

THE LOUISIANA WEEKLY

Happy Holidays!

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Advocates take to the street, raise their voices in support of incarcerated women

By Michael Isaac Stein
Contributing Writer

Dolfinette Martin is a prison reform activist with an unwavering focus on women's rights. She has the poised, steady voice of a grassroots organizer, but it softens when she tells the story of Pamela Winn.

Winn was six weeks pregnant when she

began her five-year sentence in a Georgia federal prison for bank fraud. Early into her time, she tripped and fell while climbing aboard a bus in her ankle bracelets. Days later she found spots of blood.

As a nurse, she knew it could be serious and over the next 14 weeks made multiple requests for medical care. She never received the attention she needed, and at 20 weeks pregnant she

miscarried while shackled to her bed in solitary confinement, lying in a pool of blood.

"It's barbaric," says Martin. "No male will ever understand the impact of that. And there are so many Pamelas."

The incarceration rate for men in Louisiana is roughly 14 times larger than that for women.

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Photo by Cheriss May

OMAROSA MANIGAULT NEWMAN

Omarosa's final days at White House full of controversy, accusations

Some say she blocked qualified Black applicants; others say that's not possible
NNPA president says she may have been fighting for diversity

By Hazel Trice Edney
Contributing Writer

(TriceEdneyWire.com) — Omarosa Manigault Newman, who has resigned under duress from her public liaison job at the White House, is leaving true to form — amidst a cloud of controversy and with sparks flying.

The White House has confirmed her resignation effective Jan. 20. The official White House reason was that she is leaving to pursue "other opportunities."

"Thank you Omarosa for your service! I wish you continued success," says a Dec. 13 tweet from President Donald Trump, who had hand-picked Manigault Newman — best known for her first name only. A personal friend of Trump's, they have known each other 14 years since her national television debut on his reality show, "The Apprentice."

But the full circumstances surrounding Omarosa's departure remain cloudy at best amidst numerous reports that she was actually fired or forced to resign amidst cursing and a heated confrontation with Trump's Chief of Staff Gen. John Kelly. She has only conceded that there was a tense conversation with Kelly in the White House Situation Room. Since his arrival last July, Kelly had limited her access to the Oval Office, where she initially had the freedom to come and go.

On ABC, the only media outlet that has interviewed her since the resignation, the clearly angry Omarosa said reports that she was fired are "a hundred percent false." But, then she added, "But when I have a chance to tell my story — quite a story — as the only African-American woman in this White House, as a senior staff and assistant to the president, I have seen things that have made me uncomfortable, that have upset me, that have affected me deeply and emotionally, that has affected my community and my people and when I can tell my story, it is a profound

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This collage, published by Christianity, illustrates some of the different depictions of Jesus. Theologians say the darker hue is most accurate

For many across the nation, the dream of a Black Christmas brings joy

By Alanté Millow
Contributing Writer

(TriceEdneyWire.com) — As the holiday season approaches, so do the wave of images representing St. Nicholas and the Nativity scene. However, just a quick

Google search of either image reveals an array of white representations.

The fact that people of European descent aren't the only ones celebrating Christmas is being increasingly recognized and celebrated as an industry is growing for festive products to which Black consumers can

relate. Although displaying a Black Santa may seem like a small, meaningless gesture to some, the effect it can have on the minds of Black children can be quite remarkable. Multiple studies have shown that

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Americans want prosecutorial reform, study says

By Della Hasselle
Contributing Writer

Voters across America "overwhelmingly" support prosecutorial reform, according to a public opinion poll released in December by the American Civil Liberties Union Campaign for Smart Justice.

The poll, which is the first-ever national survey to ask about the role of prosecutors, also showed that voters are prepared to take their positions with them to the ballot box next November.

The research was conducted by David Binder Research between October 24 and October 30. It included 1,600 telephone

interviews in both English and Spanish with Americans likely to vote in November 2018.

Forty-two percent of participants identified as Republican, 41 percent as Democrat and 17 percent as Independent. The results showed a higher than usual response rate for conserva-

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State AG loses bid to move Cantrell probe

Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry's efforts to move his probe of New Orleans Mayor-elect Latoya Cantrell's use of a city-issued credit card from the jurisdiction of the Orleans Parish Criminal District Court were rejected on Tuesday, Dec. 20, by a state appeals court panel.

In last week's split ruling, 4th

Circuit of Appeal Judges Roland Belsome and Daniel Dysart found that Orleans Parish Criminal District Court Judge Laurie White acted within her proper discretion when she refused to recuse herself of any of the other Orleans Parish criminal court judges from presiding over the Cantrell investigation,

as AG Landry had proposed.

The lone dissenter on the issue was 4th Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Joy Cossich Lobrano.

Nola.com reported that Judge Lobrano said in her dissent that she would have reversed Judge Laurie White's decision "out of an abundance of caution" given what Lobrano characterized as

"the unique circumstances surrounding this matter."

The probe stems from allegations that emerged during the November mayoral runoff between Cantrell and Desiree Charbonnet when an anonymous complaint accused New Orleans

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Feds to probe S&WB's spending of post-Katrina funds

As bad as things have been for the New Orleans Sewerage & Water Board this summer with failed turbines and local flooding events leading to a series of firings and resignations among the agency's top leaders, things are about to get more testy with last week's news that the Feds are launching an investigation into the City of New Orleans' spending of federal funds earmarked for the S&WB.

That news became public at the end of Monday's S&WB Finance and Administration Committee meeting when it was revealed that the troubled agency will be required to account for hundreds of millions of dollars it was awarded for post-Katrina recovery.

WVL News reported that the audit will be conducted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Inspector General and is set to begin on Jan. 5, 2018. The Department of Homeland Security oversees FEMA, which administered the funds to the City of New Orleans after what was called at the time "the worst disaster in U.S. history."

"Our objective is to determine whether the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans accounted for and expended FEMA funds according to Federal regulations and FEMA guidelines," John McCoy II, Deputy Director of Audits for the Inspector General, told the S&WB in a letter.

According to WVL News, Landrieu administration staffer Katie Dignan told the S&WB's Finance and Administration Committee last week that the IG informed the state Department of Homeland Security in early December that the agency would launch a probe of the S&WB's post-Katrina spending of federal funds.

Despite hundreds of millions of dollars in FEMA funding earmarked for S&WB repairs since 2005, the agency's power and drainage systems continue to struggle.

WVL-TV's "Down the Drain" investigative series found that millions in FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds have been spent on trying – and failing – to repair 100-year-old power equipment used to run the drainage pumps.

Despite FEMA and state officials declaring a management fee the S&WB agreed to pay for the project "not reasonable" and refusing to pay any more FEMA funds for the fees after they reached \$7 million, the S&WB has continued to approve

increases to the fees, and Colorado-based CH2M Hill now stands to collect more than \$28 million, WVL News reported.

Much of the \$500 million FEMA and HUD approved for the S&WB after Hurricanes Katrina, Gustav and Isaac remains in Washington, D.C. That money was earmarked for drainage, power and pumps. A little more than one-third of it has reportedly been spent.

Some of that money was only to repair broken infrastructure and return it to its pre-storm condition, but the Hazard Mitigation grants allowed the S&WB to make improvements or purchase new equipment.

Instead, the S&WB has ignored expert recommendations and put most of the money into refurbishment projects that now cost more than brand-new equipment. FEMA and HUD also combined to grant New Orleans nearly \$300 million for green infrastructure projects, such as storm-water retention ponds, bioswales and other "living-with-water" initiatives. Less than \$10 million of that has been spent.

The last 12 years have been fraught with glaring ineptitude, poor decision-making and failed opportunities to move the City of New Orleans and its infrastructure forward in the wake of the series of devastating storms that began with Hurricane Katrina.

There is more than enough blame to go around for both the Nagin and Landrieu administrations, the New Orleans City Council and agencies like the S&WB and Department of Public Works.

Former New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin was in office for four-plus years after Hurricane Katrina and current Mayor Mitch Landrieu has been in charge at City Hall for nearly eight of the 12 years since Hurricane Katrina flooded 80 percent of the city in 2005.

Even the money to fix broken drainage infrastructure has been held up. It took almost 10 years for the city's Department of Public Works and the S&WB to work out an agreement with FEMA to let the two agencies share an additional \$2 billion for street repairs, which would include work on drainage lines and catch basins. But in the 18 months since that agreement, the agencies have spent just \$1 million—or half of one percent of the grant.

At the Dec. 18 S&WB Finance & Administration Committee

meeting, board members asked how a project to repair Katrina damage caused to the city's water mains in the French Quarter and Central Business District could have stretched on for four years, with 51 contract change orders added to increase the cost of the repairs.

"Change orders constitute the bulk of our meetings sometimes," S&WB appointee Stacy Horn Koch told WVL News.

The audit was announced by the project manager for the com-

combined effort to repair roads and utility lines damaged by Katrina, called the Joint Infrastructure Recovery Program, a \$2 billion FEMA-funded project.

"The City will work with Sewerage and Water Board to ensure full compliance with any and all requests," said Landrieu's Senior Communications Manager Craig Belden.

Belden added that audits have already been conducted on much of the money awarded to the

City of New Orleans by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and FEMA.

On Wednesday, the S&WB unanimously selected a California-based water and utility official to serve as interim executive director of the S&WB for the next five months. Marcie Edwards, the 60-year-old former general manager of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, will reportedly be paid \$25,000 a month plus an additional \$5,000 monthly

allowance for housing and other expenses.

Nola.com reported that those numbers would place her annual salary at \$360,000, about \$140,000 more than former S&WB Executive Director Cedric Grant.

City and S&WB officials expressed hope that the appointment of Edwards, the troubled agency's third executive director in five months, would bring a measure of stability to the agency.◊

New Orleans Alpha Chapter celebrate 92 years with 2017 Scholarship Gala

A sea of "alpha" males and their friends and family gathered at the Marriott Convention Center Hotel in New Orleans as the Sigma Lambda chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. Scholarship Foundation hosted its 2017 Scholarship Gala on December 9.

The event raises money to provide scholarships for young deserving men. Contributing sponsors for the event included Liberty Bank, Democrats for Education Reform Louisiana, Dooky Chase's Restaurant, Dillard University, State Farm Jonathan Stewart, Daughters of Charity, Harrah's

New Orleans, Gulf Coast Bank & Trust, State Farm Ayneka Bruno, and Victor Haydel.

The marquee event of the year coincides with the brotherhood's Founder's Week. This year Alpha Phi Alpha made 111 years old. The Sigma Lambda chapter celebrated 92 years of service in New Orleans.

Several dignitaries attended including: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., General President Dr. Everett B. Ward, Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Bernette Johnson, Judge Nakisha Ervin-Knott, Judge Rachel Johnson,

Judge Paula Brown, Judge Terri Love, Orleans Parish Clerk of Court Dale Atkins, and the 2017 Zulu King and Queen, Adonis Exposé and Donna Marie Glapion. Also, well-noted members of the Sigma Lambda chapter came out in support including: Dr. Norman Francis and Dr. Charles Teamer Sr. (Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. 27th General President).

This year's honorees were New Orleans Police Superintendent Michael Harrison and the Orchid Society.

During the gala, Sigma Lambda brothers were honored for their

dedicated service throughout the year. Ananie Mitchell received the "House of Alpha" award. Dr. Joe Ricks and Wilfred Jones received the Esprit de Fraternite award. The highest honor went to Kendall McManus-Thomas, who took home Alpha Man of the Year.

