an amazing woman in her own right, has made her mark as an educator and a community advocate. Speaking of her good friend, she generously heaps praise upon her saying, "She is well-deserving of it all. Leah was a gracious and wonderful woman who took time with people from all walks of life. She was truly an exceptional and loving woman."

Edgar "Dooky" Chase, IV - Lessons my Grandmother taught me: Pray, Work and Do for Others

As he speaks of the life of his grandmother, there is emotion coming out as he composes himself speaking about her life and journey, "When we read these stories of how many lives she's touched it sometimes brings us to tears thinking how she's impacted our lives but WOW, look at all the people she's helped and in many ways, made the world a better place spreading so much love and positivity."



Wilbert “Mr Chill” Wilson

Chill Sos is Organizing a Fundraiser to Contribute to Medical Expenses

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief

Wilbert “Mr. Chill” Wilson, has dedicated his life to giving back and inspiring a community leading many social causes.

Recently, a team of medical professionals have confirmed Wilson has Pancreatic Cancer. As he has for so many others, Mr. Chill is a fighter and continues to remain positive. “We know that GOD has the last word,” says Wilson.

People from many sectors of the community have come together in support of Wilbert “Mr. Chill” Wilson. So, today if you can make a small donation that will go a long way in contributing to the cost of medical expenses.

Data News Weekly is asking members of the community to come together and offer support to



Recently, a team of medical professionals have confirmed Wilson has Pancreatic Cancer. As he has for so many others, Mr. Chill is a fighter and continues to remain positive. People from many sectors of the community have come together in support of Wilbert “Mr. Chill” Wilson. So today if you can make a small donation that will go a long way in contributing to the cost of medical expenses.

this family who has often time supported others in so many ways.

We all know the power of prayer as illustrated in Matthew 18:20 says “For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

On behalf of Mr. Chill’s First-Class Hot Dogs & Sweet’s Pastries and Mr. Chill’s First-Class Cuts, they’re asking everyone every day from 5-6 pm to stop what you’re doing and let’s unite in prayer for Wilbert “Mr. Chill” Wilson, Sr.

For Information about how to help go to:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/wilbert-quotmr-chillquot-wilson?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-shee

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Publisher

Data News Weekly

Continuing In Our Role As “The People’s Paper”



Terry B. Jones
Publisher,
Data News Weekly

Data News Weekly would like to thank everyone who continues to support Data News Weekly in our over 50-year mission in our role as “The People’s Paper” of New Orleans.

In 2019 we had a historical year

on many fronts. It’s also been one where we’ve lost many of our City’s cultural icons. But as you know we are a City of resilient people that continue to find a reason to celebrate and get the most out of life as “America’s Most International, Interesting City, and people-oriented City.”

We in New Orleans have truly mastered how to live life and is a place where people come to our City every year to experience our unique culture and heritage.

As the Publisher of Data News Weekly, we would like you to know that our vision for 2020 will take our paper in many new and interesting directions. We

are working to expand our digital presence with a new and improved website, and we are doing a re-launch of all our social media platforms.

Also, as we all know it is an election year and we will be on the frontlines; keeping our readers informed and understand the importance of voting and civic engagement. We are here to tell you again that making a positive change in our community starts with us.

Again, we would like to thank our advertisers, community partners and most importantly our readers. We at Data News Weekly promise to continue to be your voice “Lighting the Road to the Future.”

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SUNO Awards 23 Scholarships to Delgado Graduates

Data News Weekly Staff Edited Report

NEW ORLEANS, Louisiana (December 20, 2019) – Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) awarded 23 scholarships to Delgado Community College graduates Tuesday, December 17, 2019, during Delgado's Fall Commencement Exercises at the Lakefront Arena.

This was the first time that SUNO and Delgado publicly showed support for Delgado graduates who wish to take advantage of the 2+2 Transfer Agreement between the two institutions. The 23 high-performing associate degree graduates received \$1,000 or \$2,000 scholarships per semester, depending on the discipline, to pursue bachelor's degrees at SUNO, starting in the Spring 2020 Semester. The scholarships are in effect for two years, as long as the students maintain the stipulated minimum GPA each semester.

