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New Orleans

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News Weekly

"The People's Paper"



**Fashion Designer
Kevan Hall**

**Data Zone
Page 4**

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

Leaders Empower Black Women in America

Page 2



Newsmaker
**COVID-19
Vaccine for All
Over 16**

Page 6

National News
**Trial Begins
for Derek
Chauvin**



Page 7

Leaders Empower Black Women in America



Kamala Harris is making history as the first woman to be elected to the Office of the Vice President. During the opening of the Black Women’s Roundtable, she spoke of the need to prioritize the plight of Black Women in America.

Photo by Victoria Heath on Unsplash

Bre’ionya Irvin
Data News Weekly Contributor

Black women have made history in 2020 in American politics and in 2021 they begin the challenging work of empowering all women, particularly as the country aims to recover from the COVID-19 Pandemic.

“More than 22 million women have been forced out of the workforce in the past year, and many of them were Black women,” said Vice President Kamala Harris in her opening remarks for the 10th Annual Black Women’s Roundtable National Virtual Summit titled “Women of Power” this year.

The summit which ran from March 24th through March 28th featured many of the influential, and trailblazing Black women, teens and girls who have been at the forefront of public and civic life in recent years.

Important speakers like; Melanie Campbell, (President and CEO of the Black Women’s Roundtable), Vice President Harris, Housing and Urban Development Secretary, Marcia Fudge, joined other business and community leaders to speak not only about the challenges they face as Black woman, but how Black women can cope, recover from trauma, and rise above the challenges.

“They are women who work in industries that have been devastated. Women who work in jobs that didn’t pay enough even before, and have disappeared now,” Harris said of the impact of the pandemic on women.

“They run small businesses that are struggling to stay open, and with day cares closed and schools remote, they are juggling responsibilities at work and at home. I want you to know that President Biden and I see it all. The power of Black women and the pain Black women are experiencing,” Harris told attendees of the virtual summit.

More women have been laid off from their jobs or cannot find a job because most essential jobs aren’t typically looking to rehire women at this time, or Black women in particular, the presenters shared. The pandemic has worsened poverty levels in Black

Cover Story, Continued on page 3.

INSIDE DATA	
Cover Story	2
Data Zone	4
Newsmaker	6
Opinion	6
National News	7

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



In recognizing Women's History Month, HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge reflected on the roll women have played in laying the foundation for the household and for society. "The fact that through the ages it was women who carried the water, smoothed the rocks, broke the walls, shattered the ceilings, and saved and sustained families, communities, countries, and people," Fudge said.



communities, and most Black families continue to struggle to find affordable, adequate housing.

"Job losses, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, have set labor-force participation among women back to its lowest point in more than 30 years," said HUD Secre-

tary Marcia Fudge. "In 2019, more than 500,000 people experience homelessness," Fudge added.

The numbers have increased now that the pandemic has hit. In recognizing Women's History Month, Fudge reflected on the roll women have played in laying



As the country aims to recover economically from the pandemic, White House Director of Domestic Policy, Susan Rice said that women are operating in key positions in federal government to pull the nation out of the economic slump from COVID-19. "My pledge to you is that we will not shy away from these challenges, we will continue to make the federal government accountable for advancing equity for families across America," Rice said in her remarks.



Melanie Campbell, President and CEO of the Black Women's Roundtable.

the foundation for the household and for society.

"The fact that through the ages it was women who carried the water, smoothed the rocks, broke the walls, shattered the ceilings, and saved and sustained families, communities, countries, and people," Fudge said. "That is the legacy from which we benefit. We drink the water they carried and the wells they dug. Even today we drink from wells we did not dig. I am grateful for all the strong women who defied place, and time, and circumstance," Fudge added.

Additionally, today, women are setting new records. Fudge noted that women are leading the way in

becoming homeowners, breaking new records and closing the gender gap in all areas. She noted recent data that showed women have emerged as key home buyers, with single women owning more homes now than single men, about 1 and a half million more.

"Women are breaking the stereotypic holds of 'men having more power than women,' or 'a woman will never be as good as a man,'" Fudge said.