Sigma Lambda chapter president Tyrone Walker was given an award of distinction, bestowed by the fraternity's general president Dr. Everett B. Ward, the fraternity's general president. Ward called Walker one of the "best chapter presidents" out of the more than 650 chapters across the world.◊



Members of the Sigma Lambda chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE



Honorable Dale N. Atkins
Clerk of Civil District Court and
Ex-Officio Recorder

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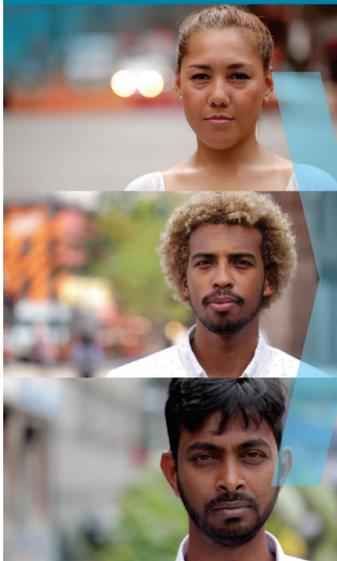
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DERRY HARPER

Analysis:

When poverty is treated like a crime

By Kevin McGill
AP Writer

(AP) — Back in September, the Southern Poverty Law Center announced a settlement with the city court in Bogalusa in a federal lawsuit over the jailing of poor people who fail to pay fines for minor offenses. The agreement affirms the city court's right to jail people it deems deserving — including those who can, but don't, pay fines.

"However," the agreement also states, "a jail sentence may not be imposed solely because the person is deemed indigent."

Since poverty isn't a crime, the fact that a federal court-backed agreement is needed to make sure people aren't jailed for being poor might seem surprising to some — but not to anyone who keeps seeing the words "debtor's prison" pop up in lawsuits and news stories.

One such suit was filed in New Orleans in 2015. Wednesday, Dec. 13, brought a major ruling in that case: U.S. District Judge Sarah Vance said the judges of the state criminal courts in Orleans Parish have a conflict of interest because they rely on fines and fees for court funding — raising legitimate concerns over whether the court's financial needs might affect decisions on whether low-income defendants are able to pay.

Alec Karakatsanis of the Civil Rights Corps, one of the groups that backed the lawsuit, called it a landmark ruling. "For a long time a lot of very poor people have been suffering flagrant violations of their constitutional rights and having money extorted out of them," he said. Vance's ruling is likely to affect other cases.

Next month, a hearing is set in federal court in a lawsuit against the Gretna Mayor's Court. The

suit filed by the Roderick and Solange MacArthur Justice Center accuses the Mayor's Court of operating "not as a forum for the legitimate adjudication and resolution of alleged violations of the Gretna Municipal Code but instead as a major source of revenue for the municipality."

It touches on the same issues as the 2015 New Orleans suit. It accuses the mayor's court of conflicts of interest because money from the court helps fill the city's general fund. It also alleges violations of constitutional equal protection rights because fees charged for its deferred prosecution program are out of reach for some. (The city denied, through its attorney, any conflicts of interest or constitutional violations.)

Another, related case: in northwest Louisiana, a lawsuit claimed state judges in Bossier Parish were routinely ordering jail time for

people charged with minor crimes who couldn't afford bail or an application fee for a public defender. It was settled in July with an agreement that states "no misdemeanor arrestee will be kept in jail on the basis of a secured money bond that they cannot afford."

Also, again in New Orleans, the MacArthur center is backing a suit that accuses a magistrate judge of routinely setting high bails without regard to defendants' ability to pay, leaving impoverished people accused of nonviolent crimes behind bars for days, weeks and sometime months in the New Orleans jail.

While groups like the SPLC and the MacArthur center tackle matters involving bail, fines, fees and inability to pay on a jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction basis in courts, a true resolution may be up to city councils and the Legislature.

In her ruling on the New Orleans-

based court, Vance said the conflict of interest that exists there isn't the fault of the judges. "It is the unfortunate result of the financing structure, established by governing law, that forces the judges to generate revenue from the criminal defendants they sentence," she wrote.

If the state and city adequately funded the courts, she added, the conflict wouldn't exist.

"The onus is now on the Legislature to create a constitutional and effective legal system in Louisiana," said Karakatsanis. Meanwhile, the litigation continues. Attorney Katie Schwartzmann of the MacArthur center says some judges are taking the initiative and seeking guidance on matters of bail and indigent defendants. But more lawsuits are likely in other jurisdictions.

"We have more work than we can get to on this front," says Schwartzmann. ◊

New Orleans gets a new Inspector General

On last Wednesday, the Ethics Review Board voted 6-1 to appoint Derry Harper, Nashville's assistant district attorney general, to take over the helm at the Office of Inspector General in New Orleans.

Prior to selecting Harper, the Ethics Review Board voted 3-4 in a failed motion to name interim Inspector General Howard Schwartz, the author of a scathing report that placed former IG Ed Quatrevaux and members of his team in an unfavorable light, the new Inspector General.

Quatrevaux fired Schwartz after the report was made public and tried to block Schwartz's appointment as interim IG until a successor could be founded.

Quatrevaux also tried unsuccessfully last week to persuade the Ethics Review Board to delay selecting a new IG, citing a "conflict of interest."

Harper, 63, was one of more than two dozen candidates who applied for the post after Quatrevaux announced his retirement this past fall.

He pledged last week to work with members of the community to ensure that the Office of Inspector General carries out its mission.

"My prime directive is, I can't do this alone," he told *Nola.com*. "It's to identify problems and fix them. It's to restore, and to earn the trust and respect of this community, and make a difference."

Harper has nearly four decades of investigatory and auditory roles under his belt, including his current post in Nashville and his stints as Florida's chief investigator general for internal audits and investigations and as inspector general for the State University System of Florida.

His salary and starting date have not yet been negotiated with the Ethics Review Board.

Prior to selecting Derry Harper at Wednesday's meeting at Xavier University, the Ethics Review Board allowed members of the public to question Schwartz and Harper and interviewed both candidates in public before casting their votes for a new IG. ◊

Shrimp season is partially closed

(AP) — Louisiana wildlife and fisheries regulators say the fall shrimp season has closed in a portion of state inside waters officially, as of Monday, December 18.

Affected by last weeks order are all state inside waters from the Mississippi/Louisiana state line westward to the Louisiana/Texas state line except for the following waters located east of the Mississippi River:

- Chef Menteur and Rigolets passes, Lake Borgne (BORN), Mississippi Sound, Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, a section of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway in Orleans Parish from the waterway's East Closure Sector Gate westward to the waterway's intersection with the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal, and the open waters of Breton and Chandeleur sounds.

All state outside waters will remain open at this time. ◊

White B.R. man pleads not guilty in deaths of two Black men

(AP) — A white Louisiana man accused of shooting two Black men to death and of firing into the home of a Black family in three separate incidents in September has pleaded not guilty to all the charges against him.

The Advocate reported that Kenneth James Gleason, 23, entered the plea Dec. 13 at an

arraignment before state District Judge Beau Higginbotham in Baton Rouge.

A grand jury on Nov. 30 indicted Gleason on one count each of second-degree murder and first-degree murder and two counts of attempted second-degree murder in the incidents that police have described as possibly racially motivated.

Federal suit filed in killing of Black man by La. sheriff's deputy

By Kevin McGill
AP Writer

(AP) — A federal wrongful death lawsuit filed Dec. 19 claims a Louisiana sheriff's deputy maliciously shot a man to death during an early-morning confrontation in July.

The lawsuit was filed less than a week after a state grand jury declined to indict Evangeline Parish Sheriff's Deputy Holden LaFleur in the death of DeJuan Guillory.

LaFleur and Sheriff Eddie Soileau are defendants in the suit, which says Soileau should have known that LaFleur was "prone to fits of anger, mental instability, and racial animus against African Americans," when he hired LaFleur.

LaFleur is white. Guillory was Black.

Neither of the defendants responded to a request for comment placed through the sheriff's office Tuesday evening, Dec. 19.

The fatal confrontation happened after LaFleur stopped an all-terrain vehicle ridden by Guillory and his girlfriend, Dequince Brown. The two were riding on gravel roads with plans to hunt frogs early on the morning of July 6. They had no identification when they were stopped.

A summary of a state police investigation days after the shooting said Guillory struck the deputy in the head, knocking him to the ground and dazing him.

The deputy stood up, drew his weapon and ordered Guillory to the ground. Guillory heeded that command but began to struggle with the deputy when he tried to handcuff him, state police said.

That summary also said Brown jumped on LaFleur's back, bit him and tried to grab his gun before the deputy shot Guillory.

The lawsuit says Brown only jumped on LaFleur after LaFleur had fired the first of multiple shots. Guillory was hit once in the shoulder and twice in the back.

The suit claims LaFleur needlessly shouted and screamed at Guillory over his lack of identification, then provoked a fight by shoving Guillory. Guillory broke off the fight at Brown's behest and returned to the ATV, the suit says. However, it says, he complied with LaFleur's order, at gunpoint, to get off the vehicle and onto the ground.

The suit alleges LaFleur had his knee on Guillory's back and had handcuffed one of his wrists when he shot.

The lawsuit says LaFleur continued firing and that an autopsy indicates the fatal shot hit Guillory in the back after he had crawled away from LaFleur.

"DeJuan Guillory posed no threat to Defendant LaFleur as Guillory crawled away from Defendant LaFleur after Defendant LaFleur began shooting at Guillory," the suit claims.

The suit seeks an unspecified amount in compensatory and punitive damages. ◊

New monument at Fort Leavenworth will honor Black WWII unit

(AP) — Funds are being raised to erect a monument at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas, to honor the first and only Black Women's Army Corps unit to deploy overseas during World War II.

The monument will honor the 6888th Central Directory Postal Battalion, which sorted mail for the armed forces during the war.

The Leavenworth Times reported that the unit deployed from February 1945 to January 1946.

Carlton Philpot, chairman of the memorial committee, said the mail was backed up for two years. He says 855 women sorted seven million pieces of mail in three months.

The monument, expected to cost \$70,000, will feature a likeness of Lt. Col. Charity Adams, who commanded the unit.

It will be located on the Walkway of Patriots at Fort Leavenworth. A dedication is planned for next fall. ◊

Gleason is accused of killing Donald Smart, 49, on Sept. 14 and Bruce Cofield, 59, on Sept. 12.

Law enforcement officials have said they believe the two killings were random, as they have been unable to find any connections between Gleason and either Smart or Cofield. Both men were on the side of the road at night when they were shot. Officials have said Gleason approached them both in the same manner — shooting them first from inside his car, then exiting the vehicle and continuing to fire while standing over them.

Also that mid-September week, Gleason is accused of targeting the only Black family on the block where he lived, firing from a short distance at their front door. No one was injured, but two people were in the house at the time.

Though officials have said the shootings were possibly racially motivated, East Baton Rouge District Attorney Hillar Moore

III said they have yet to uncover any concrete evidence to confirm that motive.

Smart's family sat in the front two rows of the courtroom during the arraignment.

When Gleason announced his pleas, members of the family released audible sounds of pain; his sister wiped tears from her eyes.

"I was hoping and praying he (would) plead guilty so the family wouldn't have to keep coming to court," said Smart's sister, Tiquincia Smart. "But we will be here every court day. ... I truly believe justice will be served."

She said seeing Gleason in the courtroom was emotional, bringing back the memory of her brother's killing.

