



Juneteenth marks our country’s second Independence Day

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

As The United States of America celebrates Juneteenth, the newest federal holiday, though practically everyone understands why we celebrate New Year’s day, Dr. King’s Birthday, Memorial Day, and even Independence Day, (4th of July) many might still ask the question, what is Juneteenth or why has it been declared a national federal holiday?

Juneteenth marks our country’s second Independence Day. Although it has long been celebrated in the African-American community, this monumental event remains largely unknown to most Americans.

The Mississippi Link has compiled a few facts so that our readers can understand the history of Juneteenth. One of our main sources of information comes from The National Museum of African American History & Culture.

On July 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued an executive order that declared enslaved people in the rebelling Confederate State legally free. However, the decree would not take effect until the clock struck midnight at the start of the new year.

On “Freedom’s Eve,” or the eve of January 1, 1863, the first historical legacy of what is known as ‘Watch Night’ services took place. On that night, enslaved and free African



The first flag that represented the Juneteenth holiday was created in 1997 by Ben Haith, the founder of the National Juneteenth Celebration Foundation (NJCF) The flag uses the exact same colors as the United States flag: red, white and blue. This was intentional and meant to show that the formerly enslaved and their descendants are free Americans too.

Americans gathered in churches and private homes all across the country awaiting news that the Emancipation Proclamation had taken effect.

At the stroke of midnight, prayers were answered, as all enslaved people in Confederate States were declared legally free. Union soldiers, many of whom were black, marched onto plantations and across cities in the south reading small copies of the Emancipation Proclamation spreading the news of freedom in Confederate States. Only through the Thirteenth Amendment did emancipation end slavery throughout the United States.

However, not everyone in

Confederate territory would immediately be free. Even though the Emancipation Proclamation was made effective in 1863, it could not be implemented in places still under Confederate control. As a result, in the westernmost Confederate state of Texas, enslaved people would not be free until much later.

Freedom finally came on June 19, 1865, when some 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas. The army announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state, were free by executive decree. This day came to be known as “Juneteenth,” by the newly freed people in Texas.

The post-emancipation pe-

riod known as Reconstruction (1865-1877) marked an era of great hope, uncertainty, and struggle for the nation as a whole. Formerly enslaved people immediately sought to reunify families, establish schools, run for political office, push radical legislation and even sue slaveholders for compensation. Given the 200+ years of enslavement, such changes were nothing short of amazing. Not even a generation out of slavery, African Americans were inspired and empowered to transform their lives and their country.

It was June 18, 2021 that a

Juneteenth
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Stunning Hearing removes any doubt about Trump’s role in the deadly Jan. 6 insurrection



“Our democracy remains in danger,” Committee Chair Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-MS) declared during the hearing.

While many have long understood that Trump did nothing to stop the deadly riots, the Committee laid bare his scheme that led to the death of at least nine people – including five law enforcement members – and left more than 150 officers injured.

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

The stunning revelations broadcast during the House Select Committee investigation of the January 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol included the laying out of a scheme by former President Donald Trump to retain power.

While many have long understood that Trump did nothing to stop the deadly riots, the committee laid bare his scheme that led to the death of at least nine people – including five law enforcement members – and left more than 150 officers injured.

“It was a sophisticated seven-part plan to overturn the presidential election and prevent the transfer of presidential power,” Republican Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming, the chair of the House Committee, remarked during the presentation.

Further, Cheney noted that several GOP members of Congress pressed Trump for pardons during the insurrection – the inference could explain why many Republicans have remained loyal to the former president and have shown a reluctance to participate in the hearings.

Cheney also reminded the committee of a Tweet sent by Trump encouraging the attack. “Be there, will be wild!” Trump tweeted.

Trump’s supporters responded, including the extremist groups Proud Boys and Oath Keepers.

One of the rioters read Trump’s tweet on a megaphone

at the Capitol, and others, including one that criticized Vice President Mike Pence for denying a request to overturn the election loss to Joe Biden. “Hang Mike Pence,” the supporters chanted. “Maybe he deserves it,” Trump allegedly said in response.

Committee officials then displayed a photo of noose and gallows erected near the Capitol by the insurrectionists. Capitol Police officer Caroline Edwards emerged during the June 9 public hearings and recounted for the first time her trauma.

“It was something like I’ve seen in the movies,” the officer stated. “I couldn’t believe my eyes; there were officers on the ground. They were bleeding,” Edwards recounted. “I was slipping in people’s blood. It was carnage. It was chaos.”

Further, documentarian Nick Quested described his interaction with the Proud Boys, whose leader, Enrique Tarrio, recently was hit with sedition charges related to the attack.

Quested had been embedded with the Proud Boys and shared never-before-seen footage of the members, including Tarrio’s meeting with the Oath Keepers. Additionally, a new video of the deposition by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Mark Milley, revealed that Pence gave the orders to send National Guard troops to the Capitol. However, Milley said administration officials told Pence to falsely state that Trump gave those

Insurrection
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Legal fees growing over garbage collection

By Chris Young
Contributing Writer

Recent reporting by WLBT indicate that legal fees, paid by taxpayers, are rising rapidly as Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba and City Council sue each other over the garbage collection contract. Legal fees totaling \$161,000 have been reported, thus far.

In the most recent Request for Proposals (RFP) process, the mayor directed blind bidding, which was not required. By doing so, he removed the potential for personalities and/or allegiances to get in the way. Once it was revealed that an African-American firm, Richard’s Disposal, had the low bid by \$1.2 million per year and was selected, the chaos began.



COMMENTARY

A flurry of pushback by our predominantly African-American City Council against this mayor and against this company over who gets to collect our garbage.

Three African-American members and one European-American

member of City Council voted no; repeatedly. Lawsuits, status hearings, judges recusing themselves, legal orders, Richard’s receiving an order to proceed picking up trash effective April 1, 2022, vetoes of the no votes, agreements to maintain the status quo while litigation continues. A bona fide pile of mess.

Sadly, it doesn’t stop there. There was a stink over the staging area for Richards’ trucks, not over trucks full of trash but empty trucks parked overnight at Hawkins Field, staged to run the next day. The JMAA was contacted, and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) was alerted. Councilman Stokes claimed the empty trucks would give a foul odor at Hawkins Field and it wasn’t fair to area residents. He claimed there would end up being rats as big as cats over there. Were there grumblings like this when the transfer station opened at 1462 Country Club Road, a mile and a half from the northern boundary of Hawkins Field – in a mixed-use area of businesses and

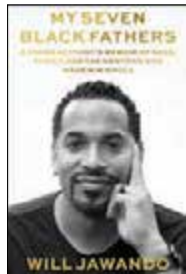
Garbage
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Inside

Happy Father’s Day to all Fathers

From The Mississippi Link

My Seven Black Fathers



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It’s back! The CSLC Annual HIPPY Fund Fest and Motorcycle Show

Special to The Mississippi Link

Recently, more than 200 guests attended the 3rd Annual HIPPY Fund Fest and Motorcycle Show held on the recreation grounds of the Community Students Learning Center (CSLC) in Lexington, Miss. The fund fest had been on hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters) is an international research-based early learning program that helps parents prepare their preschoolers for school success.

