Three-time breast cancer survivor shares life testimony in memoir debut

By Cianna Hope Reeves

A mother, advocate, inspirational speaker, singer, breast cancer survivor, and now author – Vaniessa Cousin continues to break barriers after facing numerous health challenges throughout her life.

Through her journey during her diagnosis with Stage 1 breast cancer, Cousin is launching her biography titled Through the Valley, But God in which she shares life testimony from her experiences with those who were undergoing the same battles. She acknowledges victims of breast cancer and individuals that suffer from other fatal diseases. From Stage 1 diagnosis to Stage 4 metastatic breast cancer, he allowed me to go through life-threatening phase, Stage 4 breast cancer, also two recurrences of Stage 4 metastatic breast cancer, he allowed me to experience not only Stage 1, but also two recurrences of Stage 4 metastatic breast cancer, he allowed me to experience not only Stage 1, but Stage 2, and become more proactive, the survivor realized the moment of discovery ‘life-changing.’

“My initial thought was ‘I am going to die.’ I was not playing a game of denial at the time because we didn’t hear much about cancer and no one ever mentioned anything about it,” admitted Cousin.

When this board was seated, we knew we were in a state of emergency...not any other outside entity. We had hoped we would have met it, but it didn’t happen. We are still doing due diligence.

**Response:** Yes. Our information was submitted by mail June 12. Again it takes 30 days, this gives you some idea of where we are in the process.

**Response:** LINK: What impact will this have on the next school year since it appears you will not name a new superintendent before the start of school?

**Response:** We are hopeful and pretty confident that we will have someone named before school starts and that they will be in place then or shortly thereafter. Additionally, everyone knows a transition is coming and we are all operating in that vein.

**Response:** I've Been Delivered: A mother, advocate, inspirational speaker, singer, breast cancer survivor, and now author – Vaniessa Cousin continues to break barriers after facing numerous health challenges throughout her life.

After completing chemotherapy, she started journaling about her daily life as a cancer patient. Soon into writing, Cousin stopped, years passed, and tragedy struck again – she was diagnosed in 2011 with the most serious and life-threatening phase, Stage 4 breast cancer, also known as metastatic breast cancer, where cancer cells have traveled through multiple organs in the body, and again in 2013. With the effort to live life more abundantly and become more proactive, the survivor received direction from God to complete her story for the world to read. I didn’t realize it at the time, but God allowed me to experience not only Stage 1, but also two recurrences of Stage 4 metastatic breast cancer, he allowed me to go through these phases to tell my story,” she said.

In her spiritual and uplifting memoir, she acknowledges victims of breast cancer and individuals that suffer from other fatal diseases by telling them to remain hopeful in the face of pain and distress. Motivating others is not only her passion but also her calling.

“I do what I do because I am walking in my purpose. My experience has shown me different things in life, from a Stage 1 to two recurrences of Stage 4, and then to be a walking testimony living with metastatic cancer, a
Maxine R. Greenleaf, JSU’s executive director of communications and marketing, has been elected president of the College of Public Relations Association of Mississippi (CPRAM) for 2018-2019.

Greenleaf previously served as director of communications and marketing at Mississippi Valley State University. Before that, she was director of public relations for the Leflore County School District. She was also weekend anchor/reporter for WXVT Channel 15 in Greenwood, Mississippi.

A career media professional, Greenleaf said she’s looking forward to her newest role. She said, “I’m so excited about the opportunity to lead this group of PR professionals. CPRAM is a great organization that I’ve been a member of for most of my professional career.”

Greenleaf is a perennial leader and is involved in many civic and social organizations, including Rotary International and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. She also has been active with United Way.