"I have seen (Gleason) in pictures, but to actually see him in person, just to see the human being that took my brother's life for no apparent reason was scary in a sense, but at the same time, relieved to know he's not on the

street to hurt anyone else," she said.

The mother of Donald Smart's three children, Lakisa Flowers, said she, too, will be at every court date during Gleason's trial.

"He did not deserve to be killed and shot down like that," Flowers said, who is now raising their children, a 12- and 13-year-old girl and a 15-year-old son, alone. "Everyday I just try to be strong for my kids. ... I try not to show my tears in front of them."

Attorney Chris Alexander is representing Gleason and has denied any guilt on behalf of his client.

"At this point, we're going to request any and all evidence in the state's possession and review everything closely," Alexander said after Wednesday's hearing. "Our goal is to fully and completely protect Kenneth Gleason, and we intend to do it tenaciously."

Moore said he has not decided if he will seek the death penalty in the case.

A trial date has not been set. ◊

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

ENTERGY NEW ORLEANS, LLC regarding DG ROOFTOP SOLAR PROJECT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ENTERGY NEW ORLEANS, LLC. ("ENO") WILL HOST A PUBLIC MEETING TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND ANSWER QUESTIONS SURROUNDING ENO'S APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL TO CONSTRUCT DISTRIBUTED GENERATION ("DG") SCALE SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC ("PV") SYSTEMS, FILED WITH THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS ON OCTOBER 6, 2017. ENO'S APPLICATION PROPOSES TO CONSTRUCT MULTIPLE DG-SCALE SOLAR PV SYSTEMS, WITH A TOTAL COMBINED CAPACITY OF APPROXIMATELY 5 MWAC, LOCATED IN THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS. THE PROJECT IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND FOR ENO AND REPRESENTS A MAJOR MILESTONE IN ENO'S COMMITMENT TO INVEST IN RENEWABLE GENERATION RESOURCES. IN THIS PUBLIC MEETING, ENO WILL ADDRESS VARIOUS TOPICS RELATED TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT, INCLUDING:

- HOW DO SOLAR PV SYSTEMS WORK?
- WHAT IS A DG-SCALE SYSTEM?
- IS THERE A MINIMUM SIZE FOR EACH SYSTEM?
- WHERE WILL THE SYSTEMS BE LOCATED IN THE CITY?
- WHAT KIND OF BENEFITS WILL THE PROJECT BRING TO NEW ORLEANS?
- WILL LOCAL LABOR BE USED TO CONSTRUCT THE PROJECT?
- WHEN WILL CONSTRUCTION BEGIN?
- WHY IS THE PROJECT SUITABLE FOR NEW ORLEANS' NEEDS?
- HOW CAN CITIZENS LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT?
- HOW CAN CITIZENS EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT?

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE MEETING AND TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS IN ADVANCE VIA ENO'S WEBSITE.

www.entergyneworleans.com/powertogrow/rooftopsolar.

THE PUBLIC MEETING WILL BE HELD TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2018, AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATION FROM 5:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.:

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS
UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE CENTER
6400 PRESS DRIVE
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70126

Carolina on their minds

By Edmund W. Lewis, Editor

This Christmas, Bad Boy Entertainment founder and Howard University alum Sean "P. Diddy" Combs is dreaming of a little bit more than a white Christmas, more ice for his wrist or even the signing of the next Notorious B.I.G.

He wants to become the next owner of the National Football League's Carolina Panthers, a franchise that was formally placed on the auction block after its current owner, Jerry Richardson, decided it was time to walk away from the team after being accused of making racist and sexist remarks to former Panther employees.

Hoping to join Combs in his ownership of the Panthers is Golden State Warriors superstar Stephen Curry, who recently refused to visit the White House after President Donald Trump made disparaging remarks about Black athletes, and former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, who grabbed national and international headlines last season when he refused to stand during the playing of the national anthem to protest police killings of unarmed Black and Brown people.

A recent report by *Sports Illustrated* said that the Carolina Panthers reached a monetary settlement with at least four of its former employees after alleged sexist and racist remarks and conduct by owner Jerry Richardson, who is 81 years old.

The report alleges that Richardson made sexually suggestive comments to several women and directed a racial slur toward one of the team's African-American scouts. The settlements reportedly came with a non-disclosure agreement that prevents the involved parties from speaking about the incidents or the settlement.

At press time, the Panthers were tied for first place with the New Orleans Saints in the NFC South division with a 10-4 with two games remaining in the regular season.

While the franchise and its owner have not yet won a Super Bowl, it has been in the hunt in recent years and shows great promise with quarterback Cam Newton running the show.

Newton, whose father is reportedly an Atlanta pastor, told *The Associated Press* that while he had not yet read the report, Richardson had played a "father-like role" in his life.

"For me I hope things don't alter my thinking of Mr. Richardson," Newton said. "But I do know that he has given me some things that I will forever be appreciative of."

The Panther franchise founder took very little time before announcing Dec. 17 that he ready to sell the team.

"I believe it is time to turn the franchise over to new ownership," Richardson wrote, saying he wouldn't begin discussions until after the season. The Panthers, who lost in the Super Bowl two seasons ago, are in playoff position again.

"I hope everyone in the organization, both on and off the field, will be firmly focused on one mission: to play and win the Super Bowl," Richardson said.

Less than an hour after Jerry Richardson announced his plans to sell the team he founded in 1995, P. Diddy took to social media to pitch his master plan of buying the franchise and signing blackballed quarterback Colin Kaepernick to an NFL contract.

We should all keep in mind that wanting to buy a team and buying a team are two entirely different things. And this is, after all, the same P. Diddy who said previously that he wanted to buy the entire National Football League.

"I did have a dream to own a NFL team but now my dream is to own our own league!" Combs said prior to learning of Richardson's plan to sell the Carolina Panthers.

"A league where you can be yourself. Have a retirement plan," Combs continued.

"Have freedom to be a great human and protest for your people without being demonized for your beliefs as a KING!"

Buying the Carolina Panthers or any professional team would require Combs to step his game up by forging new business relationships with some industry titans who buy into his plans for the team, harnessing his economic power and getting the powers that be in the NFL to agree that this might be a good way to mend fences with African-American athletes.

One would hope that Combs would align himself with businessmen and businesswomen of color with the vision, integrity, sense of purpose and business acumen of industry leaders like *Black Enterprise* founder Earl Graves, Washington, DC billionaire Don Peebles, former Malcolm X attorney and Apollo Theater owner Percy Sutton and economic empowerment guru Leon Sullivan.

The last thing anyone in Black or Brown America needs to see is someone who looks like us squander a great opportunity to forge ahead with a new venture that promises to inspire and empower communities of color.

In the meantime, in the midst of what some call the season of hope, we can always dream.

Could you even imagine an America in which the National Football League has a Black-owned franchise with a mascot named the Panthers? Let that marinate in your mind for a minute.

And think about how on the Super Bowl's 50th anniversary the Carolina Panthers came close to winning the Lombardi Trophy in Oakland, California, where 50 years ago brothers like Louisiana-born Huey P. Newton (No relation to Carolina quarterback Cam Newton) and Bobby Seale launched the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense.

Perhaps Combs could help to do away with the "\$60 million slave" mindset that prompts some professional athletes to think very little about the world in which they live, become dependent on team owners and coaches for everything they need, refuse to act responsibly and never understand the importance of using their platforms as celebrities and professional athletes to effect positive change in the world.

A lot of that is already beginning to happen, thanks to Colin Kaepernick and other professional athletes who are not afraid to speak out against social injustice, bigotry, and oppression.

Maybe Combs and future Black NFL owners could bring about a league where someone like former Florida State University standout and Rhodes Scholar Myron Rolle might not have had to choose between playing in the NFL and becoming a medical doctor.

You might recall that Rolle was blackballed by NFL team owners, coaches and scouts who said the talented athlete had "too many options" to risk a draft pick on him. Apparently, the NFL likes its athletes dependent, desperate and eager to please the shot-callers who pluck them up after the NFL Scouting Combine, which looks like a fancy auction block.

Just so you know, Myron Rolle, who was eventually drafted in the sixth round by the Tennessee Titans, is now a neurosurgery resident at Harvard/Massachusetts General Hospital. Perhaps it will be him who helps to bring an end to all of the con-



'Tis the Season to remain 'woke'

"You see, we may encounter many defeats, but we must not be defeated. It may even be necessary to encounter the defeat, so that we can know who we are."

—Dr. Maya Angelou,
American Author & Civil Rights Activist,
Psychology Today Interview, February 17, 2009



MORIAL

By Marc H. Morial
President/CEO
National Urban League

Without any fear of exaggeration, it can be said, and has been—repeatedly—that the final result of the 2016 presidential election came as a devastating blow to many Americans. The numbers bear out this truth. Hillary Clinton won the popular vote by nearly three million votes, but in the end, failed to secure the win. So as the reality of an American future under Trump began to sink in, many anticipated the worst and lost hope. But as this year comes to a close and many of us are preoccupied with giving or getting gifts, it occurred to me that the election outcome has awakened and energized millions of Americans.

Each unprecedented challenge to everything from immigration policy to the freedom and relevancy of the press, has nurtured a common sense of purpose among Americans from all walks of life. From sea to shining sea, those committed to building and sustaining a better and more equitable America, conclusively demonstrate an often-repeated truth: democracy is no spectator sport.

To be clear, there was never—and never will be—a right time to sit and watch from the comfort of the sidelines. A democracy deprived of the active, vocal and voting engagement of its citizens is a democracy in name only. Rather than stand by complacently as the current administration volleys direct assaults on our nation's most vulnerable and attempts to wipe out the incremental civil and economic and social gains we have made with the casual stroke of a heartlessly wielded pen or the decrees of uninstructed policies, we have traded hopelessness for the engagement, despair for activism, and defeat for victory.

The results speak for themselves. Doug Jones's win in deep-red Alabama will send to

Congress the state's first senator elected by a multi-racial coalition. Voters of color also were largely responsible for Ralph Northam victory in the Virginia governor's race, Danica Roem became the first openly transgender person to be elected to the state's legislature, and Justin Fairfax won the lieutenant governor's race, becoming the second African American to win the post. And there are more victories where those came from. Black women—who are substantially showing up and showing out at the polls—are also getting elected into many of these offices. African-American women stand at the helm of the cities of Charlotte, Atlanta, New Orleans, and more, as their mayors. And the wins don't stop at the ballot box.

Despite the best and dogged efforts of Congress and president, everyday Americans, enraged that their healthcare would be taken away or used as bargaining chip to make the math work for the GOP's tax reform bill, rallied, flooded phone lines and protested in congressional offices to keep the Trump administration from dismantling the Affordable Care Act. Trump's travel bans consistently met with immediate resistance. Thousands gathered at airports around the country to protest the ban's obvious unfairness, and courts of law continue to legally challenge the ban. Today, the third iteration of the ban has been allowed to go into effect by the Supreme Court, but the legal challenges remain alive and well.

We cannot—and must not—lose our momentum.

The National Urban League will remain at the forefront of the battle to protect our hard-fought-for rights and progress. Especially now, when the all-out assault on American ideals and values is

cussions and brain issues plaguing NFL athletes.

As long as Sean Combs surrounds himself with a superstar team of business leaders who know the ins and out of commerce and understand how the sports world operates, I'm all in. Just don't blow it, P. Diddy. The world and our Beloved Ancestors are watching.