As June 2022 dawned as the month of the first official Federal Holiday of Juneteenth, this year’s HIPPY Fund Fest/ Motorcycle Show also held a meaningful significant first. It saluted the legacy of Lula Mae Friar, former CSLC HIPPY coordinator and a pillar of the community with a memorial fund named in her honor for her HIPPY Kids.

Thirteen years ago, Friar searched, found and helped establish the HIPPY early childhood literacy model in Holmes County. She dedicated herself to its success. Like the various Juneteenth concepts, Friar also strongly advocated for education, unity and freedom.

Sadly, she was a victim of the COVID-19 devastations in July 2020. Retired, she had served 35 years as a Mississippi edu-



(L to R) Lexington Mayor Robin McCrory, CSLC Executive Director Beulah Greer, HIPPY graduate Aaliyah Greer, Bike Show Winner Kerwin Brandon aka K-9 of the King Riders, and LaTannica Friar, daughter of Lula Mae Friar



Home Educator Lucretia Holmes (left) directs HIPPY students and graduates in reciting CSLS motto and creed. PHOTOS COURTESY OF CSLC



Memorial tribute display in memory of Lula Mae Friar

cator and 14-plus years as CSLC education coordinator. Forty to 50 bikers participated in the motorcycle show, which amazed children and adults. Biker Kerwin Brandon known as “K-9” of The King Riders Motorcycle Club of Jackson, Miss. took the show as the winner

The fund fest included fun activities for all ages: space jumps, basketball, concessions and a raffle for a barbecue grill. A little girl from Greenwood won the grill.

Program guide Gail M. Brown, Ph.D., CSLC project director, gave opening remarks followed by a scripture recitation of Psalm 1 by 2020 HIPPY graduate, Aaliyah Greer. Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Christian, pastor of Durant Missionary Baptist

Church gave the invocation. Current CSLC HIPPY coordinator Lubertha Banks, assisted by first-grader Royal Anderson, did the welcome. Banks also gave an overview of the program.

Mayor Robin McCrory brought greetings from the City of Lexington, and Supervisors President Leonard Hampton from the county. HIPPY Home Educator Lucretia Holmes directed the children’s recitation of the CSLC motto and creed.

Co-workers, family members, friends and bikers spoke in remembrance of Friar as they donated in her honor. The 2022 HIPPY Fund Fest/Motorcycle Show helped raised several thousand dollars for the educational needs of the approximately 30 HIPPY fami-

lies to be served. The memorial donations were kicked off by Friar’s daughter, LaTannica Friar, and her Louisiana family with a check for \$1,000.

“We are extremely grateful to Ms. Dell Walls and her biker comrades for starting this event for our HIPPY babies and their parents,” said CSLC Executive Director Beulah Greer. “Their efforts and generosity are truly making a positive educational difference in our children.” Expressions of gratitude were also given by HIPPY Booster Club President Maggie Stingley.

Participating motorcycle clubs were the King Riders, Black Hawk Riders, Capital City Riders, D.C. Riders, Old School Riders, 662 Riders, Motor Mouse and others.

CSLC Founder and President



Winner Kerwin Brandon and son Calvin, displaying his trophy.

Leslie Greer later said plans are in the works for a bigger and better fund fest next year.

Donations are still welcome. To donate, call (662) 834-0905 or mail your contribution payable to Community Students

Learning Center, earmarked, “The Lula Mae Friar HIPPY Memorial Fund,” 333 Yazoo Street, Lexington, MS 39095. Thank you.

Applications for HIPPY enrollment are also available.

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Juneteenth

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Proclamation on Juneteenth Day of Observance was declared from the White House. Joe Biden, the nation’s 46th U.S. President, took the following actions:

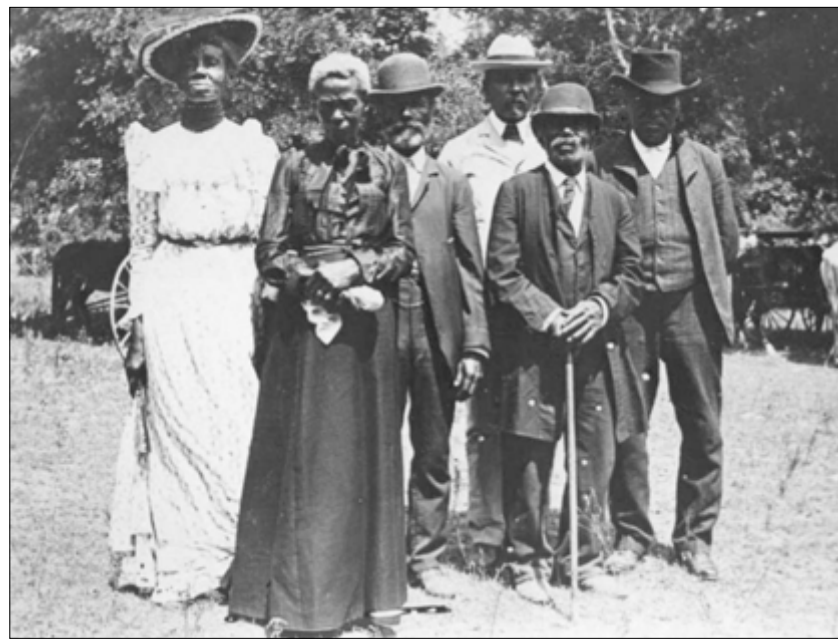
He said, “On June 19, 1865, nearly nine decades after our Nation’s founding, and more than two years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, enslaved Americans in Galveston, Texas, finally received word that they were free from bondage. As those who were formerly enslaved were recognized for the first time as citizens, Black Americans came to commemorate Juneteenth with celebrations across the country, building new lives and a new tradition that we honor today. In its celebration of freedom, Juneteenth is a day that should be recognized by all Americans. And that is why I am proud to have consecrated Juneteenth as our newest national holiday. Juneteenth is a day of profound weight and power.

“A day in which we remember the moral stain and terrible toll of slavery on our country, what I’ve long called America’s original sin. A long legacy of systemic racism, inequality, and inhumanity.

“But it is a day that also reminds us of our incredible capacity to heal, hope, and emerge from our darkest moments with purpose and resolve.

“As I said on the 100th Anniversary of the Tulsa Race Massacre, great nations don’t ignore the most painful chapters of their past. Great nations confront them. We come to terms with them.

“On Juneteenth, we recommit ourselves to the work of equity, equality, and justice. And, we celebrate the centuries of struggle, courage, and hope that have brought us to this time of progress and possibility. That work has been led throughout our history by abolitionists and educators, civil rights advocates and lawyers, courageous activists and trade unionists, public officials,



Emancipation Day celebration, June 19, 1900, held in “East Woods” on East 24th Street in Austin, Texas. CREDIT: AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER.

and everyday Americans who have helped make real the ideals of our founding documents for all.

“There is still more work to do. As we emerge from the long, dark winter of the COVID-19 pandemic, for example, racial equity remains at the heart of our efforts to vaccinate the Nation and beat the virus. We must recognize that Black Americans, among other people of color, have shouldered a disproportionate burden of loss – while also carrying us through disproportionately as essential workers and health care providers on the front lines of the crisis.