The 2018-2019 board, front row from left, consists of Karen Rollins of East Central Community College, awards chair; Donna Thomas of Itawamba Community College, treasurer; Mary Margaret Bush, APR, of Holmes Community College, past president; Sophie Wolf of Millsaps College, senior institutions representative; and Pam Starling of the University of Mississippi, senior institutions representative. Members on the second row are Phillip Smith of Mississippi State University Extension Services, senior institutions representative; and Kathy McAdams of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, junior institutions representative. Members on the third row are Karl Smith of Mississippi Community College Board, government agencies representative; Maria McLeod of East Central Community College, hospitality chair; Lajuana Talia of Northwest Mississippi Community College, secretary; and Maxine Greenleaf of Jackson State University, president. Members on the back row are Steve Diffey of Holmes, scholarship chair; Carson Stallard, APR, of Institutions of Higher Learning, government agencies representative; Tracy Duncan of Hinds Community College, junior institutions representative and Barin von Fogeley of Holmes, vice president. Not pictured: Jamie Scrivener of Mississippi Delta Community College, junior institutions representative. COURTESY OF CPRAM
Cousin has shown me that I have to pay it forward, and the only way I can do that is by not keeping it to myself," stated Cousin. "When I'm diagnosed, it's by not waiting on someone to diagnose you," Cousin said. "I'm proactive about your body and health, learn about your family history and make sure you're proactive about your health."

At the end of the day, one message Cousin hopes people will understand is the importance of not being afraid to get tested and to take necessary precautions. "Cousin has not a death sentence, but if you wait, it could be too late. Be proactive about your health and learn about your family history and don't wait on someone to diagnose you," Cousin said.

"When asked how she remains so strong, Cousin smiled and stated, “It’s just faith.” Cousin says, “I’ve been through the valley, but God is currently available for prayers and we will be ready on Tuesday, July 10. Get your copies at www.variousconson.com.

Cousin has been instrumental in shaping the direction of the Jackson Police Department. I want to thank him for all of his efforts, while taking on the role as interim police chief, a role which has not been easy and has come with its own set of challenges and his commitment for keeping the community safe," stated the mayor.

In announcing Davis as his choice to lead the men and women of the department, Lumumba said, “I’d like to think that Chief Davis and his time with the police department will bring great leadership. I look forward to what he can bring and the opportunity that he could possibly end up being the permanent selection.”

Davis said he has been with the force for 24 years, started in patrol and was assigned the first black range master. His most recent position with JPD was assistant police chief prior to serving as deputy chief over patrol operations.

“The day is also significant because it comes three days before former Interim Chief Anthony Moore’s interim status was set to expire based on state law. Lumumba thanked Moore for his dedication to the force.

“I always choose getting the decision right over it being swift and quick, that’s that junior high school mentality that’s plaguing this city. A political favor/payback? That’s the most consistent rumor I’ve heard through out his time in that seat! [...]”

Davis said he will apply for the vacant position and hopes to be chosen. If Davis is interim for his full term, Jackson will have been without a permanent chief for nearly 25 years, as the next man to lead the department as interim chief, a department that is on a rapid decline in numbers, home now to roughly 325 officers.

“Mayor: That’s that junior high school mentality that’s plaguing this city. A political favor/payback? That’s the most consistent rumor I’ve heard through out his time in that seat!”

“MAYOR: Have an open mind about what you have here and don’t rush the process. But, yes, I know that I’m looking for stability, I’m looking for someone with proven leadership skills. This is not to cast any disparag- ing remarks on Chief Moore or anyone else that served. But, yes, I know that I’m looking for someone that officers respect and someone that understands this community. [...]”

“MAYOR: When did you speak to them or better yet, when did they give you a vote of no confidence? Immediately after my naming him or later? [...]

“MAYOR: Immediately after you named him. [...]”

“MAYOR: I’m going to watch and observe. I’m excited that Davis could become my choice to hold the job permanently, but we will watch him throughout the process. What he does, how he deals and how he builds morale and fix its other issues. [...]”

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Southern Remedy on MPB Think Radio announces new Wednesday and Thursday hosts

Dr. Mary McLeod and Dr. Jimmy Stewart

This week marks changes to Southern Remedy on MPB Think Radio. Dr. Mary McLeod will become the host of Kids and Teens on Thursday. Her first day is July 5. Dr. Jimmy Stewart, who began hosting the Thursday show in October 2014, will now host The Original Southern Remedy program on Wednesdays. Stewart has been hosting the Wednesday program since Dr. Rick deShazo retired in June.