"We welcome any other current



Dr. David Adegboye, Vice-Chancellor of Academic, Evening & Weekend Affairs (center), presents a scholarship to a graduate during the Delgado Community College Commencement Exercises on Tuesday, December 17, 2019. Delgado Chancellor Larissa Littleton-Steib is standing right.

Adegboye, Vice-Chancellor of Academic, Evening & Weekend Affairs at SUNO. "Scholarship funds are still available, thanks to the generosity of DXC Technology."

Dr. Mostofa Sarwar, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at Delgado, is the architect of this new initiative. Earlier this year, Dr. Sarwar pioneered the Universal Transfer Process that allows Delgado students who transferred to SUNO before attaining a degree to receive a Delgado Associate Degree once they have earned the required credits.

"Indeed," Dr. Adegboye added during Tuesday's scholarship presentation, "Delgado Community College and Southern University at New Orleans are two institutions that continue to work together to promote workforce development in Louisiana."

and even past graduates who may wish to be considered for such transfer admissions," said Dr. David



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Wisdom & Wine

A New Inter Generational Conversation Series Exploring Various Topical Issues

Data News Weekly

AARP-Louisiana recently held a special "Ladies Night" featuring a Champagne and Sushi Tasting at Second Vine Wine.

The topic for the evening was Managing Holiday Stress & Festive Make-up Tips for Mature Women.



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BUILT FOR THE HOLIDAYS SALES EVENT



2020
F-150



2020
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The Anthony Bean Community Theater and Acting School Celebrate 20th Season in 2020

Data News Weekly Edited Release

For twenty years, the organization has been dedicated to telling the vital and complex stories of the global black experience. The artist-driven, intergenerational theatre company is dedicated to preserving the Black theatre aesthetic in New Orleans, Louisiana.

One of our 2020 Signature Programs will be the August Wilson Conference and Theater Festival, which is being conducted in conjunction with the Center for African and African American Studies (CAAAS) at Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO).



Irma Thomas



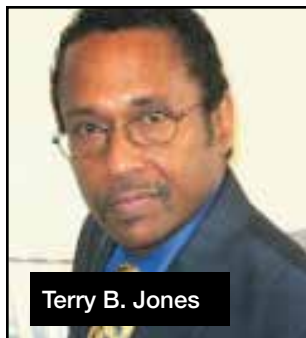
Oliver Thomas



Sally-Ann Roberts



Adella Gautier



Terry B. Jones

Also, to honor and salute the local celebrities who support us along the way. They lend their names recognition, starred in our shows, helped with financial contributions and/or help to get the word out that Anthony Bean Community Theater (ABCT) is vital to the New Orleans area.

The legendary Award goes to New Orleans Queen of Soul, Irma Thomas.

The ABCT Icon Awards goes to:

Sally-Ann Roberts - Former News Anchor for WWL-TV, Oliver Thomas - Former City Councilmember and WBOK Radio host Oliver Thomas, Terry Jones- Publisher of Data News Weekly and Regional President of the National Newspaper Publisher Association (NNPA), Adella Gautier- Award-Winning Actress and Storyteller.

For more information about The Award Benefit Gala, call (504) 862-PLAY (7529)



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-NATIONAL AVG. DEALER DISCOUNT \$2,839
-BONUS CASH \$9,780

TOTAL ESTIMATED SAVINGS³ = **\$12,619**



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MSRP BEFORE DISCOUNTS \$54,710
-NATIONAL AVG. DEALER DISCOUNT \$4,113
-BONUS CASH \$7,500

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20/20 Vision

A Clear Picture for Next Year



Charles Dickerson
Data News Weekly Columnist

We are at the end of 2019 and it has been a year of many ups and downs. In my column, my goal is to inspire and challenge people to be their best selves. I believe that this is possible only by us having a clear vision along with ways to make it happen.

I believe the goal for us should

not to be perfect, but to strive to be better in the things we can control. In saying this I am taking a page out of Steven Covey's book "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People" and ask all of you to focus on your "Circle of Influence."