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tion out of the economic slump from COVID-19.

"My pledge to you is that we will not shy away from these challenges, we will continue to make the federal government accountable for advancing equity for families across America," Rice said in her remarks. The history of this nation from reconstruction to the Civil Rights Era, to the 2020 election showed that Black workers, families, and voters, especially Black women, have never stopped pushing this country forward, and demanding that the nation live up to its highest ideals, Rice said.

"May their struggle galvanize us. May their perseverance inspire us, and may their courage embolden us to keep marching forward as we continue this vital work together," Rice said.

Harris shared that it is this sisterhood of Black women that has pulled the Black community through hard times in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

"Over the past year, faced with this devastating pandemic, Black women have been true heroes," Vice President Harris said.

"The power of Black women is undeniable. We see it in the ballot box, and in the boardroom, in state houses, and in the Halls of Congress," Harris added.



Fashion Designer Kevan Hall

Flow & Go In Luxe Leisure Style



Luxe Leisure Ladies



Tracee Dundas
Fashion Editor
@fashionablyyournola

Flow & Go in Luxe Leisure Style

I had the pleasure of meeting and chatting with Fashion Designer Kevan Hall on his visit to New Orleans.

The Detroit-born, Los Angeles based designer; Hall's fashion

does not follow trends, but leads the path in beautiful, hallmark gowns that offer a glamorous twist for today's modern woman. He has built an amazing fashion brand that reflects how he embraces haute couture as an interpretive art form while redefining glamour for the now generation.

Here's a recap of our conversation.

What inspires you when you're creating a collection?

KEVAN HALL: I am continually inspired by old Hollywood glamour; referencing old films, as well as art. Also, I take advantage of doing vintage shopping as I travel. It's attention to de-

tails put into these fashions that inspire me most to create and achieve styles that will withstand the test of time.

Who do you design for?

KEVAN HALL: The women that wear my fashions are modern, with a strong sense of style with a love for glamour but require ease and comfort in what she wears. She follows fashion, but definitely is not a slave to it.

Would you say your fashion flatters all body types?

KEVAN HALL: Absolutely! I cut for size 2 and up. I enjoy

Data Zone,
Continued on page 5.