“Psalm 30 proclaims that “weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.” Juneteenth marks both the long, hard night of slavery and discrimination, and the promise of a brighter morning to come. My Administration is committed to building an economy – and a Nation – that brings everyone along, and finally delivers our Nation’s founding promise to Black Americans. Together, we will lay the roots of real and lasting justice, so that we can become the extraordinary country that was promised to

all Americans.

“Juneteenth not only commemorates the past. It calls us to action today.

“NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2021, as Juneteenth Day of Observance. I call upon the people of the United States to acknowledge and celebrate the end of the Civil War and the emancipation of Black Americans, and commit together to eradicate systemic racism that still undermines our founding ideals and collective prosperity.

“IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fifth.” JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.”

For more information on Juneteenth visit: <https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/historical-legacy-juneteenth>

Insurrection

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orders.

Testimony also came from Trump’s daughter, Ivanka, who served as an adviser for the Trump administration. Ivanka Trump testified that she accepted then-Attorney General William Barr’s declaration that Biden had defeated Trump in the 2020 election.

Several former White House officials from the Trump administration said the president refused to stop the insurrection and ignored his team of advisers who urged him to intervene.

“Our democracy remains in danger,” Committee Chair Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-MS) declared during the hearing.

“The conspiracy to thwart the will of the people is not over. Unfortunately, there are those in this country who thirst for power but have no love or respect for what makes America great: devotion to the Constitution, allegiance to the rule of law, our shared journey to build a more perfect Union.”

Garbage

Continued from page 1

residences?

Then the very public inference by the mayor that perhaps some council members are accepting bribes from the former trash vendor, Waste Management, which was countered by Stokes suggesting that the mayor needs to stop smoking that dope. Stokes has claimed to have gone to the FBI seeking relief according to a report by WAPT on March 13.

Why the resistance? Was it the belief that Waste Management was a known entity, despite them gouging taxpayers year after year? Was it that Richard’s Disposal is from out of town? Was it that Richard’s is an African-American owned firm? Was it that the No-Voting block simply opposes this mayor in anything he does? Why are they so opposed to this change in vendor?

The reasons offered publicly don’t pass a simple test of reasonableness. Things like – “the timing is bad, because we have too many other things going on,” or “cheaper is not always better.” One councilman claimed that a friend of the mayor, and who had run his campaigns, was involved with the contract. Later, a city attorney refuted that, indicating that person was a sub-contractor having less than 5% of the contract. It all seems so petty, yet these people are our elected officials, and they oversee spending our tax dollars.

We all know Jackson is devastated by crime and poverty. How many police officers could be hired with \$1.2 million per year? How many people could be provided a pathway to self-sufficiency? How many street-homeless could be sheltered?

When it can’t seem to get more odorous, on May 24, Jackson City Council voted 5-2 to remove Richard’s invoice of \$808,035 for services performed in April, from the claims docket, thereby refusing to pay it. Richard’s is now in its third month collecting trash in Jackson and can’t get paid for the first month. Deputy City Attorney Williamson urged the paying of the claim, yet his advice was ignored. And now the No-Voting block has increased from four to five council members, with City Council President Lindsay joining the block.


The Mississippi Supreme Court has appointed retired Court of Appeals Judge Larry E. Roberts of Meridian as a special judge for the pending litigation, City Council of Jackson, Mississippi v. Chokwe A. Lumumba. A hearing on the summary judgement motions has been scheduled for 10 a.m., July 8, in Chancery Courtroom 5 of the Hinds County Chancery Court. Parties involved must submit any filings prior to July 5, 2022.

JUNETEENTH

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JUNETEENTH



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Dr. Jerry Young
President of the
National Baptist Convention, USA

Free Indeed
8th District AME Church
Juneteenth Celebration
Saturday, June 18th
Worship Service @ 10am
Jackson Convention Complex
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Jamming in remembrance of Medgar and Charles Evers

By J.B. Stillwater
Special to The Mississippi Link

This past Sunday was the anniversary of the homegoing of civil rights activist and icon Medgar Evers. Four wreath laying ceremonies were capped off with a mini-concert at the Medgar Evers Library, located at 4215 Medgar Evers Blvd., Jackson, MS, the site of the final wreath laying, at the foot of the Medgar Evers statue.

Two wreaths were laid at Freedom's Corner and one wreath was laid at the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Monument. The National Monument is the former home of the Medgar and Myrlie Evers family and the site where a gun-wielding white supremacist's bullet struck down the NAACP's first field secretary in Mississippi and father of three.

Councilman Kenneth Stokes spoke at the finale of the event he helped to organize, "...we call it the Medgar and Charles Evers homecoming now because it was a family. He loved his brother. On June 12, 1963



Entertainer Prentiss Bill backed up by the Smooth Funk Band
PHOTOS BY J.B. STILLWATER

Medgar was assassinated. That's why we'll never forget."

Carolyn Evers Cockrell and daughter Courtney, the niece of Medgar Evers and granddaughter of former Fayette, Mississippi Mayor Charles Evers respectively were in attendance.

Cockrell spoke of her 'Uncle Medgar' and Reverend R. L. T. Smith coming to visit her in Fayette under the cover of darkness due to the danger of the times and asked that attendees

go and "spread the word about the importance, not so much of the Evers' or my dad or Uncle Medgar but of the cause."

The concert featured live performances from Greg Pippen and Smooth Funk, Prentiss Bill and Billy "Soul" Bonds. The event was deejayed by Randy "Wildman" Brown.

Attendees of the event were reminded that 59 years ago was when we lost Medgar Evers and that next year will be 60 years.



Wreath laying at the Medgar Evers statue outside of the Medgar Evers Library



Jackson fireman and Enoch Sanders leading the procession for wreath laying ceremony

2022-2023 School Year

Early registration ends June 17, 2022.
Registration Continues July 13, 2022.

Required Documents for New Student Registration:

- Parent's Government-Issued Photo ID or Driver's License
- Student's Original Long-Form Birth Certificate
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- Two Proofs of Residency

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Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

RESTART! Superintendent Martin had a meeting with all Assistant Superintendents and Principals of the Hinds County School District to restart, refocus and refresh for the upcoming 2022/2023 school year.



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This Juneteenth, Let Us Investigate How So Many Guns Are Getting Into The Hands Of Our Children!!!

Miss. residents reap close to \$4m in prescription costs savings

The Mississippi Link Newswire

United Way of the Capital Area announces that Mississippi residents have saved upward of \$3.9M on their prescription medications, thanks to its partnership with SingleCare, the prescription savings service that is helping millions of people lead healthier lives by providing access to lower prices on prescriptions.

Close to 35,000 residents, including those in the UWCA service areas of Hinds, Madison and Rankin counties have taken advantage of the cost savings program.

For 15 years, SingleCare's sister brand FamilyWize, has partnered with United Way communities nationwide to help reduce the cost of prescription medications. The free SingleCare savings card can help people immediately save up to 80% on prescription medications and can be used with or without insurance. SingleCare partners with the country's leading pharmacy brands, covering 35,000 pharmacies nationwide. There is no eligibility or registration required.