While I understand in these divisive times many feel things are getting worse locally and nationally

and that solutions and the future seem dark for humanity, but let me tell you it is simply a matter of perspective. I believe we can do better and will do better if we focus on things we can change.

I feel this is something each person must decide that is within their reach "Circle of Influence" they can work to improve. If we all

do this our city, state and nation will be a better place for us all. And we can as our Mayor LaToya Cantrell is known to say, "Get the Trash Out of Our Eyes" and work towards a clear vision for 2020 finding solutions that will impact us all in positive ways.

I would like to wish all "A Happy and Productive New Year."

Cover Story, Continued from page 3.

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June 29 - July 10, 2019

Juan LaFonta - Fighting the Good Fight and Making the Case for a Better New Orleans

Juan LaFonta's face is emblazoned on TV and billboards all over New Orleans. Many know him as an attorney, but some don't know that he has been on the frontlines for almost two decades giving back to the city that's given him so much. In addition, his story of overcoming personal obstacles to become the success he is today is one of inspiration.

Inspiration for the Next Generation

Last year he took a group of kids to see the movie Black Panther and saw how transformative it was for them to see a Black superhero on the screen. He says of the experience, "It was great seeing how excited the kids were seeing a film that celebrated our culture and diversity. I rented out two theaters paying the kids' admission, giving a red-carpet experience to children. It was amazing to see their eyes light up watching a positive reflection of themselves on the screen."

Winning on and Off the Field

The breadth and depth of his giving is as immense as his heart is big and like on the billboards, sometimes LaFonta is like a superhero coming in to help those in need. LaFonta expounds upon one of these instances. "A cook and his wife were carrying a football team at A. L. Davis Park on their back... they testified in front of City Council to get mentors not money. They agreed to continue using jerseys from another park from the 80s. A husband and wife saved up money every year to take care of the cheerleaders and football players. I felt compelled to help and contributed monies that would help them get jerseys. This story was featured on WDSU."

I Am My Brother's and Sister's Keeper

LaFonta is someone who's experienced many obstacles and says he owes a debt of gratitude to so many people who have helped him along in his journey. "I have overcome a lot in my life to become who I am today. I have a lot of people to thank, family members, extended family, and friends. Without them, I don't know what kind of person I would be. Those are people who didn't have a lot but gave so much, offering me half the bread they had. And there's no way I could have done what I've done without a whole community rallying behind me to help me."



6

July 6 - July 12, 2019

Essence Festival Entertains, Enlightens and Elevates in its 25th Year

The epic and now historic Essence Music Festival is 25 years old, and it's safe to say that it's all grown-up and it's so New Orleans! When then-Mayor Marc H. Morial helped seal the deal to bring the then intended one-time celebration to the City, he couldn't have imagined it would evolve into a 25-year-long courtship between the City of New Orleans and Essence, separated only once by an act of nature we know as Hurricane Katrina. And throughout its evolution, the Festival has faithfully lived up to its original Mission Statement which was to emerge as more than just a party (which we are fully able to execute here), but as a "Party with a Purpose."

More than a Festival, Essence Fest is an experience so deeply engrained into the new Black existence and lexicon that it has been enshrined with its own movie, "Girls Trip" depicting the endearment it has formed amongst Black women.

But aside from being a cultural phenomenon, the party and purpose-driven event has garnered massive financial dividends - millions upon millions of dollars are spent over the course of the three-day 4th of July weekend - and it yearly boasts a staggering list of Black America's who's who in music, fashion, sports, arts, cuisine and more.

National Urban League President and CEO Marc H. Morial said of the Festival's inauguration, "As the leading African-American Publication, they were looking for a city with a strong African American cultural heritage and an African American Mayor. No other city had or has such a strong musical tradition and the unique versatile construction of the Superdome made it the perfect venue."

"The Essence Festival helped solidify New Orleans as the quintessential destination for multicultural and African American gatherings," he says.



Enjoying Wine From Black Owned Wineries

Second Vine Wine

During the Holiday Season, many will be with family, friends and loved ones enjoying great food celebrating and ringing in the New Year.