Kevan Hall, Fashion Designer

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



Floral Print Caftan



Green Print Dress



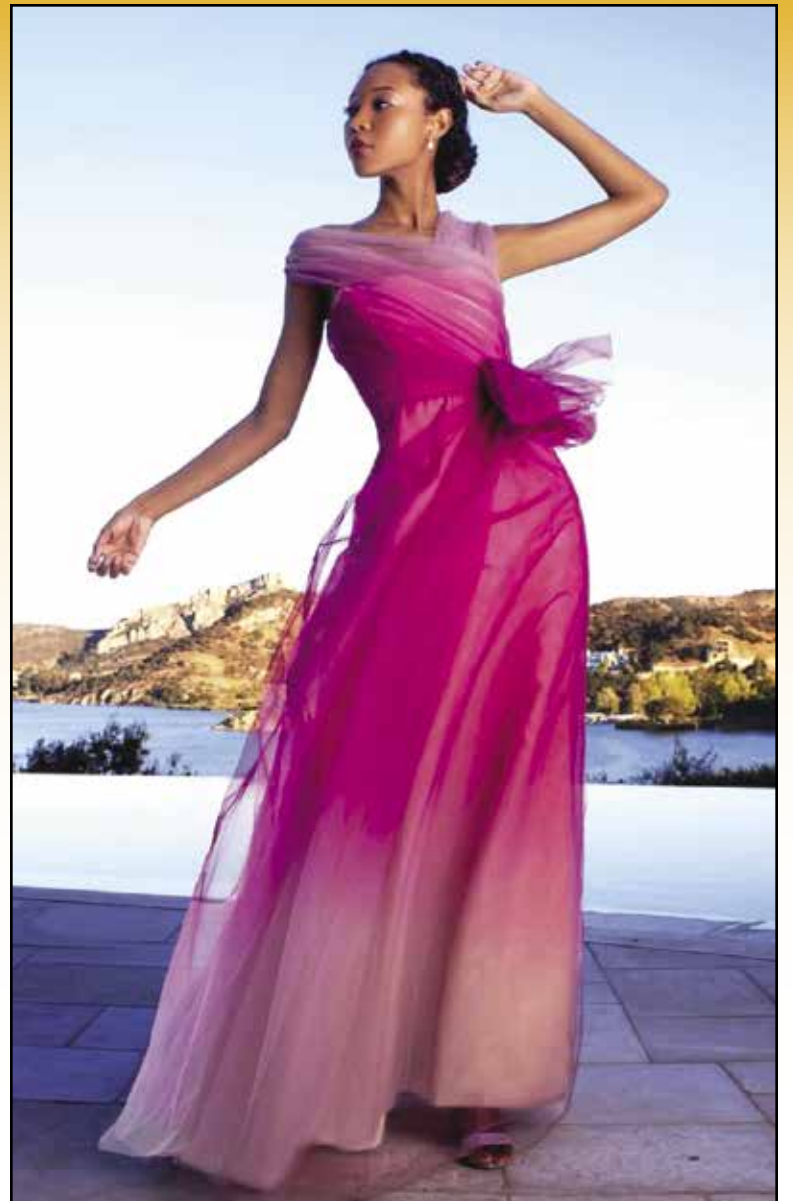
Cold Shoulder Yellow Caftan



Tiered Halter Dress



Vee Neck Twist Gown



Off-the-Shoulder Ombre Gown

Data Zone, Continued from page 4.

dressing women of all body sizes and types because all deserve to look and feel glamorous.

Who have you dressed?

KEVAN HALL: It's always a pleasure to dress renowned stars such as Vanessa Williams, Jada Pickett Smith, and Oscar nominee, Ruby Dee. To see my gown gliding across the red carpet at such events as the Grammy or Emmy Awards is most gratifying. However, I get just as much pleasure dressing the ladies of New Orleans for any Mardi Gras Ball, or special occasion taking place in this fascinating city.

EXAMINER: You have been tagged as the "Go-to-Guy" for red carpet events. What do you say to that?

KEVAN HALL: I like that (chuckling). I'm humbled by that statement and very flattering. But I've been fortunate to have built great relationships with many celebrities that return to me to dress them time and again. I don't take anything for granted and realize that my designs have to continually offer some distinctive element.

Do you ever feel stagnate in the creative process?

KEVAN HALL: NO. NEVER (laughing).

Never?

KEVAN HALL: NEVER. I'm prolific and I do lots of sketching. One sketch can actually evolve and turn into a number of different things...one dress, can become a gown, become a blouse, become a jacket...and it just continues to

flow. The creative process is an easy process; however, the execution can be challenging and it's all in the editing. In other words, deciding what is going to have that 'must-have' appeal...what is press worthy...what cause interest and excitement on the runway...but what will also address the needs of what women want. And that is what becomes the agony – how to balance it all – because it is all about dollars and cents.

What words of wisdom can you offer to an emerging designer just trying to break into the business?

KEVAN HALL: The key is to find your niche', know what is already out there and figure out what will set you apart. Once you've figured that out stay focused and follow your vision.

Visit the website: www.kevan-halldesigns.com and follow on Facebook and Instagram @kevan-halldesign.

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Photos: Courtesy of Designer's Website & Facebook

Now Anyone Over the Age of 16 Can Get COVID-19 Vaccine in Louisiana

Eric Connerly
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Starting March 29, 2021, anyone over the age of 16 in Louisiana will be eligible to receive the COVID-19 Vaccine.

Last week, Gov. John Bel Edwards announced that Louisiana is now ready to offer the COVID-19 Vaccine to anyone who wants it.

Edwards said this week the state will see the largest allotment of the vaccine to date, which allowed them to make this step.