And as an aside, it is interesting to note that, it was in Charlotte, Caroline during their matchup with the Panthers that the New Orleans Saints decided to "take a knee" in protest of police brutality and racial injustice. Ten Saints players refused to stand during the national anthem and four others stood near them in solidarity, one of the largest demonstrations of NFL players this season.

The Sept. 28 protest represents the only time in the Saints' 50-year history that anyone on the team has refused to stand for the national anthem.

While the Saints players have moved on and now use social media and other outlets to voice their disapproval of bigotry, police brutality and racial injustice, some of their fans continue to hang on to the resentment and anger they felt on that fall afternoon when their sports heroes decided to stand up for what they believe in.◊



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Black women making us proud

By Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq.
TriceEdneyWire.com Columnist

We're not so far from a time when Black people were denied the right to vote. These dismal times perpetuated slave-era subjugation of our community and foretold of a future without opportunity. I'm not sure whether those who conspired to deny the vote to Black people, Black women particularly, understood how we'd use our vote, but they couldn't have been happy guessing we'd vote in our own interests.

This couldn't be truer for Black women. Recently, including 2008 and 2012, Black women have participated in increasing numbers and solidarity against persons/policies that erode social gains made in the last half-century and reverse racial/gender equality and justice.

In the recent high-profile Alabama Senate race, despite efforts to elect alleged pedophile, Roy Moore, Black women, casting 98 percent vote for Doug Jones, led to victory and a 96 percent Black repudiation of Moore. Combined with other recent elections, we understand the significance and power in our vote, especially that of Black women.

Let's look beyond elections under national scrutiny. My home state, Louisiana, is a case-in-point. When I ran for Congress, few women ran for office, but, look at Louisiana now! A long list of cities, towns and villages now have Black female mayors. They don't just serve in smaller jurisdictions. The state's three largest cities—New Orleans, Shreveport and Baton Rouge—have Black women mayors. Having run for office in Louisiana and knowing the dangers and challenges of doing so, I'm naturally ecstatic about this progress.

It's not hyperbole to state that no women have ever had to endure what this nation's Black women have had to endure. Yet, despite the rigors of our circumstance, we enthusiastically strive for the betterment of ourselves, our children, families, and our nation.

Like all women, Black women have faced sexism, sexual harassment/abuse, domestic abuse and even rape. We've also faced the struggles and violence of racism and classism, but we still rose to the challenge of strengthening our communities.

When Sojourner Truth spoke of her trials and asked, "Ain't I A Woman?" her question was relatable to nearly every Black woman. When Rosa Parks refused to rise on that Alabama bus, uncertain about the consequences, she shared the uncertainty and concerns of every other Black woman. When Fannie Lou Hamer was chastised by her plantation owner for her audacity to register to vote, she demonstrated the courage of millions of Black women as she replied, "I didn't register for you; I did it for myself." We honor these women and the long list of famous and not-so-famous Black women who endured to make our lives better.

As we look to the future, let's not forget our past. On Saturday, December 16, 2017, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the National Congress of Black Women, Inc., Baton Rouge, Louisiana Chapter said "Thank You" to the late Dessie Lee Patterson, Louisiana's first Black woman mayor. Mayor Patterson is the wind beneath the wings of current Black women mayors of Louisiana. I celebrate this new generation of mayors and pledge continuing support.

They are: Mayor/President Sharon Weston Broome (Baton Rouge), Mayor-Elect LaToya Cantrell (New Orleans), Mayor Ollie Tyler (Shreveport), Mayor Lori Bell (Clinton), Mayor April Foulard (Jeanerette), Mayor Irma Gordon (Kentwood), Mayor Rose Humphrey (Natchez), Mayor Shaterra Johnson (Grand Coteau), Mayor Donna Lewis Lancelin (Baldwin), Mayor Erana Mayes (Melville), Mayor Wanda McCoy (Rosalind), Mayor Alma Moore (Boyce), Mayor Trashier Keysha Robinson (Village of Tangipahoa), Mayor Dorothy Satcher (Saline), Mayor Johnnie Taylor (Powhatan), Mayor Josephine Taylor-Washington (Clayton), Mayor Erana Mayes (Melville), Mayor Jennifer Vidrine (Ville Platte), and Mayor Demi Vorise, (Maringouin).

They're all to be commended. The rising tide of their success floats the boats of us all. Their stories and ours tell the importance of our achievements and steel us against future challenges.

Dr. E. Faye Williams, President of the National Congress of Black Women, Inc. (202) 678-6788, www.nationalcongressbw.org.

The maddening frustration of fighting white supremacy



By The Rev. Dr. Susan K. Smith
Guest Columnist

In this current political atmosphere, many people who have fought for justice are feeling a sense of futility and frustration. The comfort we may have had about the "checks and balances" built into our government has all but gone away as the Congress sits by and lets the Executive Branch have its way, and the Judicial Branch seems to be headed toward being a preserver of white supremacist values, at the expense of so many American citizens.

The phrase "white supremacy" is misleading, as it makes people think that the battle is only between Black and white people, but the battle is really between wealthy, white men... and everyone else. Women, children, the elderly, the disabled, the poor, members of the LGBTQ community – these and other disaffected groups are at the mercy, it seems, of a few white men who have no regard for anyone but themselves.

It seems that the quest for a master race has never completely been abandoned. The makeup of the federal government is, unfortunately, predominantly wealthy white men. There is a wicked irony in the president's words that he is in Washington to "drain the swamp" only because his definition of "swamp" seems to have been those who were not white and wealthy and male. The clear implication of candidate Trump's promise to "drain the swamp" was that he would rid Washington of corruption. Corruption, though, seems to have been defined by race and sex. In his administration, people of color and women are visibly absent. They were "the swamp" of which the candidate spoke. They have been removed, replaced by wealthy white males, many of whom have worked for the very institutions the presi-

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Time to hook Black women up

By Julianne Malveaux
TriceEdneyWire.com Columnist

Senator Elect Doug Jones (D-AL) did not have to win his battle against accused sexual molester and Republican candidate Roy Moore in the epic battle in Alabama on December 12.

He won because young people, some white women (most of them voted for Moore), and an amazing effort from Alabama's African Americans put him over the top. Some white folks crossed party lines for the first time, voting for Jones because Moore repulsed them.

Some analysts have especially noted that white moms were more likely than other white women to vote for Jones. But Black folks showed up and showed out – a larger percentage of African-American voters participated in this election than in the 2012 election of President Barack Obama. And 98 percent of African-American women voted for Doug Jones (along with 94 percent of Black men). Among whites, 27 percent of white men voted for Doug Jones, along with 35 percent of white women.

In cyberspace, people are thanking Black women for their support of Doug Jones, on Twitter, and Facebook, and Instagram. A friend told me that a woman she had not seen in a decade called her to thank Black women for saving the Senate from the likes of Roy Moore. Everyone likes to be thanked, but Black women deserve more than thanks. We deserve the "hook up," the connection, organizational, institutional and financial support for our efforts.

Black women's organizations in Alabama should get immediate contributions from the Democratic Party. Indeed, some of the sisters who led the effort to get the vote out, like Congresswoman Terri Sewell (D),

need to be consulted on how to effectively support Black women in Alabama. The Democratic Party ought to cultivate Black women leaders in Alabama, so that they are poised to run for other offices. And since Doug Jones has a short term, and will be up for reelection in 2020, Black women need to be deputized to begin, immediately, working on his reelection campaign.

The focus should not just be on Black women in Alabama, but also Black women nationally. The white women around the country who cheered Black women on now need to open their doors and embrace the Sojourner Truth observation that "Ain't I A Woman." Too many women's organizations are white women's organizations. Don't these women think they can learn a thing or two from the amazing way Black women organize, mobilize, and step up?

White women are often in the unique position to hook Black women up, in politics and in the workplace, but they don't offer the hook-up as often as they should because it is challenging for them to step outside their comfort zone and embrace diversity. But when folk step out of their comfort zone, look at the results! Thanks to Black women, among others, Doug Jones is the unlikely winner of this Senate contest.

I'm cognizant of the fact that Black women weren't the sole reason for the Jones victory. It is especially exciting to see young people reject Roy Moore. Millennials are far less partisan than their elders are. You can't say they cross party lines because many of them have no party affiliation. But like Black women, young people in Alabama thronged to the polls to elect Jones. Their participation makes a strong case for generational inclusion when political strategies are being developed.

In any case, it is heartening to see Black

women being thanked for doing what we always do – the work. I don't just want thanks, I also want the hookup. Those white folks who are thanking Black women might also send a contribution to Higher Heights (<http://www.higherheightsforamerica.org>), a Black women's PAC named after Dr. Dorothy Irene Height. Or, folks can send contributions to the Black Women's Roundtable (<https://ncbcp.org/programs/bwr/policy>), which is part of the National Coalition for Black Civic Participation. It is great to express gratitude, but it is even better to put your money where your mouth is.

Black women have always had to assert our place in the mainstream, and we have too often been ignored by our natural allies. And we still come through in a crunch. Those who are thanking us ought also to support us. They need to hook Black women up!

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available via www.amazon.com for booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info, visit www.julianne-malveaux.com.



MALVEAUX

I love Steve Bannon

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson
Guest Columnist

I love Stephen K. Bannon. No, not amorous love, that's a thought beyond repulsive in his case. I love him because he continues to terrorize GOP mainstream leaders. And with the 2018 mid-terms fast steam-rolling toward us, my political love affair with him will only grow. The aftermath of the Judge Roy Moore Alabama Senate race cinched things for me with Bannon.

At a meeting of conservative big wigs at the Trump International Hotel in D.C. a few days after the Alabama election, Bannon was unrepentant and defiant. He defended his long and loud tout of Moore's candidacy. He poked an accusing finger at the GOP establishment for cutting bait on Moore, and leaving him dangling almost alone in supporting him. But ominously, he vowed to do everything he could to rip the GOP establishment apart. To Bannon, GOP mainstream leaders, not the Democrats, are Political Enemy Number One.

It's his declared war on them that is the cause of terror and some panic within the GOP. Bannon has even fine-tuned his GOP target even sharper. He is going full throttle after the man who symbolizes all in his world that's wrong with the GOP top dogs. That's Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. He got it right. McConnell is the glue that holds the GOP establishment together. The Senate is the name of the game in getting anything legislatively done. And almost nothing gets done there without McConnell.

Bannon's main beef with him is that he's an old Senate and legislative pro who at times will conciliate, vacillate, and compromise to get something done. The compromise means occasionally talking and working with

Democrats to the point of taking some of the roughest and rawest edges off the take-no-prisoners ultra conservative stance. That is anti-immigration, eviscerating Medicare, Social Security, union and labor protections, and giving total free rein to corporate, free market domination.

The scary thing for the GOP about Bannon is that he's got just enough name recognition, and clout, and a big enough media platform with Breitbart to be an even bigger political headache for them in 2018. He'll almost certainly stump for a handful of right-wing insurgent senatorial candidates in at least two states, and probably a few more in 2018. GOP leaders who control the money, media spin and party apparatus will do everything they can to maneuver and massage the primaries and convention to ensure that the noise and mischief Bannon makes will die before primary season begins. That may not happen. But the media and public obsession with Bannon likely won't flame out.