In the spirit of supporting Black-Owned businesses here are a few suggestions for wines from "Black Owned Wineries" for you to enjoy not just during the holidays but year-round.

Brown Estates Betelgeuse Sauvignon Blanc

An elegant addition to your dining table, Betelgeuse is a lean, crisp, light-bodied wine with gentle acidity and notes of citrus, stone fruits, and tropical florals.

Brown Estate Vineyards is the first and only Black-owned estate winery in California's Napa Valley. Known as one of the region's most well-regarded zinfandel producers, Brown also makes Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay.



New Orleans' own "Queen of Bounce" loves rosé so much that she decided to release her own brand, Ca di Freedia Rosé. The 100 percent Pinot Noir comes from the Lombardy Region of Italy in an area called Oltrepo Pavese.



McBride Sisters Brut Rose' New Zealand

McBride Sisters Black Girl Magic Riesling

Intensely aromatic, this wine shows typical Riesling characteristics of honey, apricot and white flowers. The

mild sweetness of guava and pineapple is balanced by tangy citrus flavors.

Sisters Robin and Andrea McBride have combined the love of their environment with

their passion for wine to create the McBride Sisters Collection, a line that reflects each of the sister's upbringing on opposite ends of the globe - Robin in California, and An-

drea in New Zealand.

Second Vine Wine is a local African American Owned Business that offers an array of wine, beer and spirits plus occasional tastings and classes.

Cover Story, Continued from page 8.

7 July 27 - August 2, 2019
Seeing New Orleans Through Her Lens - Celebrating A Life of Passion and Purpose

The city recently lost a local treasure, photojournalist Kichea Burt who passed away at the age of 71. She was a phenomenal woman who lived a life dedicated to helping those in need as a Psychotherapist, in addition to being a culture bearer as a photographer, with the spirit and uniqueness of New Orleans. Her love of photography began at an early age recounts her daughter Chanell Gautreaux. "My mother actually built a pinhole camera when she was 12. She was always creative but found a way to balance her life as a therapist," she says in praise of her mother, who lived a life full of passion and purpose.

Dawn of a New Day: From Susan Elizabeth Jones to Kichea Afikiano

Born Susan Elizabeth Jones, in New Orleans, after high school she attended UC Berkley during the 1970s and also the University of Southern California where she received a Master's Degree. There she sprouted the wings that would guide an incredible life, renaming herself Kichea Afikiano, which means "Dawn of a New Day" in Swahili. In this life, it would be one where selfless service and touching souls would be the light that guided her life and mission.

The Legacy of Photojournalist Kichea Burt - Inspiring Us All to Be Our Best Selves

As we celebrate the life of Susan Elizabeth Jones/Kichea Afikiano, the dawn of a new day is upon us as she's transitioned, and we the living who had the opportunity to experience her have had an example of how to live a life filled with passion and purpose to emulate and be inspired by. It is in this the spirit of New Orleans that today we second line and continue the work of her life and mission which is to encourage, love, uplift and inspire each other to be better.



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Cover Story, Continued on page 10.

Cover Story, Continued from page 10.

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August 10 - August 16

**Ed Reed - A Champion's Journey
- From Destrehan to Destiny**

Ed Reed is an athlete who personifies excellence both on and off the field. Throughout his illustrious football career, he's been a champ, breaking records and winning a national title in college and then as a professional, winning the Super Bowl as a member of the Baltimore Ravens. It is a long way from his early beginnings in Destrehan, LA., as today he joins the ranks of the greats of the NFL recently being inducted in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Building A Winning Team

Ed Reed is one who has chosen to be a role model and an inspiration to future generations. This spirit comes from his growing up in a close-knit family and community where he was encouraged to excel. Many of those who played a part in shaping his greatness was on hand in Canton for the induction ceremony.

Steven Murdock Sr., who grew up next door to Reed and was one of his extended family members and mentors growing up. "Our connection runs deep... Coming up he was like a little brother to me and seeing him become the man he is today makes me proud."