Since the start of the vaccination process, more than one million Louisianans have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 Vaccine. With the B.1.1.7., or U.K. variant, continuing to increase in Louisiana and neighboring states, it is essential to



Recently, Gov. John Bel Edwards announced that Louisiana is now ready to offer the COVID-19 Vaccine to anyone in the state over the age of 16.

get Louisiana vaccinated as quickly and equitably as possible, the governor says.

Appointments will still be required, and providers may need time to update their scheduling systems, which means that people may have to wait a few days to schedule their appointments for next week.

There are three authorized COVID-19 Vaccines used in the United States: two-dose vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna and a one-dose shot from Johnson & Johnson. People ages 16 and 17 are only eligible to receive the Pfizer Vaccine, and they should consult their primary care doctor or vaccine provider to ensure the proper vaccine is administered.

For information about where to get the COVID-19 Vaccine in Louisiana and for more information, visit COVIDVaccine.la.gov.

Opinion

Civil Rights Leaders Denounce Passage of Georgia Senate Bill 202 as “Pure Voter Suppression”

Louisiana Unity Coalition Black Women’s Roundtable Stands United with National Partners

NEW YORK (March 26, 2021) – The National Urban League, the National Action Network and the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation issued the following statement:

We must call this bill what it is: pure voter suppression. The Georgia legislators, Governor Brian Kemp, and Senate Bill 202 are firmly on the wrong side of history. The coordinated effort to force this restrictive bill onto the people of Georgia is a devastat-

ing reminder that we have not yet moved beyond the dark history of voter suppression in this country.

It is also clear that the officials who pushed this bill forward did so as a direct response to the massive turnout in cities, including Atlanta, that helped to determine the outcome of the 2020 Presidential election and two U.S. Senate races. Unable to win at the ballot box in fair and free elections, these officials are intent on ensuring

that fewer voters have access to the franchise and intent on overturning elections if they lose at that ballot box.

The National Urban League and the broader Civil Rights community will stand together and will not stand idly by to let this happen without responding. Just as we have in the past, we will continue our fight in the courts and in the street – for the people.

As the late, Honorable Congressman John Lewis said, “your

vote is precious, almost sacred. It is the most powerful non-violent tool we have to create a more perfect union.” Protecting access to the ballot is the surest path for voters to determine their future, protect their rights, seek equal treatment in economic and social life and hold their leaders accountable. With the passage of SB 202, it is clear that our work continues in the great state of Georgia and throughout the country.

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Trial Begins for Derek Chauvin in the Killing of George Floyd



The family of George Floyd with their attorneys and Civil Rights leader before the trial of Derek Chauvin.

Benjamin Bates
Data News Weekly
Contributor

The beginning of the trial of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, who was charged with killing George Floyd, that touched off worldwide protests and calls for police reform and addressing the issue of systemic racism.

The trial is expected to last for several weeks. It opened with prosecution playing the whole video for the jury – all 9 minutes and 29 seconds of it, complete with audio

of Floyd gasping “I can’t breathe” 27 times and witnesses urging Chauvin to get off Floyd’s neck.

Chauvin is charged with second-degree murder, third-degree murder, and second-degree manslaughter. If he’s convicted of the most serious charge, he could face 10½ years to 15 years in prison under sentencing guidelines for first-time offenders.

This trial is being televised; many are expected to watch, as people across the nation and the world grappled with the issues of policing and social justice.



Former Minneapolis Police officer Derek Chauvin is on trial for the murder of George Floyd.

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Data News Weekly, “The People’s Paper,” is looking for freelance writers to join our team print and digital team. We want to hear from you if you are a working journalist, or an aspiring journalist who has 2 years or more of newspaper or PR writing experience. We need writers who can cover New Orleans news stories, ranging from local high school sports, community events, City Hall and entertainment. Experience in print is necessary, experience in digital and social media are encouraged.

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I'm an essential worker, because everyone needs food. You know what's essential for me? Not getting COVID. And it's a virus that keeps changing. Vaccines are here. But until enough of us are vaccinated, we still need to mask up, stay 6 feet apart, and avoid crowds. Whenever I see that, there's a smile behind my mask.

Learn more at cdc.gov/coronavirus