Bannon has another advantage. His mug will be seen often on Fox, and on news shows. The overexposure will make it that much easier for him to raise funds and build the type of grassroots organization he'll need to be any kind of real threat. It's that prospect that sweats the GOP leaders. There are reports that frantic calls are being made by GOP leaders to big gun donors imploring them not to give a nickel to Bannon and the GOP insurgent candidates he backs. The hit-him-at-the-money source, may or may not work. The flip side of the Moore loss did show that there are a lot of Republicans that liked what Moore stood for and were willing to go to the barricades for him. Those Moore Republicans aren't just in Alabama.

The Bannon GOP hopefuls say that they can come from relative political

obscurity in a relatively short period of time and make a serious run against the GOP establishment anointed candidates and incumbents. Bannon is their get name recognition card.

Bannon's strength is to play on and to stoke popular rage and frustration with tin ear politicians who've turned voters into invisible men and women. That translates to millions of disgruntled, frustrated voters who will be sorely tempted to push, prod and Hector the GOP to give the Moore's of the GOP their due. Many will be just as sorely tempted to vote for them as maverick candidates, or if their name is not on any ballot, stay at home. This would be tantamount to a vote for the Democrat foe. This would be an even bigger disaster for the GOP.

Bannon, then, is the GOP's textbook Catch-22. If they pound him too hard this will only push the hard right and populist right even into a bigger frenzy against the GOP anointed office seekers or holders. That's tantamount to a vote for the Democrats. In fact, 20,000 plus GOP voters in Alabama that did not cross over and vote for Democrat Doug Jones. Instead they wrote in "any Republican other than Moore." This in effect was a vote for Jones. This was enough to tip the race to him. It can happen again in 2018. That's my hope. And that's why I love Bannon for helping make that happen.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is an author and political analyst. His latest book is, *The Trump Challenge to Black America* (Middle Passage Press). He is a weekly co-host of the *Al Sharpton Show on Radio One*.



HUTCHINSON

Lessons from the African-American vote in Alabama

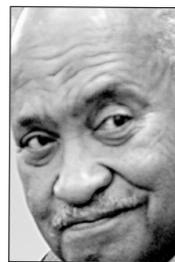
By Dr. John Warren
Guest Columnist

The African Americans who have convinced themselves that one vote doesn't matter, should take a very close look at what happened during the recent special election in Alabama. In spite of the endorsement of President Donald Trump and the extremely conservative white voters who supported Roy Moore, Doug Jones, the Democratic candidate won the for the United States Senate seat

vacated by Attorney General Jeff Sessions. Jones was the first Democrat elected to represent Alabama in the U.S. Senate in 25 years. How he won is very important to African Americans across this nation.

Exit polls showed that 98 percent of African-American women who voted supported Jones and 93 percent of African-American men who voted chose the Democratic candidate. Jones' victory by 1.5 percent clearly shows that, without the Black vote, Jones wouldn't have won the special

election. Equally important is the fact that this degree of African-American voter participation in an off-season special election, demonstrates what we can do, when we choose to get involved. African Americans cannot allow "voter suppression" tactics, like additional photo identification



WARREN

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COMMENTARY & OPINIONS

La. delays parole hearing for 71-year-old inmate

By Michael Kunzelman
AP Writer

(AP) — More than a half-century after a Louisiana teen was sent to prison for killing a sheriff's deputy and nearly two years after the nation's highest court ruled in his favor, the now 71-year-old inmate

will have to wait up to two months longer for his first chance at parole.

Louisiana's parole board on Dec. 14 postponed its scheduled hearing for Henry Montgomery, who was 17 when he shot and killed East Baton Rouge Parish sheriff's deputy Charles Hurt in 1963.

Jim Wise, vice-chairman of the

Louisiana Board of Pardons and Committee on Parole, said the board needs a legal opinion from Louisiana's attorney general to resolve an apparent conflict between two laws governing parole hearings: One says a three-member panel must decide parole for juvenile offenders,

while another says anyone convicted of crimes against a law enforcement officer must face a panel of five members or more.

Wise said he hopes to reschedule the hearing for within 60 days. The announcement surprised two relatives of the slain deputy, including one who drove in from Arkansas to attend the hearing.

Montgomery, meanwhile, remains at the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola, where he appeared with his lawyer by video link.

The U.S. Supreme Court's January 2016 ruling in Montgomery's case opened the door for roughly 2,000 other juvenile offenders to argue for their release after receiving mandatory life-without-parole sentences.

In June, a state judge who sentenced Montgomery to life with the possibility of parole called him a "model prisoner" who appears to be rehabilitated. But the slain deputy's grandson said he plans to urge the parole board to keep Montgomery in prison.

Keith Nordyke, Montgomery's attorney for the parole board proceedings, said his client has completed a 100-hour "pre-release course" and received other services to help with his transition if he is released from prison. But he said freedom wouldn't come easy for Montgomery after decades behind bars.

"I call it 'Rip Van Winkle syndrome.' The world has passed him by in many respects," he said. "We're talking about somebody who has never held a cell-phone in his hands. He's never experienced a computer."

Montgomery initially was sentenced to death after a jury convicted him of fatally shooting Hurt, less than two weeks after his 17th birthday. After the Louisiana Supreme Court ruled he didn't get a fair trial and threw out his murder conviction in 1966, Montgomery was retried, found "guilty without capital punishment" and automatically sentenced to life without parole.

In 2012, however, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that mandatory sentencing of juvenile homicide offenders to life without possibility of parole is unconstitutional "cruel and unusual" punishment.

In deciding Montgomery's case last year, the nation's highest court extended a ban on mandatory life-without-parole for juvenile offenders to those already in prison. The decision ushered in a wave of new sentences and the release of dozens of inmates in states from Michigan to Pennsylvania, Arkansas and beyond.

Other former teen offenders still are waiting for a chance at resentencing in states and counties that have been slow to address the court ruling, an earlier Associated Press investigation found. In Michigan, for example, prosecutors are seeking new no-parole sentences for nearly two-thirds of 363 juvenile lifers. Those cases are on hold until the Michigan Supreme Court, which heard arguments in October, determines whether judges or juries should decide the fate of those inmates.

A new Louisiana law makes juvenile lifers eligible for release after 25 years in prison — unless a prosecutor intervenes. The state's district attorneys have asked judges to deny parole eligibility to 84 of the 255 inmates covered by the law, or about one in three cases, according to the Louisiana Center for Children's Rights, an advocacy group.

A few Louisiana prosecutors are seeking to deny parole eligibility in most of their cases. Some district attorneys report case numbers that vary from the group's tally, but not enough to make a significant difference in the statewide percentage it cites.

In the U.S. Supreme Court's majority opinion for Montgomery's case, Justice Anthony Kennedy said prisoners like him "must be given the opportunity to show their crime did not reflect irreparable corruption; and, if it did not, their hope for some years of life outside prison walls must be restored."

Montgomery's lawyers said he has strived to be a positive role model for other prisoners, serving as a coach and trainer for a boxing team he helped form inside prison.

Hurt was married and had three children. Jean Paul deGravelles, a grandson of the slain deputy, said he plans to address the parole board and oppose Montgomery's release. He said Montgomery, at 17, was old enough to know right from wrong when he shot Hurt, who was looking for truants when he crossed paths with the school-skipping teenager.

"This man went to trial twice, both times found guilty," said deGravelles, a captain at the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office. "What's so different now than when he killed (Hurt) 50 years ago? The situation hasn't changed."◊

Prosecutorial reform wanted

Continued from Page 1

tive-leaning voters, according to a press released issued by the ACLU.

Respondents were asked what they find important when evaluating candidates for prosecutor and how those beliefs would impact their votes in 2018.

The poll found strong bipartisan and geographically diverse support for prosecutors who are committed to reducing mass incarceration and racial bias in the criminal justice system. They also said they preferred police officers be held accountable for wrongdoing.

According to ACLU researchers, the views represent "a significant departure" from the ideology of a majority of prosecutors currently in office — meaning the results could indicate a "major shake-up" with more than 1,000 prosecutors up for election in November.

"After decades of 'tough on crime' messaging, reinforced in practice by prosecutors nationwide from across the political spectrum, it is striking to find such large majorities in support of prosecutorial reform," researchers wrote. "Voters are clear in supporting a shift in the culture in the office of the prosecutor, and are willing to elect new candidates who share their views."

The poll's focus areas — mass incarceration and racial bias — have been specifically raised as subjects of concern in Louisiana.

Louisiana has the highest incarceration rate in the nation. A task force report presented to state legislators earlier this year showed 816 people in prison for every 100,000 residents. That amounted to nearly double the national average.

Studies have found that the rate is so high partly because the

state sends people to prison for nonviolent crimes — such as drug possession or property crimes — at twice the rate or more of other southern states.

Already, lawmakers have sought to address the issue by enacting laws to shrink sentences for non-violent inmates. Thousands have been released from prison already this year.

In terms of racial bias, a 2015 study of trials in Caddo Parish revealed that potential jurors who were Black were much more likely to be struck from juries than non-Blacks.

In Caddo, an area that's become known as an "outlier" for its high number of death penalty convictions, prosecutors used peremptory strikes against 46 percent of Black jurors, according to the study conducted by Reprieve Australia. A peremptory strike, in English and American law, is a right in jury selection that allows attorneys to reject a certain number of potential jurors without stating a reason.

The same study found the tactic was used against just 15 percent of other jurors.

Researchers found that juries' racial makeup appeared to affect the ultimate outcome of the cases. No defendants were acquitted by juries with two or fewer Black jurors, according to the Reprieve study. On the other end of the spectrum, 19 percent were acquitted when five or more jurors were Black.

In 2016, the nation's highest court ruled on the issue of racial bias in the courtroom, on a case that had come out of Georgia.

In that case, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that prosecutors there had violated the Constitution when they eliminated all Black

prospective jurors in a death penalty case. The defendant, Timothy Foster, was also Black.

The ACLU study found that across the nation, 88 percent of voters are more likely to support a prosecutor who believes in reducing racial bias in the criminal justice system.

Another 91 percent believe it is important for a prosecutor to prioritize reducing unequal treatment of individuals because of race, the study found. That included 90 percent of white voters, 90 percent of Latino voters and 95 percent of Black voters.

Another 89 percent of voters say it is very important for prosecutors to actively work towards ending mass incarceration with alternatives to prison.

Lastly, 79 percent said they'd be more likely to support a candidate for prosecutor who believes it is their responsibility to hold officers that break the law accountable. Those voters said they wanted an increase in overall transparency in the criminal justice system.

"Prosecutors are the most powerful, unaccountable and least transparent actors in the criminal justice system. They hold the keys to ending mass incarceration. They just have to use them," said Taylor Pendergrass, senior campaign strategist for the ACLU Campaign for Smart Justice.

"American voters care deeply about the health of their local communities. It should not be surprising that they overwhelmingly prefer prosecutors who will end mass incarceration, reduce racial bias in our criminal justice system, and operate transparently," Pendergrass added. "The bigger surprise is that 'tough on crime' pro-incarceration prosecutors have survived unchallenged for so long."◊

Support for incarcerated women

Continued from Page 1

But the number of women in jail and prison has grown at a rate far greater than that of men during the past four decades, especially for women of color. In Louisiana, the number of men in prison decreased by 4.5 percent from 2014 to 2015, while the number of women in prison only fell by 1.4 percent.

Yet issues specific to women have been routinely pushed to the margins of the prison reform and abolition movements. Martin, the Lead Organizer for Voice of the Experienced (VOTE), is trying to change that.