Lawrence Haynes III also grew up with Reed and his family and was like a big brother to him as well. He says that as a youngster Ed saw them doing things with their lives related to sports that took them out of the neighborhood and was inspired by them. With pride beaming from his voice he says, "We knew he was special it is not surprising to see him reach this level of greatness. Early on he saw some of us including his Uncle Tim Reed go off to college, we all got scholarships and Ed saw us go away and do things outside of the neighborhood and it inspired him to want to do something more."

Inspiring Greatness

Ed Reed's life has been a success on many levels and positive proof that a rose can grow out of concrete. And with the right team around giving encouragement and support, you can be a champion in life. Reed in his Hall of Fame Speech summed up his feeling about how anyone can become a champion and become great, "Everyone has their own greatness. Whether you reach your own greatness depends on your environment, your structure, the company you keep and your attitude."



9

August 17 - August 23, 2019

New Orleans a Tale of Two Cities

The City of New Orleans is a place rich in culture; it is something that keeps people coming back year after year. But in spite of all the things that are amazing, splendid and enchanting about the City, it is one that finds itself as many urban cities rife with crime and violence.

It is one where too many lives (mostly African American Males) are cut short by gunfire and lack of access to the ladders of success leading to lack of aspirations. Nevertheless, in spite of these obstacles there are many citizens who have tried to become a bridge; inspiring the youth of New Orleans that there is in fact, hope and opportunities to live lives free of guns and violence.

On the Frontlines

One of those persons who is on the frontlines of this battle is Nakita Shavers, her name may be familiar to some, for she is the younger sister of Dinerral Shavers, who was a renowned drummer and one of the founding members of the Hot 8 Brass Band in addition to being a band instructor; who was gunned down in 2006. His death along with the shooting death of Helen Hill, led to thousands of people to march on City Hall demanding that the City do a better job combating the problems of crime and gun violence.

**Nakita Shavers - From Tragedy to Triumph
- Making a Better Community**

Since her brother's death, she's spearheaded several efforts to help those in need and inspire a community to be better. She is a true example of giving back, by not giving a handout, but a hand up. "The Dinerral Shavers Educational Fund (DSEF) is an Educational Initiative giving an outlet to young people and alternatives to violence. We have a Back to School Extravaganza that's grown over the past 10 years. We partner with Tulane University and Ashe' Cultural Center. We distribute school supplies, there's also entertainment, and we have health screenings and other things. It's a hub where these services are available to youth and their families."

This is not the only way Shavers chooses to serve, she explains, "There is a music and education curriculum I developed with the culture bearers from across the city. Basically, we partner with schools and community centers. Students are taught New Orleans history, taught by people who actually produce the culture, (Mardi Gras Indian, Musicians, Dancers, Drummers, etc.). The goal is to help them appreciate the rich culture in which they live and that they continue to celebrate and practice these traditions."



10

November 23 -
November 29, 2019**A Special City
and the Search for the
Authentic New Orleans**

New Orleans is an amazing city with a culture that marries the old and new world. It is truly a global city with many rich traditions that people from all corners of the globe come to experience. And because of this unique heritage, it's attracted many who have attempted to understand it by making-of documentaries, feature films, books, TV shows and creating photo exhibits.

While some of their intentions may not have intentionally missed

capturing the essence of the spirit of the people and their cultural productions, unfortunately, it is often the result. This is something that leaves the true and authentic story still untold.

**New Orleans Downtown
Injun Culture**

This is what's led Chayil Glenn Jones, owner of Beulah Productions in association with No UmBow Films to make the groundbreaking documentary film "New Orleans Downtown Injun Culture." (New Orleans separated into 17 Wards Downtown is the north side of Canal Street and is the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th Wards).



Beulah Productions is a media services, and cultural education company. The blackmasking.org auxiliary of Beulah Productions is responsible for Cultural education and spearheading

the mission of preserving the aboriginal culture of New Orleans. At the heart of this aboriginal culture is the New Orleans Black Masking Injuns, known as the Mardi Gras Indians.

Describing the film and why he decided to focus on this tradition he says, "This film is about Black Masking, where it came from and the Big Chiefs describe how the culture has evolved in this 300-year history of New Orleans."