"These are challenging times for families and communities everywhere. No one should be forced to choose between paying for food, rent or other essential needs because of the high cost of prescriptions," said Ira Murray,

president and chief executive officer of UWCA. "That's why we've partnered with SingleCare to distribute free prescription savings cards to everyone and to help those in need get their medications," added Murray.

"Now more than ever, it's critical for people to be able to access affordable prescription medications without feeling the financial burden of the high cost of medicine," said Vilmarie Gilliam, vice president of Partnerships at SingleCare. "SingleCare is committed to helping those to access savings so they can continue to afford, and adhere to, their prescription medications."

To take advantage of the savings that SingleCare offers, consumers can print a card from *SingleCare.com*, call (844) 272-9582 and request a card be mailed to them, or download the free SingleCare app. For other types of help and additional resources call their local 211 or visit 211.org.

SingleCare is a free prescription savings service that provides consistently low prices to improve access and adherence to medication. It handles hundreds of thousands of prescriptions per day and is helping millions of people across the U.S. save a significant amount of money on their prescriptions. Through a combination of innovative

technology and direct contracts with pharmacies, SingleCare allows consumers to access prescription savings at pharmacies near them via the mobile app or discount cards available on SingleCare.com. SingleCare partners with the country's leading pharmacy brands, covering 35,000 pharmacies nationwide. SingleCare is headquartered in Boston with offices in New York City, greater Philadelphia and West Palm Beach, Fla. For more information, visit *singlecare.com* or download SingleCare on iOS or Android.

United Way fights for the health, education and financial stability of every person in every community. With global reach and local impact, we're making life better for 48 million people annually. United Way is the world's largest privately funded charity, working in 95% of U.S. communities and 41 countries and territories. That's why we're the mission of choice for 1.5 million volunteers, 6.8 million donors and 45,000 corporate partners. In the wake of COVID-19, we're helping people stay in their homes, stock their pantries and protect their lives and livelihoods. And we're working to build resilient, equitable communities. Learn more at *UnitedWay.org*.

Follow us: @United Way and #LiveUnited.



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In Your Community

We celebrate the country's newest federal holiday, Juneteenth.

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LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE
REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS
FIRE STATION RENOVATIONS

The City of Jackson intends to employ an Architectural/Engineering (A/E) consulting firm for Renovations at the five Fire Stations, Jackson, MS. Renovations to include interior renovations and roof replacement work. Statement of Qualifications will be accepted by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 p.m., Tuesday July 5, 2022. The proposed contract will include complete Architectual/Engineering services required for this renovation and replacement work.

Official bid Documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.central-bidding.com. Electronic bids and/or reverse auction bids can be submitted at www.centralbidding.com. For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

Architectural/Engineering (A/E) firms interested in providing these services may so indicate by furnishing the City of Jackson seven (7) copies of a Statement of Qualification, which should consist of the following:

1. A cover letter specifying the complete project name, FIRE STATION RENOVATIONS, the name of the project manager, and the location and address of the office to be assigned the majority of the work.
2. A resume for each principal member, the project manager, and employee(s) of the firm anticipated to be assigned to the project including consulting engineers. Also, provide an organizational chart and list each person's experience and qualifications, including proof that the Project Manager is licensed as a Mississippi Professional Architect/Engineer and that the firm has met state licensure and certification requirements. Include a business recovery plan in the event of a disaster.
3. Knowledge of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) procurement processes, Section 3 requirements, certified payroll, Davis-Bacon Act; and other reporting requirements of CDBG funded projects.
4. A description of similar type work completed during the past five (5) years which qualifies the consultant for this work; the cost and schedule completion (or actual completion) of this work with project owners reference contact information.
5. In addition to the information requested above complete Part II of the Standard Form (SF) 330, Architect-Engineer Qualifications. This Form can be obtained at (<http://www.gsa.gov/portal/forms/download/116486>).

The City will evaluate the Statements of Qualification based on the following factors listed in their relative order of importance:

1. Experience of the firm in performing specific services and experience in preparing architectural/engineering design and construction projects funded by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).
2. Qualifications and experience of staff and consultants to be assigned to the project based on requested scope of services.
3. Size of the firm's professional and technical staff with respect to the services required.
4. Resume of the firm's current and completed projects of a similar nature.
5. Local presence of the firm within the Jackson Metro Area.
6. Equal Business Opportunity participation plan submitted with the Statement of Qualification package.

The City reserves the right to select one (1) consultant or select a short list of consultants from whom more information will be required. The City reserves the right to reject any and all Statements of Qualification, discontinue Contract execution, and/or request additional information with any party at any time prior to final Contract execution. For any Statement of Qualification questions, contact Lloyd Keller, Jr. at 601-960-1657, lkeller@city.jackson.ms.us.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each proposer shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan with the proposal submission, in accordance with the provisions of the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Executive Order. Failure to comply with the City's Executive Order shall disqualify a proposer from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact the Division of Equal Business Opportunity at 601-960-1856. Copies of the City of Jackson's Executive Order, EBO Plan Applications, and a copy of the program are available at the following location: 200 South President Street, Room 223, Jackson, Mississippi; or can be accessed on City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity webpage.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all proposers that in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4, that all proposers will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, or sex, in consideration for an award.

The City of Jackson, Mississippi is committed to cultivating and ensuring the quality of life of its citizens, through various programs, employment, initiatives, and assistance. The City of Jackson encourages all persons, corporations, and/or entities doing business within the City of Jackson, as well as those who seek to contract with the City of Jackson on various projects and/or conduct business in Jackson to assist the City of Jackson in achieving its goal by strongly considering city of Jackson residents for employment opportunities.

Robert Lee
Acting City Engineer

Valerie Tucker
Deputy Director
Housing & Community Development

6/9/2022, 6/16/2022

Sudoku

The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.

		2		9				
8	4		7	6				
		7	1		8			3
	8		3				2	
					9		6	5
			2		5		3	
7		3	8					
							1	
6						8		

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Sudoku Solution

1	3	2	5	9	4	6	8	7
8	4	9	7	6	3	2	5	1
5	6	7	1	2	8	9	4	3
4	8	5	3	7	6	1	2	9
3	2	1	4	8	9	7	6	5
9	7	6	2	1	5	4	3	8
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2	9	8	6	5	7	3	1	4
6	5	4	9	3	1	8	7	2

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P R E S E R V E D

Who's your daddy?... Check your DNA

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



Some of my guilty pleasures are the judge reality shows like Judge Mathis and Judge Lauren Lakes' Paternity Court. My reasons for liking those shows vary but I must admit that I love watching the drama of the paternity tests and their results. Honestly, it's amazing to me how much information about their personal lives people are willing to share on television. I'm also surprised at how hearing the words "You are not the father...or you are the father" could bring such joy or pain. And it all comes down to three letters: DNA.

DNA or deoxyribonucleic acid are the intriguing molecules that prove paternity on these shows. DNA determines the physical characteristics that we inherit from our par-

ents like eye color, height and body type. Unless you are a twin, you have a unique DNA that no one else on the earth shares. DNA stores information, can pass traits from generation to generation and, most importantly, answers questions about who you are in small pieces of hair, nails, skin, sweat, tears and blood, etc.