Martin, the Lead Organizer for Voice of the Experienced (VOTE), is trying to change that. "Whatever room I'm in, women and girls will be talked about when it comes to mass incarceration," she says.

Last Friday, VOTE, a New Orleans non-profit that advocates for the rights of people with convictions, hosted the first annual Formerly and Currently Incarcerated Women and Girls Day.

The day included a march on City Hall, where once-incarcerated women from California to Illinois to Florida shared their stories, demanded reform, and declared solidarity with the 200,000 women who remain behind bars today. The march began at The First 72+, which provides transitional housing for recently incarcerated men. "Don't we need to see more of this type of housing for women?" Martin asked at the rally.

The march was combined with a GoFundMe campaign to raise money to bail out women awaiting trial before Christmas. One of the women VOTE was able to help had been in jail since September 20, unable to pay her \$250 bond, Martin says.

The day also served as the kick-

off event for VOTE's 2018 campaign "to fight for the dignity of women and girls in the criminal justice system."

Martin's a compelling speaker, in part because she communicates with an authority that comes from personal experience within the criminal justice system.

She spent 12 years in and out of prison on various shoplifting charges. Her most recent charge landed her a seven-year sentence. By then, she was already a mother of five, and trying to remain an active parent was a constant struggle. All three of her sons were shot (non-fatally) while she was in prison, which she said was especially heart wrenching.

Two out of three incarcerated women are the mothers of minor children, and most of them are their child's primary caregiver. One of the legislative items that VOTE will focus on next year would provide alternatives to incarceration for the primary caregivers of minor children.

Martin got out of prison in 2012, and like most released prisoners, she had no clue what to do next. The reentry training provided by the prison "was a joke." She had no clothes, no basic toiletries, nothing at all to her name. She was constantly stressed about being a burden to family members who had already done so much for her while she was in prison.

Today, she prepares bags of toiletries and used clothes for women reentering society. "So they can have something of their own," she explains.

Finding work was another struggle. Businesses are rarely enthusiastic about formerly incarcerated candidates and the State made almost no effort to help her become an active and constructive member of society. "It felt like they were saying 'Just live until you die,'" she says.

Her entry into grassroots organizing began in 2016 at a reentry conference. "After sitting there for two hours, I heard the word 'woman' mentioned one time. And I lost it." She expressed her frustration to Norris Henderson, the executive director of VOTE.

"Who's talking for the women? Who's taking for us?" she asked.

"Why don't you do it?" Henderson returned.

Later that year, VOTE hired her and she immediately started working on an advocacy campaign for currently and formerly incarcerated women. She wanted to bring attention to the indignity forced upon women in prisons — being raped, enduring beatings and living under the constant gaze of male guards.

But she also wanted to shine a light on the trauma that women face prior to incarceration. According to the Vera Institute of Justice, 86 percent of incarcerated women are the survivors of sexual violence. Martin says that even that staggering statistic doesn't capture the entire picture.

"Every woman that has been incarcerated has faced some kind of trauma way back when that she's carried most of her life that's ultimately led her to use substances so she wouldn't feel that deep-rooted sense of pain and distrust and betrayal," she says.

She also laments over the thousands of women who are incarcerated for defending themselves against abusive partners.

Ultimately, she is trying to illuminate the gauntlet of obstacles that face convicted women, a struggle that remains largely invisible to men and those outside the auspices of the criminal justice system.

"You just don't think about all those things, and that's alright," she said at the rally. "You just don't know. But I work every day to ensure women and girls are not forgotten."◊

Cantrell probe

Continued from Page 1

City Councilwoman Latoya Cantrell of improperly using her city-issued credit card without providing adequate documentation of the expenses or reimbursing the city when it was appropriate.

The complaint led to two separate investigations of the allegations, one by the state's Legislative Auditor and the other by state AG Jeff Landry.

"We are clearly disappointed by this ruling, and we will appeal to the Louisiana Supreme Court," Landry said in a statement released last week.

Cantrell became the city's first Black female mayor when she was elected in the Nov. 18 runoff by a wide margin and is slated to take office in May.

The investigation of the Mayor-elect's use of her city-issued credit card is expected to be completed by then.

A hearing has been set for Jan. 3 during which Cantrell's attorney, Billy Gibbens, will seek to have a subpoena signed by Orleans Parish Criminal District Judge Camille Buras on Dec. 4 thrown out.

The subpoena was one of three issued by state AG Landry.

Gibbens described Landry's pursuit of his client's personal banking records as "nothing more than an intrusive and harassing witch hunt by a political opponent."

In his efforts to convince the Louisiana Supreme Court to appoint an ad hoc judge to oversee the investigation of Cantrell, the state Attorney General's Office expressed concerns about Judge White and her 11 colleagues' ability to handle the matter fairly.

The AG's Office also pointed out that as mayor, Cantrell would have "considerable influence" over the court's budget and that the mayor-elect's father-in-law, Harry Cantrell, currently serves as the court's magistrate judge.

The Attorney General's Office accused Judge Laurie White of undermining its probe by allowing the mayor-elect's attorney to view the subpoenas for Cantrell's financial records.

Nola.com reported that those subpoenas remain under seal and are not available to the general public for review.

Cantrell said earlier this month at a luncheon that her use of a city-issued credit card during her tenure as a councilwoman does not rise to the level of criminal activity.◊



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NASA celebrates legacy of first Black American astronaut

By Erick Johnson
Contributing Writer

(Special from NNPA's Chicago Crusader) — Fifty years ago, a tragic accident ended the groundbreaking career of Major Robert H. Lawrence, Jr., a Chicago native and stellar Air Force pilot who became America's first Black astronaut.

On December 8, 2017—the 50th anniversary of his death—NASA honored his often-ignored legacy and contributions to the agency.

Earlier this year, the Chicago Crusader reported about the lack of visibility of NASA's first Black American astronaut and helped to raise awareness about Lawrence's incredible journey.

In planning a story for its annual Black History Month edition, Chicago Crusader staffers discovered that little was being done to honor Lawrence, while NASA held memorials to mark the 50th anniversary of three white astronauts who perished in a fire aboard the Apollo 1 space module, during a preflight test.

The Crusader story lauding Lawrence's achievements was published in dozens of Black newspapers after the National Newspapers Publishers Association (NNPA) carried it on its newswire.

Born in 1935 to the late Gwendolyn Duncan and Robert H. Lawrence, Sr., the future Air Force pilot was a man ahead of his time. Long before magnet and STEM

programs were part of the high school curriculum, Lawrence excelled in math and science.

At 16, he graduated with honors from Englewood High School and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Bradley University. He married the late Barbara Cress from the prominent Chicago Cress family and entered the Air Force at age 21 before earning a doctorate in physical chemistry from Ohio State University, becoming the first astronaut at NASA to earn a doctorate degree.

As a United States Air Force pilot, Lawrence accumulated over 2,500 flight hours. In June 1967, Lawrence graduated from the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School (Class '66B) at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. In that same month, he was selected by the USAF as an astronaut for their Manned Orbital Laboratory (MOL) program, thus becoming the first Black astronaut.

Lawrence died while training another pilot, Maj. John Royer, to perform the "flare" maneuver—an operation that Lawrence had already mastered—in the F-104 Starfighter.

According to NBC News, "Lawrence's memory languished in obscurity" partly due to the fact that, the Pentagon only recognized someone as an "astronaut" if they actually flew to an altitude above 50 miles.

However, Rep. Bobby Rush (D-Va.) mounted a campaign

that forced NASA to put Lawrence's name on the Space Mirror Memorial in 1997—thirty years after Lawrence's death.

"On Dec. 8, 1997, on the thirtieth anniversary of his death, Lawrence had his name unveiled on the Florida memorial," NBC News reported.

The ceremony recognizing Lawrence, earlier this month—although spirited, at times—was a somber one for the 300 guests that included decorated NASA astronauts, dignitaries, relatives, and friends, who had flown and driven miles across the country to honor Lawrence at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Lawrence's older sister, Dr. Barbara Lawrence, attended and spoke; another prominent Chicago resident who was present was E. Dawn Griffin, the oldest daughter of Ernest Griffin, founder of Griffin Funeral Home in Bronzeville. The Griffin Funeral Home, which closed in 2012, handled the funeral arrangements for Lawrence.

Members from Lawrence's college fraternity, Omega Psi Phi, also attended to honor one of their own. On the sprawling grounds of the NASA facility, they participated in a two-and-a-half-hour ceremony that began at the Center for Space Education and culminated with an emotional wreath-laying ceremony at the base of the national Space Mirror Memorial, a massive



Robert Henry Lawrence, Jr. was the first African-American astronaut.

(USAF/Wikimedia Commons)

black granite structure where Lawrence's name is among those of 20 astronauts who either died in flight or in training.

The ceremony brought out some of NASA's astronauts and biggest officials. Charles Bolden, America's first Black NASA chief administrator, and Stephanie Wilson, the second Black female astronaut, attended the service. Another Black astronaut, Winston Scott, played the trumpet in a band that performed various jazz songs, including, "Fly Me to the Moon." Reportedly, jazz was one of Lawrence's favorite musical genres. Dr. Herman B. White Jr., a physi-

cist and lecturer at Bradley University in Peoria, Ill., Lawrence's alma mater, gave a presentation where a memorial scholarship and a conference room bear Lawrence's name. Recently, Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio renamed a dormitory in Lawrence's honor.

Bolden, who piloted the space shuttles Columbia and Discovery, praised Lawrence for his spirit. "He took that first step," Bolden said. "If he had lived, he would have been flying on that space shuttle also."

Col. Robert Cabana, who flew on four shuttle missions, agreed.

"Major Robert H. Lawrence truly was a hero," said Cabana. "He set the stage for what was to come."

Dr. Barbara Lawrence shared her experiences with her brother as they grew up on the South Side of Chicago. She said, when Robert was young, he was a very disciplined student and dedicated to learning.

"I'm truly proud to have been his sister," she shared. "He wasn't interested in being the first Black astronaut. He was only interested in being given the opportunity to do what he wanted to do. I'm sorry he wasn't here a little longer, but I think his job was one that was well done."♦

Align your priorities from top to bottom

By Jerome LeDoux
Contributing Columnist

Would you be embarrassed to enumerate and make public your priorities in their actual order according to your thinking, your values and your way of living?

Perhaps resetting your priorities is something you try to do at the beginning of each year as you tinker with New Year resolutions, some of them worn by previous tries.

Time is one of the most pivotal, most basic and completely unavoidable of all the realities/items in life that we must consider and prioritize. If we imagine life as one big pie, how do you slice it up according to the hours and days you actually allot to each activity? Let us consider these items alphabetically in order to be impartial.

Air, of course, is first in the alphabet. Its importance is so absolute that any human will perish without it in two minutes, except for a few cases of drowning in cold water. Its priority warns us against exposure to smoking and other pollutants.

Eating and drinking come next, not because they are necessarily next, but because they are next in the alphabet. Their priority is voiced by the ancient sage, "First live; then philosophize." However, a warning is sounded by the French, "One must eat to

live, not live to eat." Another pearl of wisdom states, "Laughter is the best medicine." I modify that by saying, "Laughter is the best medicine after food that, properly chosen and consumed, is really the best medicine." Proper food and drink are so powerful that they often render the use of medicine unnecessary. This is a bitter pill to swallow for those doctors who are as sold on pharmaceuticals as they are ignorant of and/or dismissive of rejecting bad food and choosing the good.