Dr. Rick was the co-producer and original host of the Wednesday program. Southern Remedy airs weekdays at 11 a.m. on MPB Think Radio. The lineup of hosts and programs are now:

- Family Nurse Practitioner Jojo Baldwin, Healthly & Fit on Monday
- Dr. Susan Buttross, Relative Health on Tuesday
- Jay White, producer of Southern Remedy on MPB Television are unable to participate this week.
- Dr. McLeod when he was her pediatrics, actually helped train Dr. Stewart, who also specializes in internal medicine and pediatrics. The Yankee City native has been on the faculty of Southern Remedy. "I didn't realize so many people listened to the shows and that re-confirmed my decision to be a part of Southern Remedy," he said. Stewart, who also specializes in internal medicine and pediatrics, actually helped train Dr. McLeod when he was her program director. His plan as the new host of the Wednesday program, which covers myriad health topics, is to not deviate from what’s worked in the past. "We are all sad to see Dr. Rick go. He's such a big part of why we're all able to give this service to the state of Mississippi and I'm looking forward to continuing what he started and being an ad- vocate for our listeners.

Though he previously announced that several calls primarily related to pediatrics, MPB listeners should know Dr. Stewart's in- ternal medicine training means he specializes in treating all age groups.

"In my practice, I take care of people from birth all the way up to death. My oldest patient is 96 and youngest patient is 2 weeks old," he said.

Dr. Stewart on Southern Remedy and Southern Remedy on MPB Television are underwritten by the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Kindergarten registration and re-enrollment for Gary Road Elementary students is open for the summer. Parents and guardians will be able to register children for kindergarten at Gary Road Elementary (2101 Gary Road, Byram, Miss.) from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on Monday – Thursday. Returns first and second grade students can be registered online with a Snap Code. If parents do not have a code, they can call Gary Road Elementary at (601) 373-1319 to speak with a counselor and/or principal.

Parents and guardians will need to bring the following to complete enrollment:
- A driver’s license or other state identification card
- Child’s birth certificate (long-form), immunization records (Form 121), and social security card and a photo of each child being enrolled
- Current utility bill from the previous 30 days, AND filed Homestead Exemption from the previous year, mortgage payment documentation or property deed of trust, apartment or home lease OR two (2) business or government correspondence

We encourage you to go ahead and register as soon as possible!

City of Jackson’s “Movies In The Park” 2018 Summer Series

The Department of Parks and Recreation will host our FREE “MOVIES IN THE PARK” summer series consisting of a variety of movies shown in various City of Jackson parks from May through August.

Food vendors will be on-site for this ideal family outing. Admission is FREE, so bring your blankets, lawn chairs and small coolers to enjoy a night under the stars while watching a film shown on a giant outdoor movie screen. Security will be provided by the Jackson Police Depart- ment.

Friday, June 22: Sykes Park on the Baseball Field (520 Sykes Road, Jackson, MS 39202)
Time: Pre-show 7 p.m. (movie will play after the pre-show)

Friday, July 13: Laurel Street Park (1441 Laurel Street Park, Jackson, MS 39202)
Time: Pre-show 8 p.m. (movie will play after the pre-show)

Friday, July 20: Davis Park (412 Park Avenuer, Jackson, MS 39213)
Time: Pre-show 7 p.m. (movie will play after the pre-show)

Friday, July 27: Winkfield Park (1450 Wiggins Road, Jack- son, MS 39209)
Time: Pre-show 6:30 p.m. (movie will play after the pre-show)

Friday, August 10: Hico Park (4831 Watson Drive, Jackson, MS 39206)
Time: Pre-show 6:30 p.m. (movie will play after the pre-show)

For movie listings or more in- formation, please contact at 601-664-6871.

MOVIES IN THE PARK” 2018 Summer Series

Mississippi Link Newswire

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We encourage you to go ahead and register as soon as possible!
Jackson Public Schools is in need of funds to address citations identified in the Mississippi Department of Education audit and to provide needed upgrades to support quality learning. The district has the opportunity to issue general obligation bonds ($50 Bonds) to fund capital improvements at various schools. The total amount of approximately $65 million will be used directly toward making building improvements, renovations and/or construction at our schools. Potential projects include:

- Replacing HVAC units at Forest Hill High School and Caston High School.
- Completing the renovation of Newell Field.
- Adding science labs at all middle and high schools.
- Redeesigning libraries to include in-room cafes and other learning spaces for students.
- Updating the multiuse/performance space at Pearl APAC.
- Building a performance space at Forest Hill High School for APAC programs.
- Various infrastructure projects at schools, such as replacing carpets and windows, paving parking lots and other similar projects.