It's only been through the use of modern scientific advances that we've learned how useful DNA can be. In some cases, it has set the wrongly convicted free from prison sentences.

Spiritual DNA (Destiny, Needs and Authority) also answers questions about who we can be in our spiritual lives. Job 23:14 clarifies, "So he will do to me whatever he has planned. He controls my destiny." Have you allowed someone else to determine your destiny? Are you walking in your destiny and do you recognize God's plan for your

life?

Another part of your spiritual DNA involves having your needs met through sincere prayer and a dialogue with God. Do you know the difference between your needs and your wants? Who or what have you allowed to satisfy your needs? Matthew 6:7-8 gives clear instructions on how to pray: "And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him."

Knowing your spiritual DNA also involves asking whose authority are you under. Who do you have authority over and how do you handle it? Have you given your authority away through sin and disobedience? And if you did, how do you get it back? We have to recognize where our authority comes from and what it is to be used for.

Romans 1:5 says, "Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority as apostles to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name."

Knowing our spiritual DNA can change your life. However, your spiritual DNA (like your eye color) doesn't do anything by itself. But it does tell everyone who your spiritual parents are and what traits and behaviors you'll be passing on to others.

This Father's Day, I encourage you to celebrate your father (spiritual or natural).

Shewanda Riley is a Fort Worth, Texas based author of "Love Hangover: Moving from Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends" and "Writing to the Beat of God's Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers." Email preserved-bypurpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.

Beware of seducing spirits

By Pastor Simeon R. Green III
Special to The Mississippi Link



When (Satan) begins to work, he works to try to deceive us. He does not come to us and announce who he is nor declare what he is trying to do to us. Friend, we need to be wise of Satan's tactics. If the devil informed us that he was the enemy of our soul and that he was trying to bring eternal death to us and cause us to be cast into the eternal lake of fire, we would be wise and avoid him. I do not believe we would say, "All right, I will go along with you." We would know better, so he does not come that way. He works in deceptive manners, and he works through seducing spirits.

In the scripture text, we find that is what he chose to do. First, he used good reasoning for wanting to acquire the inheritance of Naboth. The enemy through Ahab, said in verse two of our scripture text, "Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near unto my house." King Ahab presented good reasoning along with his desires to take what belong to Naboth. The devil is not stupid. When he tempts us and places a thought in our mind that is designed to lead us astray, he brings good reasoning with it.

When he tempted Eve, he did not tell her, "Disobey God and


eat the forbidden fruit, and then you will die and go to hell." He made it appear attractive and said, in essence: "I will make you wise. You will be like God. You will be able to profit from this thing." He presented good reasoning with the temptation.

Friend, not every thought that comes into our mind is good, whether it seems good or not. Many thoughts may seem as though they will help us. They may seem to be attractive and to be of benefit to us, but we must measure those thoughts by what God has to say about them. We must consider these thoughts in the light of God's Word.

One brother once said, he prays that God will help him to be quick to discern the difference between good thoughts and bad thoughts. That is a good prayer.

We need to be quick to discern the difference between a good thought and a bad thought. We may not be sure of some thoughts that we get at first. Perhaps we do not know their origin, but as we investigate them and compare them with God's Word, we may find that we must dismiss them. Even if something seems to have good reasons for going that direction, it does not mean that it is really of God. We must thoroughly investigate it.

Rev. Simeon R. Green III is pastor of Joyne's Road Church of God, 31 Joyne's Road, Hampton, VA 23669.




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Dé-jà vu – all over again

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer



Oppression is nothing new in what we know as America. European “settlers” oppressed Native Indians after they decided the honeymoon was over. Then, of course, came slavery. Blacks were kidnapped in African countries and transported to the New World in shackles for the sole purpose of servitude.

Slavery is an all-encompassing platform of oppression that lasted at least 243 years here; European Americans exercising slavery as defined in the Oxford dictionary as “prolonged cruel or unjust treatment or control. Once freed by The Emancipation Proclamation, the journey for equality was just beginning. It took another 100 years before the passing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 before a truer sense of freedom took hold.

Oppression is the primary mechanism used in America to resist African-American advancement. If you are a minority in this country or even a fair-minded European American, you are well aware and have seen or felt racism manifested time and time again. And when Critical Race Theory was brought forth in the Summer of 2019, laying out, in an academic framework – institutionalized racial disadvantage and systemic racial inequality in our country – the pushback was fierce.

Since its publication, forty-one states have passed or considered legislation on race education according to ABC News in March, 2022. This is being done by almost entirely European American legislators who want to make sure that there is no acknowledgement or accountability for past and ongoing racist behavior in our laws and institutions.

To them apparently, the good ole USA functions as a haven of fairness and equality for all. To them apparently, the playing field is level, and we should not be educating our children on anything other than that. In Mississippi, Sen-

COMMENTARY

ate Bill 2113, “Critical Race Theory; Prohibit,” does not mention critical race theory by name except for in its title.

We have all heard the phrase “Shining City on a Hill,” referring to American exceptionalism. New World Encyclopedia indicates that American exceptionalism “has been historically referred to as the belief that the United States differs qualitatively from other developed nations because of its national credo, historical evolution, or distinctive political and religious institutions.” What does that mean? That sentiment seems like a lofty ideal, far from reality.

Reality is that this country was founded in racism, many of the founders themselves were slaveholders, and that after appearing to ease for a time, racism is again rampant in America today – dé-jà vu.

We have white supremacists and white nationalists breeding hate and violence. We have mass shootings and school shootings where children are murdered and manifestos are left behind detailing racial hatred.

The Southern Poverty Law Center tells us that hate groups are on the rise, and that there are currently 733 hate groups operating in the country. They identify a simple commonality with all hate groups as having beliefs and practices that attack or malign an entire class of people, typically for their immutable characteristics.

We have poverty in the wealthiest country in the world – the most recent Census tells us that poverty is growing and has exceeded 11% nationwide. A CNN report based on Census Bureau data indicated the poverty rate for black Americans in 2019 was the lowest on record, according to the Census Bureau. “But at 18.8%, it remains far more than double that of non-Hispanic white Americans, who had a poverty rate of 7.3%.” Poverty breeds desperation and hopelessness.

Recently I heard someone mention the term “post-racial.”

Post-racial means free from racial preference, discrimination and prejudice. I suppose it would be convenient for some to view America as post-racial, but that too, is not the reality. Acclaimed writer and editor, Anna Holmes wrote in *The New York Times*, “Chatel slavery and the legacies it left behind continue to shape American society. Sometimes it seems as if the desire for a ‘post-racial’ America is an attempt by white people to liberate themselves from the burden of having to deal with that legacy.”

In 2015, a study by *The Guardian* found that police officers in the United States killed 7.13 black Americans per million, compared with 2.91 white Americans per million. Last year, Mapping Police Violence, a non-profit that tracks police shootings, found that blacks accounted for 27% of fatal shootings by police, double that of whites killed by police. Our black population is close to 13%, but killings by police are 27%.