Exercise, preeminently important for our physical health, strength, stamina, well-being and life itself, tends to be neglected because of Isaac Newton's law of inertia that is summarized thus: An object at rest remains at rest unless acted upon by some force; an object in motion remains in motion unless acted upon by some force. Thus, objects — includes people — tend to maintain their state of motion/non-motion. Translated, exercise is a drag, an unwelcome interruption for most people.

So, unless a person's profession entails sufficient cardio-vascular exercise, most folks don't like it and avoid it whenever possible. Don't let ennui ruin your priority.

Family should be the end goal for all the things we have said about making priorities to take care of ourselves in every way. We take good care of ourselves, not out of

vanity, but in order that we will have a "Mens sana in corpore sano," that is, "A sound mind in a sound body." With such well-being and strength to do all our duties, we will be well equipped to take care of our families. Family is such a high priority that, without God-fearing, functional families, global society would collapse. This is not to mention the profound love, peace and joy brought to us through our families.

Prayer connects us to the greatest Force that ever was, is now and forever will be anywhere in the universe or in heaven, because everyone and everything were all created by this irresistible Force otherwise known as God. Prayer warns all unbelievers, "If you do not believe in God, you may as well stop reading right now!"

Poet Alfred Lord Tennyson summarized this connection with God, "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." Prayer lightens our burdens of all that is negative and bad, while it heightens our joys and promotes everything positive and good. This intimate connection with God is as necessary to our souls as air is to our lungs and as food and drink are to our bodies. So, how much quality time do you devote to prayer each day? Is it one of your top priorities?

Reading/Mental pursuits supply us with information vital to our physical, social, spiritual well-

being and all phases and aspects of our lives. They also keep us lively, vibrant, interesting in conversation and connected with higher realities. A big caveat, of course, is that what we read must be chosen with the greatest awareness and care. Considering the daunting mountains of godless, immoral trash and putrid garbage thrown at us in numerous books, periodicals, journals, on TV and other media as well, our minds and bodies are like computers, "Trash in, trash out."

Recreation has its own niche of priority that tells us, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," and "All play and no work makes Jack a mere toy." There is the happy medium that makes recreation an act of new creation and joy. Adequate rest and sleep are integral components of sufficient and wholesome recreation.

Service to others is an outgrowth of work that supplies a livelihood to oneself and one's family. Service to others is the same privilege Jesus assumed to himself, "The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve." (Matthew 20:28)♦



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Black Christmas

Continued from Page 1

whitewashed media images have negative effects on the self-esteem of Black children.

A famous 1940's study conducted by psychologists Kenneth and Mamie Clark presented Black children with both white and Black dolls. When asked which they preferred, 65 percent of the participating Black children showed a preference for the white doll.

The Clark study, duplicated in 2006, netted similar results. Kiri Davis, then a 17-year-old film student of Manhattan's Urban Academy produced a similar study with children at a Harlem Day Care Center. Fifteen of the 21 children surveyed preferred the white doll over the Black one.

Psychologists such as Dr. Julia Hare, argue that – even today – these attitudes among children are because of the abundance of white images and lack of Black ones. At Christmas time, these images can exacerbate low self-esteem unless they are reversed.

“[Black] children are bombarded with images every day that they see on television screens and on coffee tables; either the light-skinned female that everybody is pushing, or they give preference to the closest white images,” Hare told *BlackEnterprise.com*.

The Rev. Orin Boyd Jr. of the Mt. Zion Pentecostal Church agrees that displaying Black holiday images could be beneficial to Black children.

“Most people relate the Christmas holiday to a time of

joy, good things, positive things. So if none of the images look like [Black children], that association or connection is not made,” Boyd said. “But if they're able to see themselves within it, it reinforces that people of African descent contribute to joyous positive experiences and that's not always displayed in other areas of life.”

Mother of two, Adrienne Lynette, said she raised her children seeing positive Black images for this exact reason.

“If Black kids don't see that their Black princesses, superheroes and powerful [images] like Jesus, I think they'll start to think that it's not possible for them,” Lynette said. “I always tried my best to give my daughters Black dolls because I think it's just important for their self-esteem.”

Theologians have pointed out that images of white biblical characters, such as the Nativity scene and Jesus, aren't even accurate.

“After one of my recent lectures, a Christian college student approached me and asked if Black people are uncomfortable with the fact that Jesus is white. I responded, ‘Jesus is not white. The Jesus of history likely looked more like me, a Black woman, than you, a white woman,’” writes Christena Cleveland in a *Christianity Today* article titled, “Why Jesus' Skin Color Matters.”

She adds, “Not only is white Jesus inaccurate, he also can inhibit our ability to honor the image of God in people who aren't white... Jesus of Nazareth

likely had a darker complexion than we imagine, not unlike the olive skin common among Middle Easterners today. Princeton biblical scholar James Charlesworth goes so far as to

The maddening frustration of fighting white supremacy

Continued from Page 5

dent criticized when he was running for office..

The swamp of inclusion has been drained to make room for murky waters of a new swamp.

The problem, however, is that this “new swamp” isn't new at all, but is instead a return to a white supremacist world that came before the wave of social change that brought more rights not only to Black people, but to Brown people, women, the poor, and to anyone suffering from unjust policies in our country.

Making America great again is about putting non-whites and females “back in their places” which allows wealthy white men to more easily wield the control they think is their birthright.

It is maddening to have fought so hard for justice, just to see this administration systematically and methodically strip all groups of the gains they made. The anger of the president's base seems to stem from resentment over some previously marginalized groups being allowed onto the playing field while they, even in their whiteness, were never able to do the same. The message being touted by this president to that base, sometimes given via

say Jesus was ‘most likely dark brown and sun-tanned.’”

Regardless of how people spend the holidays, Rev. Boyd reminds, remember the true reason for the season.

dog whistles but at other times via bullhorns, is that they should not fret: no matter what gains “others” made, they will be dealt with. They will be put back in their places. Subscribe to The Morning Email.

White supremacy represents the height of repressive and oppressive beliefs. It teaches that anyone who is not a white, Christian, wealthy male is “less than” ideal, and not deserving of full American citizenship with all of the attendant rights.

During the Eugenics Movement of the 1920s, there was a movement to “perfect” humanity. White males determined who was “fit” to be an American and who was not. Even President Theodore Roosevelt said that “the unfit must be forbidden to leave offspring behind them.” U.S. Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, and beloved American icons, believed that the United States had the right and the responsibility to prevent the undesirables from reproducing. Holmes wrote, “It is better for all the world, if instead of waiting to execute degenerate offspring for crime, or to let them starve for their imbecility, society can prevent those who are manifestly unfit from continuing their kind.” (from *Imbeciles*: The Supreme

“We always have to keep in mind when we discuss the ethnicity of Jesus... that we keep in perspective that it's not as important as the central fame and purpose of Jesus Christ;”

Court, American Eugenics and the Sterilization of Carrie Buck by Adam Cohen, p. 2)

The determination of this administration, and more specifically, the quest of white supremacists to “make America great again” by reinstating wealthy, white, Protestant males at the helm of everything is not genocide in the classic sense. Except for the mass numbers of African American males being either shot to death or imprisoned at alarmingly high rates, the “undesirables” are not being eliminated or put out of circulation as the Jews were during the Holocaust, but their gains are being intentionally and regularly eroded. The gap between the very wealthy and the very poor is widening, even as the middle class is slowly disappearing. Those who have fought, marched, and even lost their lives to make America a “more perfect union” are seeing their work being washed down the drain.

What is being done now, and what has already been done this first year of this administration, will take generations to reverse. It feels like the masses have been knitting a sweater and got almost to the end and then realized a stitch was dropped, and now all the stitches done after that one dropped stitch are being undone

Boyd said. “It's important that we understand it's the divinity of Christ – not necessarily the natural ethnicity of him – that makes him a unique figure to all of humanity.”

so that there will not be a hole where there should not be.

It is maddeningly frustrating, on top of being unjust and even cruel. Frederick Douglass said that power concedes nothing without a struggle, and he was right. The marginalized who had gotten into the circle are being pushed back to the circumference and though they are fighting to hold the gains made, it feels like a losing proposition. This country and the world is fighting American white supremacy, and the fight is brutal, unfair and unwavering and far-reaching. White people who thought white supremacy favored them need to think again. This democracy was created by wealthy, white Protestant males, and that same group of people aim to keep that small club intact and in control. “Liberty and justice for all” is not what is being currently fought for, but rather, liberty, justice and privilege for the few. Equality for all was never the intent of the Constitution. I daresay some of the Founding Fathers approve of what is happening, the frustration of the masses notwithstanding.

The Rev. Susan K Smith is an ordained minister who lives in Columbus, Ohio. She can be reached by emailing revsuekim@sbcglobal.net.

ORLEANS PARISH

Clerk of Court Succession Notices

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CIVIL DISTRICT COURT FOR THE PARISH OF ORLEANS
STATE OF LOUISIANA
NO: 2017-4631 DIV: "J"
SUCCESSION OF FREDERICK CHARLES THIELE
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO PAY ESTATE DEBTS

NOTICE IS GIVEN to the creditors of this Succession and to all other interested persons, that a First and Final Tableau of Distribution has been filed by ELIZABETH THIELE BAMBURG, the Dative Executrix of this Succession, with her Petition praying for homologation of the Tableau and for authority to pay the debts of the Estate listed thereon; and that the First and Final Tableau of Distribution can be homologated after the expiration of seven (7) days from the date of the publication of this notice. Any Opposition to the Petition and First and Final Tableau of Distribution must be filed prior to homologation.

DALE N. ATKINS, Clerk
 Atty: STEVEN E. BAIN
 Publication: La. Weekly 12/25/17

CIVIL DISTRICT COURT FOR THE PARISH OF ORLEANS
STATE OF LOUISIANA
NO: 2016-11384
DIV: "M-13"
SUCCESSION OF CALVIN A. AGUILLARD, SR.

WHEREAS, the court approved Administratrix of the above Estate has made application to the Court for the authority to sell movable property hereinafter described, to-wit:

A 2006 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 bearing vehicle identification number 3GCEC14V96G191558 for which the decedent has fifty percent interest in.

UPON THE FOLLOWING TERMS AND CONDITIONS, TO-WIT:

For the sum of FOUR THOUSAND (\$4,000.00) DOLLARS.

Notice is hereby given to all whom it may concern, including the heirs and creditors of the decedent herein, and of this estate, be ordered to make any opposition which they have or may have to such application, at any time, prior to the issuance of the order of judgment authorizing, approving and homologating such application and that such order or judgment may be issued after the expiration of seven (7) days from the date of the last publication of such notice, all in accordance with law.