The district paid off some existing debt in April 2018 and now has the opportunity to reissue the debt to get these additional projects rolling. Because the existing debt was already being paid by taxpayers, reissuing the same amount will not cause any increase in taxes paid by homeowners for Jackson Public Schools. The date of the election is Tuesday, August 7.

Q1. How did the District come to the amount of $65 million for the Bond?

The District determined the amount needed based on the needs of the schools.

Q2. Explain the fee structure associated with the Bond.

The fees were budgeted at the highest amount allowed in order to plan for the total amount of the transaction. Actual costs will be less than the budgeted amount.

Q3. How are the projects chosen?

The projects were chosen in order of priority to first address the items noted in the MDE audit and then those projects that will have direct impact on instruction.

Q4. Why should the citizens support a bond for JPS when it is an F rated District?

The repairs for schools are required regardless of the rating of the District. The MDE requirements to provide safe schools is not dependent on the outcome of state tests. Students in JPS deserve quality and modern facilities without any consideration of performance on tests.

Q5. What will the election cost the City of Jackson and how will it be paid?

We are working with the City of Jackson to determine the actual costs of the election and right now do not have any actual amounts. However the District will reimburse the City of Jackson for those costs by September 30.

Q6. Were all projects from the 2006 bond completed? If not, explain why?

There were over $300 million in projects that were listed in the plans for the 2006 bond issue. As required by state law, the District must bid and/or receive quotes on projects and costs for some projects exceeding the amount that was initially anticipated. The District determined the priority projects at that time and completed as many of those as funds would allow. The district will continue to follow the law and address its priority projects when funds are received from this bond issue.

Q7. Why was Mosley Mullen Elementary School never constructed?

Mosley Mullen Elementary school was never proposed in the initial bond referendum. Funds were allocated to do work at Barr Elementary. The administration determined that those renovations would not be sufficient. In 2009 the JPS Board of Trustees authorized the issuance of additional bonds (Qualified School Construction Bonds) to support the building of a new school. However, after numerous bids, the cost of the school exceeded the amount that was available to build the school. The funds for the school were returned, and the remaining funds were allocated to other projects.

Q8. What would happen to JPS if the Bond does not pass on August 7?

The school district will not be able to make the needed repairs and renovations. No new science labs will be built. The District will not be able to pass the state accreditation requirements.

Q9. If the Bond passes on August 7, when will projects begin?

Projects will be bid out as soon as possible and once the funds are received in the District (anticipated by December 2018), they will begin as soon as they can feasibly be done without interrupting schools.

Q10. Why did JPS close or consolidate schools prior to the upcoming bond election when the $65 million could have gone toward repairing those schools?

JPS made these responsible decisions in order to first address the items noted in the MDE audit and then those projects that will have direct impact on instruction. The repairs for schools are required regardless of the rating of the District. The MDE requirements to provide safe schools is not dependent on the outcome of state tests. Students in JPS deserve quality and modern facilities without any consideration of who is in leadership.
Donny Gray to lead CPSD
Transportation Department

Donny Gray makes safety a priority when it comes to school buses.

In the 2018-19 school year, CPSD has been hired to replace older, more efficient buses.

Gray oversees a fleet of nearly 75 busses and route management.

The average lifespan of a school bus is 10-15 years, he said. "We have good mechanics on staff and we can get 15 good years from our buses, but we want to provide quality."

As school starts, Gray encourages students to respect buses and loading-drop-off areas.

For bus route information, test alert subscription information and more, visit the CPSD Transportation Department Website here: https://www.clintonpublicschools.com/transportation

Did you know that registration is a three-step process? In CPSD, we require that students be registered online but that is just one part of the total process:

Step 1 - Online Registration

RETURNING STUDENTS: The PowerSchool parent portal is open this summer so parents can complete this process. To begin, click here to log into your PowerSchool account and click the link on the left side of the page for 2018-19 Registration.

STUDENTS NEW TO CPSD (including kindergartners): If your child is new to the Clinton Public School District, click here to create an account on InfoSnap and register online. Click here to view the additional forms and information you’ll need to enroll your child.