The SPLC indicates that the Alternative Right, commonly known as the “alt-right,” is a set of far-right ideologies, groups and individuals whose core belief is that “white identity” is under attack by multicultural forces using “political correctness” and “social justice” to undermine white people and “their” civilization.

Seemingly driven by the Census, which reflects the marked and continuing decline of non-Hispanic whites in America, these hateful ideologies are taking off like a rocket ship, hence the title; Dé-jà vu – all over again. Rather than continue to enflame hatred of others, perhaps they could immigrate to Sweden or Finland, and the life expectancy in those countries exceeds ours.

It’s disgracefully juvenile behavior to see adults in a majority race claiming to feel threatened by the rise of minority races in a country of immigrants. It has become abundantly clear that is the case here in the U.S.A. This behavior must change before it kills us.

Watch the Jan. 6 Hearings: Getting the truth is the first step in holding people accountable

By Ben Jealous
People For the American Way



Some extremely important truth-telling is happening in Washington, D.C. right now.

I know a lot of people are skeptical about Congress. Sometimes that cynicism is well earned. But the bipartisan House select committee investigating the plot to overturn the 2020 presidential election is doing essential good work. All of us should pay attention to the public hearings the committee is holding this month.

Let’s be clear. The violent crimes that took place during the Jan. 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol were not just about an angry crowd getting out of control.

The people attacking the police and hunting for members of Congress and Vice President Mike Pence were part of a bigger criminal conspiracy. They were out to overturn the will of the voters who elected Joe Biden to be our president. It was an attack on our country – on you and me and everyone who turned out to vote.

We believe the record reflects that the criminal conspiracy started at the very top, with former President Donald Trump. It included members of Trump’s staff and legal team who pressured Pence to break the law, ignore his constitutional duty, and throw the country into chaos. It included members of Congress and pro-Trump political and religious leaders who continued to spread Trump’s lies about a stolen election long after the courts had rejected these false claims.

And it included far-right-

wing activists who were told their country was being stolen from them – and who planned for civil war to take it back. They answered Trump’s call to come to Washington on the day Congress would affirm Joe Biden’s victory. They gathered weapons and body armor and trained in military tactics. And they smashed their way into the Capitol.

They came way too close to pulling it off. And that means some of them will try again if they are not held accountable now.

That is why it is so important that Americans learn everything we can about the scheming and planning that led up to the violent attempt to prevent the peaceful transfer of power. And it is important that we remain watchful about the steps they are taking now to give them a better chance at succeeding next time.

Getting the truth is the first step in holding people accountable. It will be up to the Justice Department, which has charged hundreds of people for their crimes during the insurrection, to make sure that the powerful individuals who plotted behind the scenes face the same kinds of consequences as those who rioted at the Capitol.

All Americans should be grateful to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi for creating the House Select Committee. We should be grateful for the committee members and staff who have worked so hard to get at the truth in spite of stonewalling and defiance of legal subpoenas from Trump’s team.

Defending democracy should not be a partisan project. Republican Reps. Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger deserve credit

for serving on the committee. They deserve credit for insisting that the truth come out. They deserve praise for standing up to Trump and all the gutless or unprincipled Republicans who are trying to protect Trump by sabotaging the investigation, lying about the committee and obscuring the truth.

Rep. Jamie Raskin, one of the heroes of the January 6 committee, has called Reps. Cheney and Kinzinger “constitutional patriots” for defending democracy.

We know that Trump’s Republicans have been plotting to undermine the committee’s work. They are counting on far-right media outlets to carry their propaganda. They want to prevent Trump from being held accountable by confusing and concealing the truth. That is a threat to our future. It could lead us away from a national commitment to transferring power peacefully to election winners.

It could send us further down the road, as Rep. Raskin recently described, to “coups and insurrections and fascist-inspired political instability.” It’s up to all of us not to let that happen.

I encourage everyone reading this to watch as many of the January 6 hearings as you can. Urge your elected officials to defend truth, accountability, democracy and the right to cast a vote and have it counted.

Ben Jealous serves as president of People For the American Way and Professor of the Practice at the University of Pennsylvania. A New York Times best-selling author, his next book “Never Forget Our People Were Always Free” will be published by Harper Collins in December 2022.

The January 6 re-boot is what some Republicans didn’t want to see

By James B. Ewers Jr.
*President Emeritus
Teen Mentoring Committee of Ohio*



Chicken Little said famously in his folktale that the sky is falling. That is probably what some Republicans are

feeling these days. It could be that their mean-spirited world is being exposed and coming to an end.

If you are a hard line and unreasonable Republican, last Thursday evening was a nightmare for you. You must say again that January 6th was a harmless event.

On the other hand, if you are a moderate and reasonable member of the GOP (Grand Old Party), you are just shaking your head and embarrassed.

The horror of what happened on that day will be talked about for years to come. History will be unkind to the Republicans who vouched for the madness and the mayhem. It is a sad but true chapter of our nation’s history.

If you have no shame and no remorse, then you are minimizing the event and calling it just a minor distraction. If you are in that pathetic and pitiful number of minor minions, then you wear a badge of disgrace forever. Your legacy is attached to disgrace and dishonor.

Some high-ranking Republican senators said it was a terrible event and those responsible

should be punished. Within a week’s time they changed their positions. What happened? You know what happened.

There is a Southern Republican governor who believes he is the front runner to be the next president. He is self-proclaimed and it is just his imagination running away with him.

All the un-named men are covered in wrongdoing. You and I know who they are. Their integrity was snatched from them.

They are infamous and not famous. Their reputations have been tarnished and stained never to be washed clean again.

Democratic Representative Bennie Thompson of Mississippi and chairman of the January 6th committee laid out the charge of the committee quite well.

He said, “We can’t sweep what happened under the rug. The American people deserve answers. So, I come before you this evening not as a Democrat but as an American who swore an oath to defend the Constitution.”

Clear-thinking and constitutionally driven Americans will want to know the details of what happened.

These hearings will be based upon the facts, nothing else.

Some on the other side will say that the committee is full of Democrats. There are seven Democrats and two Republicans.

Is there a Democratic truth and a Republican truth as to

what happened on January 6th? The answer is no.

The facts will give us the truth.

What occurred on January 6th of last year was in plain view for all of us to see. These insurgents just broke into one of our most treasured and historic buildings.

If you voted in the last presidential election, then you know why this took place. The former president lost the election and claimed foul play. Yet we know that he ran afoul of the election rules. He lost and was a sore loser then and he is still sore and totally out of sorts.

A part of America followed his disjointed thinking and came to Washington, D.C. to cause trouble.

Reports say 140 police officers were injured on that fateful day. A Capitol Police officer, Caroline Edwards testified last week about this riot. She was injured and assaulted on the Capitol steps.

These hearings will last a few weeks and the unvarnished truth will come out. Those responsible will have nowhere to run and nowhere to hide.

We know who is responsible for this loathsome act which betrayed the public trust. He is hiding in the Sunshine State.

His time is coming, and he will be held accountable. Right still matters in America today and it will trump wrong.