Jones, a native of New Orleans saw the need to present the Black Masking Culture through a lens that lends itself to a better understanding of the tradition through the voice of those that create and practice it.

**The Search for Truth
and Authenticity**

There is no other film like it," says Co-Director Oba Jordan Lorries. "Necessity is the mother of invention and I would say that research is the father of truth."

Continuing he says, "What you have is an oral history of New Orleans and that is great, but how far are we to going to find a greater truth by doing research. We spoke with a lot of people on this journey making the film. There are things that people do, and they don't connect it to any kind of research historical research. We want documented data that corresponded and correlated with that oral history."

Will McConnell Let the Senate Hold a Fair Impeachment Trial?

Kamala D. Harris
U.S. Senator (D-CA)

As a former prosecutor, I understand the importance of holding powerful people accountable. I know that every trial requires fairness and truth. Having worked my whole life serving the people, I know that any trial that abandons the pursuit of truth cannot be considered fair or just.

But the Senate majority leader, Mitch McConnell, appears more interested in covering up the president's misconduct than in pursuing truth and fairness. He is already trying to limit the impeachment trial by preventing witnesses from testifying, and he has all but announced a verdict. In doing so, he showed the American people that he has no intention of honoring his oath.

Let's be clear: Mr. McConnell doesn't want a Senate trial. He wants a Senate cover-up.

Fortunately, Mr. McConnell does not have the power to unilaterally undermine this trial. Every single senator will be empowered with an equal vote on how the trial will proceed. Though in just the past year, Mr. McConnell has used his position to unilaterally block legislation to restore the Voting Rights Act, lower the prices of prescription drugs and address the gun violence epidemic, he cannot wield the same authority in a Senate impeachment trial.

In this trial, senators will be far more than jurors. Every one of us will vote to determine the rules for the trial, decide which witnesses



Kamala D. Harris is a Democratic senator from California and former Democratic Party Candidate for President in the 2020 campaign.

testify and ultimately serve as both court and jury. Each of us will be called on to uphold our oath with every decision we make. We will all be held accountable by the American people if we refuse to discover the facts relevant to the articles of impeachment.

The Senate Democratic leader, Chuck Schumer, has made a reasonable request to hear from four additional witnesses with firsthand knowledge of the president's misconduct and to review documents that shed light on why the administration initially decided to cut off military aid to Ukraine.

We need to hear from Mick

Mulvaney, the acting White House chief of staff, who admitted to Mr. Trump's bribery scheme on live television, and from the former national security adviser, John Bolton, who has been shopping stories about Mr. Trump to book publishers instead of speaking with Congress. Every senator should want to hear from anyone who can speak directly to the president's misconduct related to the articles of impeachment.

Even Richard Nixon allowed the key figures behind the Watergate scandal to speak to Congress, and he eventually turned over incriminating portions of his Oval Office

recordings to investigators. But Mr. Trump has stonewalled Congress and inhibited our ability to seek justice by demanding that those closest to the center of the Ukraine scandal stay silent.

Senators must be allowed to subpoena relevant witnesses and submit questions to them directly. The Senate should not vote on any article of impeachment or consider a motion to dismiss the trial until we have reviewed the additional testimony and evidence that Mr. Schumer has requested.

I have never been in a courtroom where the accused can unilaterally block witnesses from testifying or prohibit prosecutors from asking witnesses questions. No court would allow a trial to proceed this way, and neither should any member of the Senate.

Ensuring the integrity of this trial is a solemn responsibility for every senator, with consequences that extend far beyond any one presidency. My colleagues and I have a duty to use our voice and our vote to insist on a fair trial, rooted in the pursuit of truth. We must demonstrate to the American people that in our system of justice all are equal under the law and that there are not two sets of rules, one for Donald Trump and another for everybody else. We must conduct the Senate impeachment trial in a way that is fair and that reflects impartial justice.

History will judge the actions taken by the United States Senate at a time when our Constitution and the rule of law were at stake. I'll be fighting for justice and accountability, and my colleagues should too.

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If you are interested, please email your resume and 3 writing samples to: terrybjones@bellsouth.net and datanewseditor@bellsouth.net.

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