For more information or tech support in accessing your account, contact Sharon Tompkins at stompkins@clintonpublicschools.com. Be sure to include your child’s name in the email.

Step 2 - Verification of Residency in CPSD

All families must verify their residency in the Clinton Public School District. Click here for a list of the documents you’ll need to provide. CPSD Central Office is accepting these documents during working hours this summer (201 Easthaven Drive in Clinton; 8-4:30 daily, M-F, or call 601-447-4000 during the summer. After the July 27 cutoff date we will no longer accept these documents at Central Office and you’ll need to bring residency documents with you to on-site registration.

Step 3 - On-site registration

Registration day is an opportunity for you to come to your child’s school, receive their schedule, meet teachers, drop off school supplies, join the PTO and complete the registration process.

On-site registration dates are:

- Monday, July 30 for students who are NEW to Clinton schools
- Thursday, Aug. 2 for Clinton High School sophomores (returning students)
- Friday, Aug. 3 for CHS juniors and seniors (returning students)
- Monday, Aug. 6 for returning students in grades 1-9

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Public Information Officer Sandi Beason, APR, at sbeason@clintonpublicschools.com or call Central Office at 601-924-7533.

Go Arrows!
The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) is honoring Jackson State University’s associate dean Paul Tchounwou with a presidential award for his role as a mentor in the College of Science, Engineering and Technology (CSET).

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM) is a program administered by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Tchounwou, a presidential distinguished professor, said, “This award validates JSU’s commitment to excellence. The support of all faculty, staff, students and administrators makes this presidential honor possible. I am also very appreciative of the mentors who guided me throughout my professional career.”

Tchounwou is among 48 individuals and organizations nationwide to receive the 2018 award from the White House for excellence in mentoring.

Furthermore, Tchounwou is the only one from Mississippi. For 15 years while at JSU, Tchounwou has mentored dozens in an effort to improve their future. He describes the ideal mentor as one who “is flexible, open-minded and shows a sincere desire to make a difference in the lives of young people.”

Tchounwou is among 41 individuals and organizations nationwide receiving honors for excellence in mentoring in STEM. Among these 2018 PAESMEM awardees, he is the only one from Mississippi.

As well, Tchounwou's previous honors and acknowledgments include a 2013 Mentor Award by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). As well, he’s editor in chief of the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health.

In 2003, Tchounwou received the Millennium Award for Excellence in Research at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).

By L.A. Warren
jsumsnews.com

Tchounwou garners acclaim from White House, NSF for mentoring dozens in STEM

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The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi Red Cross worker volunteers for deployment to Kuwait

SBA Mississippi host Open House in Jackson

Thompson recognizes Mississippian for aiding children at the border

Corps’ Vicksburg District hosts a Blessing of the Fleet

CACY announces free chaplains for children training

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Dearman grew up in Me-
You care to, but I am still per-
cept to accept this message; you
the devil. You do not have
God's people from worship-
name of reason would keep
Why is that? What, in the
still cannot worship with us.
ning the same things we are
talking.
thing between his message and
 counterfeit, the difference
understand the difference
Special to The Mississippi Link

Worship Services
SUNDAY Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
SUNDAY School - 9:15 a.m.
WEDNESDAY Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.
Classeh: Children • Youth • Adult - 7:00 p.m.

Bishop Ronnie C. Crudup Sr.
Member of the National Association of Evangelist Church
Pastoral Name: "A Church Preparing for a Purpose After a Relationship Hangover: Moving From Pain to Purpose II"
Office: 601-377-8132 Fax: 601-377-8282

Preaching and Teaching a Certified Gospel

P A R T 2

By Pastor Simms R. Green III

You are block-
ing your bless-
ging. This is what
one friend told me a few months
was the rea-
tion why I was
receiving God's blessings in
one particular area of my life. She
said that instead of focusing on
faith, I focused too much on
my doubts. At first, I agreed with
her about the impact that faith
had on receiving God's bless-
ing. However, it wasn't until I
read story of The Widow's olive
every from the Old Testament.
I realized that receiving God's
blessing has more to do with it
than just having faith. First of
all, we must have faith in order
be willing to admit that we
need a blessing. But we also
need to prepare by having the
right amount of faith.
The Widow's olive oil story is
found in 2 Kings 4 begins with
the widow asking the prophet
Elisha to help her with her fi-
ances. When he asks her how
she can help and what she has,
says that all she has is olive oil.
In 2 Kings 4 Elisha responds
by telling her "Go around and
ask all your neighbors for empty
jars. Don't ask for just a few". Then
go inside and shut the door
behind you and your sons. Pour
the oil into all the jars, and as
each is filled, put it to one side.