The Republican Party is in a state of flux right now. They probably do want the sky to fall. They might be better off

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Jackson State University students named HBCU Scholars for White House Initiative

Special to The Mississippi Link

Jackson State University students Brikala Roach and Kelsei Scott have been selected as HBCU Scholars for the White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity through Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The newly announced ninth cohort recognizes 86 undergraduate, graduate and professional students for their academic accomplishments, leadership, civic engagement and much more.

"I am so excited and happy to be chosen as an HBCU Scholar. It's a blessing to be representing JSU. It feels great to see that my hard work and service do not go unnoticed. I hope to gain resources and opportunities that I can bring to my school, as well as networking with others," said Roach, a health, physical education and recreation major with a 3.7 GPA.

The senior says that she is also interested in participating in the various sessions offered by the initiative that will reintroduce her to STEM and business fields. "Being an HBCU scholar and meeting instructors and others in those fields is a great learning opportunity," she said.

The HBCU scholars were chosen from a competitive pool of over 350 students. Applications also required the signature of their HBCU president or designated HBCU faculty, adding a level of prestige to this application process.

"I feel blessed to be selected as a White House Initiative HBCU Scholar. This is a monumental accomplishment for me, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be a participant in this program," said Scott, a junior with a 3.3 GPA majoring in journalism and media studies. "I hope to gain a range of experience in different fields and connect with other HBCU scholars during this time."

Over the academic year, HBCU Scholars will serve as ambassadors of the White House Initiative on HBCUs. Training and cross-university networking opportunities will be available. Scholars will also have the chance to work on issues specifically related to the HBCU community and participate in na-



Roach



Scott

tional and regional events with professionals from a wide range of disciplines.

"The HBCU Scholars announced today have dedicated themselves to their learning and exemplify the talent that our nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities have nurtured for generations," said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona in a release. "The Biden-Harris administration is committed to supporting these leaders, and I cannot wait to learn from them while they serve as ambassadors for the White House Initiative and their institutions."

A key feature of the HBCU Scholar Program is a partnership with NASA to foster innovation and opportunity for the cohorts. This partnership with NASA makes the Minority University Research and Education Project

Innovation Tech Transfer Idea Competition, "Mini MITTIC," part of the HBCU Scholar Program. Through the Mini MITTIC program, students will partner in developing ideas to commercialize technology derived from NASA intellectual property. Scholars will have the opportunity to present their IP ideas during the National HBCU Week Conference in September.

HBCU Scholars will be invited to the 2022 HBCU Week National Annual Conference on September 20-23 in Washington, D.C. During the conference, they will participate in sessions designed to engage a spirit of entrepreneurship, innovation, and personal and professional development. Most importantly, scholars will have opportunities to engage with one another and showcase their individual and collective talent.

JUNETEENTH WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

L	Y	C	A	R	E	D	E	F	N	O	C	R	Q	M	G	Y
K	A	M	E	R	I	C	A	N	X	R	P	R	P	J	N	S
W	W	D	L	Y	N	O	I	N	U	L	I	N	C	O	L	N
U	N	O	T	S	E	V	L	A	G	V	Z	G	M	N	X	J
E	R	M	N	T	E	H	U	N	N	J	I	E	N	D	H	J
I	R	U	O	F	L	A	G	O	N	K	R	O	O	Y	C	L
Y	O	U	N	J	R	Q	D	I	W	E	Q	O	I	R	O	G
Z	R	Q	T	E	X	A	S	T	C	H	F	B	T	O	Y	W
A	F	C	E	L	E	B	R	A	T	I	O	N	A	T	I	Q
B	U	P	U	B	U	W	F	M	K	V	F	S	P	S	B	B
O	M	S	E	U	E	C	M	A	R	M	D	L	I	I	O	Q
L	L	O	R	V	J	L	Y	L	E	M	R	A	C	H	M	G
I	Y	A	D	I	L	O	H	C	G	E	T	V	N	I	F	D
T	J	R	M	E	H	Q	U	O	N	V	O	E	A	T	I	Z
I	Z	N	J	K	E	L	P	R	A	N	L	R	M	R	T	Q
O	M	E	K	H	O	R	B	P	R	G	G	Y	E	W	E	P
N	B	R	X	S	P	J	F	G	G	P	T	N	T	V	U	D

Abolition	Flag	Lincoln
American	Food	Proclamation
Celebration	Freedom	Red
Ceremony	Galveston	Slavery
Confederacy	Granger	Texas
Culture	History	Union
Emancipation	Holiday	



This Juneteenth themed puzzle features 20 words related to the holiday such as emancipation, freedom, Texas and more. All the words can be found by searching vertically, horizontally or diagonally.

Holy Temple M.B. Church ANNUAL MEN'S DAY PROGRAM

SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 2022 | 9:30 A.M. | JUNETEENTH

Men: Following the Lead of the Holy Spirit

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." - 2 Corinthians 3:17

Guest Speaker



Elder Shelton McAfee
Amazing Institutional COGIC



Rev. Dr. Audrey Lynne Hall
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Holy Temple M.B. Church

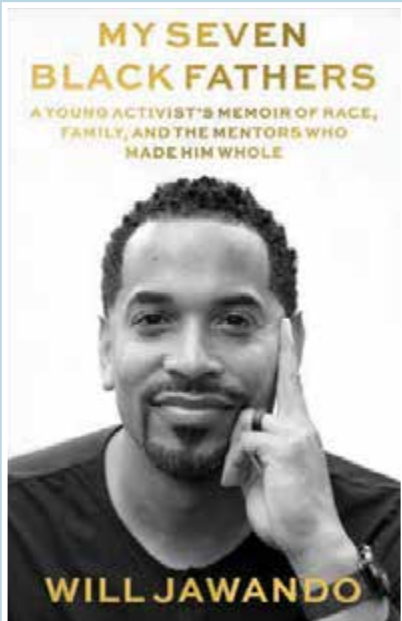
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BOOK REVIEW:

MY SEVEN BLACK FATHERS

A YOUNG ACTIVIST'S MEMOIR OF RACE, FAMILY, AND THE MENTORS WHO MADE HIM WHOLE

BY WILL JAWANDO

C.2022, FARRAR, STRAUS AND GIROUX

\$28.00 • 232 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

They say it takes a village. This Abuelita has wisdom to offer. That Grandfather shares good secrets. An Auntie can teach, a Tio can show, and neighbors and ninongs can contribute more to a baby’s life. It takes a village, no one should have to raise a child alone – and as in the new book “My Seven Black Fathers” by Will Jawando, no child should have to grow up that way, either.

As the biracial child of a white mother and a Nigerian father,

Will Jawando says he struggled to fit in until a boy at the basketball courts befriended him. As with many childhood friendships, the two drifted apart and one day, Jawando learned that his buddy had been killed. The incident still reminds him that compassion and grief are forever interlinked.

It also, he says, “made room in my heart for the mentorship of my seven black fathers.”

Studies show that “a father in the home matters to his black son,” no matter their income or what their neighborhood looks

like. Even a father-figure works: Jawando says that he is the man he is today because of “the black men that I gained access to because of my mother’s job and where I went to school.”

His step-father, Joseph Jacob, gave Jawando his “Black American identity.” His fourth-grade teacher, Mr. Williams – the first black male teacher he’d ever seen – tutored him on respect and respectability. His mother’s co-worker, Jay Fletcher, a gay man, taught Jawando that showing vulnerability was necessary to be “whole.” Coach Wayne

Holmes showed him how to succeed. Deen Sanwoola, a friend and mentor, gave Jawando “perspective” on his “Nigerian identity.” Barack Obama, with whom Jawando worked, showed Jawando his “birth-mark” in his outside-of-mainstream name. And from his own birth-father, once they connect again and traveled to Nigeria together, he found forgiveness and understanding.

“Now the healing could begin,” Jawando said. “All it took was a four-thousand-mile journey together.”

Sit up and pay attention. That’s what “My Seven Black Fathers” asks you to do. It oozes with gratitude and grace, it flashes with remembered anger and calm, and, while author Will Jawando tells his story, it asks you to pay attention.

That’s not hard to do. Jawando’s childhood, which he relates in great detail, was like that of many black boys, but with a difference: seven black men gave of their time to help form him, which he indicates doesn’t happen for a lot of children. And yet, despite its benefits, getting

the mentorship was a struggle sometimes – a surprising point that surfaces but isn’t belabored, nor is Jawando’s reasoning for why this matters. Like any good storyteller, he tells, then lets his tale linger, leaving an impression you’ll come back to, time and again.

It shouldn’t be a surprise if “My Seven Black Fathers” might also spur you to mentor a kid, or to somehow get involved in a child’s life now or soon. In the meantime, this memoir on being a black man has a lot to offer.

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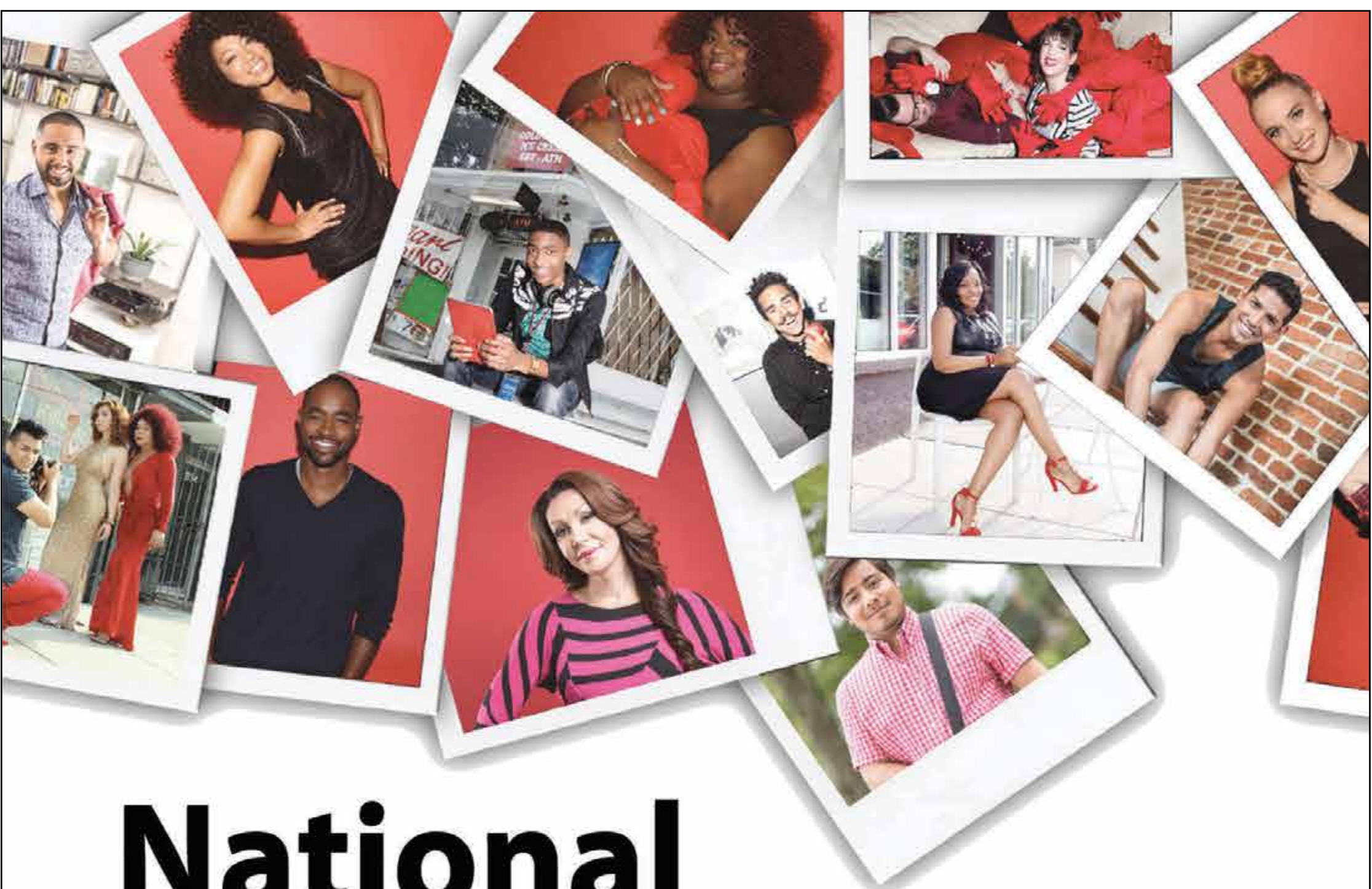
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National HIV Testing Day

Thursday, June 27, 2022

Getting tested is still the best way to know your HIV status. Take the right steps to get healthy. Testing is available at all county health departments and is always private and confidential.

Get tested • Get in Care • Stay in care • Be healthy



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

We pledge to LISTEN TO BLACK WOMEN and support REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE is the **HUMAN RIGHT** to control our bodies, our sexuality, our gender, our work and our reproduction. That **RIGHT** can only be achieved when **ALL** women and girls have the complete economic, social and political **POWER** and resources to make healthy **DECISIONS** about our **BODIES**, our **FAMILIES** and our **COMMUNITIES** in all areas of our lives.

Right now, we are faced with an attack on our **HUMAN RIGHTS** as global **CITIZENS** by a conservative, activist U.S. Supreme Court.

Our **FREEDOM** depends on **DISMANTLING** systemic racism, misogyny, anti-blackness and white supremacy.

Historically, we have **WON** battles for our human and civil rights when we **LISTEN TO AND TRUST BLACK WOMEN**:

71%

of Black women support **ABORTION** services.

85%

believe whether she has "private or government-funded health coverage, **EVERY** woman should have **HEALTH COVERAGE** for the full range of pregnancy-related care, including **ABORTION**.

91%

believe a woman's ability to **CONTROL** whether or when she has children is an important part of **FINANCIAL STABILITY** for herself and her **FAMILY**.

Therefore, **WE** the undersigned **PLEDGE**

To do everything in our **POWER** to ensure all Black women and birthing people have the freedom, resources and power they need to assert **AGENCY** over their **BODIES** and to ensure that their **FAMILIES** can **THRIVE**.

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