She asked what appears to
be everything Elisha instructs
her do with the excess of one
thing: She does not have
care of her debts. She even had
money to provide for her
family's future needs.
Like the widow, we often
blessings and
right to the best of our
abilities. Yet, sometimes, bless-
ings may stop simply because
we did not adequately prepare
to receive them.
her story is
like how much of us re-
respond when we want Blessings
God but struggle with re-
nance in their promised
abundance.

Shewanda Riley is a Dallas, Texas author of "Hangover: Moving From Pain to Purpose II"
Email her at preservedbypurpose@gmail.com or fol-
her on Twitter @shewanda.
In a primary race with another Democrat, she has been advised to “wait her turn” or to run for something less. Neither of Donnie’s main Democratic stemmets yet get advice from the “wait their turn” is what it is called in Sons’ politik. President Barack Obama didn’t wait his turn when he was the first. He was Hillarty Clinton and sound out of it. Mainstream Democrats didn’t get the Bernice memo, but Sen. Bernie Sanders had a good night June 25. Not only does he have the Ocasio-Cortez vice-in-chief in his pocket, he’s proved his acolytes, former NAACP main turn to turn against was the Democratic gubernatorial nominat- tion in Maryland. His appro- ches to Joe Gans’ bey Issue of Youth, he had more than 57 per- cent of the vote, hardly a nail- biter – she had more than 57 per- cent of the vote, hardly a nail- biter. He also ignores the fact that demographics have shifted in the way that people don’t like. He even blames President Barack Obama for the 2016 presidential election. Then came the decision for- mer Congressman Frank Lucas (R-Oklahoma) was taken to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and a new level last year. It was taken to the FBI and a new level last year. It was taken to the Department of Homeland Security and everyone was treated and a new level last year. It was taken to the Department of Homeland Security and everyone was treated...
The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority (“JMAA”) requests Proposals ("Proposal") for Availability and Disparity Study to (i) determine if discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, or family status in the award and performance of federally assisted contracts. MDOT plans to achieve 1% of prime and subcontractor contracts with a national goal of 3% of prime and subcontractor contracts.

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J. John, NBRC executive di-
rector, often says that “for as long as there have been black people, there have been black LGBT/SGL people,” and given this truth, it is imperative that we have civil rights leaders specializing in issues of sexuality and gender identity.

As I write this message I am given this truth, it is imperative that we have civil rights leaders specializing in issues of sexuality and gender identity.

The National Black Justice Coalition (NBRC) is proud to announce the appointment of National civil rights attor-
ney Benjamin Crump to its Board of Directors, effective immediately.

Crump, the founder of the Tal- lahahasee, Florida-based law firm Ben Crump Law, PLLC, has represented various high-profile clients in some of the most important and controv-
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"NBRC is incredibly pleased to have Attorney Ben Crump join our Board of Directors, particularly given his intersec-
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By Kam Williams

Columnist

For movies opening July 6, 2018

Wide Releases

Ant-Man and the Wasp (PG-13 for action and violence) stars the Boston Celtics’ Kyrie Irving as the title character, but don’t expect to see him under all the glory of plastic makeup-turning him into a senior citizen.

We flashback to a match against the youngbloods in Rucker Park as well as to the acrobatic athletes who have mesmerized generations of adoring fans attending the annual summer classic. Directed by Charles Stone III (Orangeicle), the picture stars the Boston Celtics’ Kezte Light as the title character, but don’t expect to see him under all the glory of plastic makeup-turning him into a senior citizen.

The same can be said of Shaquille “Shaq” O’Neal, Reggie Miller (Legends of the Court) and Chris Webber, Lisa Leslie, as they all transition into older times, too, for the year’s after-gymnastics of another era. Rounding out the principal cast are the Orlando Magic’s Aaron Gordon and a half-dozen of the funniest come-dics around: Tiffany Haddish, J.B. Smoove, Mike Epps, Nick Cannon, Lil Rel Howery and Eric Andre. Oh, and the film features a professional of cameo appearances by George “Isaan” Gervin, Jerry West, Dakshane Masouto, Bill Walton, David Robinson, Steve Nash, Rick Barry, Chris Mullin and more.

Just past the point of departure, we find Dax (Howery) fielding a team to enter in the upcoming Rucker tournament. But when the hapless manager loses not only his best players but his wife (Haddish) to the eventual winning coach (Kroll), he prevails uponเก่าหน้า Drew for help.

As Dax’s trash-talking nemesis? What do you think? (In English subtitles)

Bleeding Steel (R for profanity and some violence) stars the half-dozen of the funniest come-dics around: Tiffany Haddish, J.B. Smoove, Mike Epps, Nick Cannon, Lil Rel Howery and Eric Andre. Oh, and the film features a professional of cameo appearances by George “Isaan” Gervin, Jerry West, Dakshane Masouto, Bill Walton, David Robinson, Steve Nash, Rick Barry, Chris Mullin and more.

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As Dax’s trash-talking nemesis? What do you think? (In English subtitles)

Tip" Harris and Bobby Cann-

The First Purge (R for per-
BOOK REVIEW:
“GRANDAD MANDELA”
BY ZAZI, ZIWELENE & ZINDZI MANDELA WITH SEAN QUALLS
C.2018, LINCOLN CHILDREN’S BOOKS
$17.99 / $23.99 CANADA • 40 PAGES

Please tell me a family story. You never get tired of hearing about your Mom and Dad, and how much fun they had on their first date; or that one tale about your uncle (so funny!); or the story about your cousin’s very first car. Please tell me a story, you ask, and in “Grandad Mandela” by Zazi, Ziwelene & Zindi Mandela and Sean Qualls, two children hear of their great-grandfather’s heroism.

When Zazi and Ziwelene were playing at their Grandma’s house one day, they found a picture of someone they’d never met, and they asked Grandma Zindzi to tell them about the man in the photo. He was Grandad Mandela, Grandma Zindzi’s father.

The story was a familiar one; they’d heard it before, but there were parts of it that they loved hearing again. Zazi always asked why Grandad Mandela went to jail, and Grandma Zindzi answered that Grandad Mandela went to jail “because he was fighting against apartheid… a law in South Africa that separated black people and white people.”

Grandad Mandela hated that law. He hated it enough to be imprisoned for his beliefs, and that was “hard” for his family. Grandma Zindzi was just a little girl then, and she had to be sent away to school, for her own safety. Being away from her mother, Big Mummy, was especially difficult but it made Grandma Zindzi stronger.

Ziwelene asked where Grandad Mandela went to school, and Grandma Zindzi told the children so much more about him. His need for justice in South Africa started very early; even as a boy, he was a champion of equality and many people around the world agreed with Grandad that apartheid was “evil.” He was willing to be jailed to end apartheid, and he was glad to know that “people were pushing harder… for him to be free.”

That meant a lot, so Grandad waited patiently until eventually, he was freed. Later, he became president of South Africa and this year, the 100th anniversary of his birth, there is one big way that children everywhere can honor him. “Grandad Mandela” may be a lot for your child to take in. Don’t be mistaken: the story that Zazi, Ziwelene & Zindi Mandela, with Sean Qualls, tells is an important – almost essential – one that young children may not know. It’s absolutely a great way to start teaching about Mandela’s legacy. But the narrative for this book is long, perhaps too long for squirmy picture-book connoisseurs, and it contains a lot of big words that kids may not quite grasp. Also, while Qualls’ illustrations set the tone for this book perfectly, they may not be colorful enough for youngsters who are used to the flash usually found in other age-appropriate books.

Even so, as we near what would have been Mandela’s 100th birthday, here’s a great book to have around – especially if your child is patient or a little past the picture-book age. Five-to-8-year-olds might like “Grandad Mandela” a lot; for younger children, that may be a different story.

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist
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