DALE N. ATKINS, Clerk
 Atty: Patrick A. Joseph
 Publication: La. Weekly 12/25/17

CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE PARISH OF ORLEANS
STATE OF LOUISIANA
NO: 16-10330 DIV: "E-16"
SUCCESSION OF ALPHRETTA JUNE MARGARET MACHANA DIKET
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO SELL IMMOVABLE PROPERTY AT PRIVATE SALE

Notice is hereby given that the Administratrix of the Succession of Alphretta June Margaret Machana Diket, has petitioned this Honorable Court for authority to sell all of the succession's right, title and interest in and to the following described immovable property in accordance with the provisions of Code of Civil Procedure:

All of the succession's right, title and interest in and to the following described property, to-wit:

An undivided one-half interest in and to the following described property, to-wit:

A CERTAIN PIECE OR PORTION OF GROUND, together with all the buildings and improvements thereon, and all the rights, ways, privileges, servitudes, appurtenances and advantages, thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining, situated in the Parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana, in the Fifth District of the City of New Orleans, in SOUTHLAWN SUB-DIVISION, in SQUARE 2, bounded by Southlawn Boulevard, General Meyer Avenue, The Todd-Johnson Property and Diana Street, designated as LOT NO. 5, all in accordance with the survey of F. G. Stewart, Surveyor, dated February 21, 1949, revised June 15, 1950, re-certified correct April 21, 1959, a copy of which is annexed to an Act before Leon A. Pradel, N.P., dated November 27, 1959; and which said lot measures Forty-Seven (47) feet front on Southlawn Boulevard, the same in width in the rear, by a depth of one hundred six (106) feet between equal and parallel lines. Improvements thereon bearing Municipal No. 1240 Southlawn Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Being the same property acquired by Alphretta Machana, wife of and Floyd W. Diket from Louise Miller, wife of and John L. Hansen, by act passed before Frederick Stephen Bowes, Notary Public, dated December 10, 1962, registered in COB _____, folio _____, Parish of Orleans, Louisiana.

The proposed sale shall be subject to the price, terms and conditions as set forth in the purchase agreement, a copy of which is filed in these proceedings. Any heir or creditor who opposes the proposed sale must file his or her opposition

within seven (7) days from the date on which the last publication of this notice appears.

DALE N. ATKINS, Clerk
 Atty: GEORGE PIVACH II
 Publication: La. Weekly 12/25/17, 1/15/18

CIVIL DISTRICT COURT FOR THE PARISH OF ORLEANS
STATE OF LOUISIANA
NO: 2017-11873 DIV: "G"
SUCCESSION OF ARTHUR J. KNATT, JR.
NOTICE TO SELL IMMOVABLE PROPERTY AT PRIVATE SALE

Whereas Carlos Knatt, the duly appointed Administrator of the above entitled succession, has made application to the Court for an Order granting him the authority to sell the decedent's one-fifth (1/5) interest in immovable property for the hereinafter described, to-wit:

A CERTAIN LOT OF GROUND, together with all the buildings and improvements thereon, and all the rights, ways, privileges, servitudes and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining situated in the Sixth District of this City, in Square 627, bounded by General Taylor, Magnolia, Peniston and South Robertson Streets, designated by the letter "F", which measures 43 feet, 8 inches and 3 lines front on General Taylor Street, the same width in the rear, by a depth of 73 feet, 7 inches and 6 lines on the line dividing it from Lot "E" and a depth of 73 feet, 11 inches and 5 line son the line dividing it from Lot "G". Said Lot "F" begins as a distance of 40 feet from the corner of General Taylor and South Robertson Streets.

All in accordance with a survey by J. J. Krebs, C.E. dated February 25, 1953 and recertified correct on August 26, 1959 and April 29, 1959, a copy of which is annexed to Act passed before Edmond G. Miranne, N.P. dated May 11, 1959.

All in accordance with a survey by J. J. Krebs and Sons, C E & S, certified correct on November 15, 1971, a copy of which is annexed to vendor's Act of Purchase passed before me, Notary, this date.

Improvements thereon bear the Municipal Nos. 2605 General Taylor Street. Being the same property acquired by Arthur J. Knatt, Sr. from Security Homestead Association as per act passed before Edmond G. Miranne, N.P. dated November 26, 1971, registered in C.O.B. 707, lot 379 and recorded in M.O.B. 2199 folio 420 of the records of Orleans Parish, State of Louisiana.

The total sale price of one hundred percent (100%) of the property is \$150,000.00, cash

payable at an Act of Sale with Seller responsible for settling all liens up to \$25,000.00. Notice is hereby given to all parties whom it may concern, including the heirs and creditors of the decedent herein, and of this estate, be ordered to make any opposition which they have or may have to such application, at any time, prior to the issuance of the order or judgment authorizing, approving and homologating such application and that such order or judgment may be issued after the expiration of seven (7) days, from the date of the last publication of such notice, all in accordance with law.

DALE N. ATKINS, Clerk
 Atty: Lindsey S. Olsen
 Publication: La. Weekly 12/25/17, 1/15/18

CIVIL DISTRICT COURT FOR THE PARISH OF ORLEANS
STATE OF LOUISIANA
NO: 2017-10550 DIV: "I-14"
SUCCESSION OF JOSEPH ERNEST DEDAIS
NOTICE TO SELL IMMOVABLE PROPERTY AT PRIVATE SALE

Whereas Samantha Maria Dedaís Mitchell, the duly appointed Administrator of the above entitled succession, has made application to the Court for an Order granting her the authority to sell the decedent's interest in immovable property for the hereinafter described, to-wit:

A CERTAIN LOT OF GROUND, together with all of the buildings and improvements thereon, and all of the rights, ways, privileges, servitudes, appurtenances and advantages thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining, situated in the SIXTH DISTRICT of the City of New Orleans, Parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana, in SQUARE NO. 193 Avart, bounded by Constance, Magazine, Bellecaste and Dufossat Streets, designated as LOT NO. 6 on the survey made by Gilbert & Kelly, Surveyors, dated November 14, 1961, a copy of which is annexed to an act passed before John H. Hammel, Jr., Notary Public, dated December 4, 1961, and according to said survey, said Lot No. 6 commences at a distance of 120 feet from the corner of Constance and Dufossat Street and measures thence 30 feet on Constance Street, same width in the rear, by a depth of 100 feet between equal and parallel lines. All as more fully shown on a plat of survey by Murphy Engineering Inc. dated January 21, 1974, copy annexed hereto and made part hereof.

The improvements bear Municipal No. 5219 Constance Street.

The total sale price of one hundred percent (100%) of the

property is \$275,000.00, cash payable at an Act of Sale. Notice is hereby given to all parties whom it may concern, including the heirs and creditors of the decedent herein, and of this estate, be ordered to make any opposition which they have or may have to such application, at any time, prior to the issuance of the order or judgment authorizing, approving and homologating such application and that such order or judgment may be issued after the expiration of seven (7) days, from the date of the last publication of such notice, all in accordance with law.

DALE N. ATKINS, Clerk
 Atty: Lindsey S. Olsen
 Publication: La. Weekly 12/25/17, 1/15/18

CIVIL DISTRICT COURT FOR THE PARISH OF ORLEANS
STATE OF LOUISIANA
NO: 2017-11368 DIV: "A-15"
SUCCESSION OF LOTTIE ROCCAFORTE LABORDE
NOTICE TO SELL IMMOVABLE PROPERTY AT PRIVATE SALE

Whereas Ellen Boudreaux Barrere, the duly appointed Administrator of the above entitled succession, has made application to the Court for an Order granting her the authority to sell the decedent's twenty-five percent (25%) interest in immovable property hereinafter described, to-wit:

TRACT 1
 A CERTAIN TRACT OF PARCEL OF LAND situated in the corporate limits of the Town of Cottonport, on the Cottonport-Mansura Highway (107) containing 13.62 acres of land, with all buildings and improvements thereon, and more particularly described as Lot Number Two (2) on Plat of Survey by Ralph L. Gagnard, registered land surveyor, said plat dated February 21, 1977, and filed in Plat Book No. 15, page 23, and being bounded, nor or formerly, on the North by Juliet Tjaden; South by Sherrel Laborde; East by Cardean Inc.; and West by Bayou Rouge, and being located in Section 3, Township 1 South, Range 4 East, Avoyelles Parish, La.

TRACT 2
 A CERTAIN TRACT OF PARCEL OF LAND together with all buildings and improvements thereon, situated in and forming a portion of Section 3, Township 1 South, Range 4 East, Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana, said tract containing 14.62 acres, more or less and being more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

Commence at a point on the East side of Louisiana Highway 107, and point being in common with the Southwest corner of property currently owned by

Sherrel S. Laborde and the Northwest corner of the larger tract now or formerly belonging to Inez Gauthier from which the tract herein is taken ad from said point proceed North 88 degrees 44 minutes East for a distance of 319.83 feet to a point; said point being designated the Point of Beginning. From said Point of Beginning thence proceed South 0 degrees 20 minutes 08 seconds East for a distance of 221.9 feet to a point; thence proceed South 1 degree 40 minutes 30 seconds West for a distance of 126.17 feet to a point; thence proceed North 88 degrees 44 minutes East for a distance of 1492.04 feet to a point; thence proceed South 1 degree 16 minutes East for a distance of 25.33 feet to a point; thence proceed North 88 degrees 44 minutes East for a distance of 322.40 feet to a point thence proceed North 1 degree 18 minutes 37 seconds West for a distance of 372.98 feet to a point; thence proceed South 88 degrees 44 minutes West for a distance of 1804.07 feet back to the Point of Beginning, all in accordance with Plat of Survey by Carl J. Juneau, Registered Surveyor, dated July 3, 1987, a copy of said survey being recorded in COB A-364, page 612. The tract herein being bounded, nor or formerly, on the North side by Sherrel S. Laborde; South by Jewel Juneau Chenevert; East by Drainage Ditch; and on the West by lots of Inez Gauthier; Neil Therenot, and Craig Pujol.

Being a portion of the same property acquired by Inez Tassin Gauthier through Act of Partition with Frederick J. Tassin dated August 27, 1979, recorded in Conveyance Book A-299, page 892, under Entry No. 304614, records of Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana.

TRACT 3
 A CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, located in Section 34, TIN R4E, Ward 9, Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana, containing 4.44 acres, more or less, known as Lot 4-B of the Plat of Survey by Carl J. Juneau, Registered Surveyor, #2132, dated April 24, 1982. Said Lot 4-B is more particularly described as having a measurement of 1146.52 feet on its northern boundary, a measurement of 168.22 feet on its western boundary, and a measurement of 168.19 feet on its eastern boundary, and bounded now or formerly as follows, to-wit: on the North by Richard Moreau and A. Lemoine, et al, on the South by Lot 4_A of resurvey by Carl J. Juneau, on the East by Louisiana Highway #107 and on the West by A. Lemoine, et al. Also described as:

A CERTAIN TRACT OF PARCEL OF LAND, located in Section 34, TIN, R4E, Ward 9, Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana, from the corner common between Dennis Moreau, Juliet Laborde Tjaden on the west right away for Louisiana Highway 107 in 1982 and per the Plat of Survey by Carl J. Juneau, Registered Surveyor, #2132, dated April 24, 1982, go North 0 degrees, 30 minutes West 168.18 feet to a point, which is the point of beginning, Thence go North 9 degrees, 30 minutes West 168.19 feet to a point, thence go South 88 degrees 45 minutes West 1146.52 feet to a point, thence go in a easterly direction of the point of beginning.

All as more fully shown on survey by Carl J. Juneau, Registered Surveyor, #2132, dated April 24, 1982, a copy of which is recorded as File No. 85 1017, Book A346, page 899 in the public records for Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Being the property acquired by Sherrel Laborde and Lottie Roccaforte Laborde from Filtz J. Laborde, et ux, by act dated February 24, 1977, filed on February 25, 1977, under Original Entry No. 283096, COB A-279, page 914, and further acquired by Boundary Agreement between Sherrel Laborde, Juliet Laborde Tjaden, Daniel Lemoine, Richard Moreau and Dennis Moreau on February 20, 1985, recorded on February 22, 1985, under File No. 85 1017, Book A346, page 899.

The total sale price of the property is \$108,000.00 for 100% interest of the property, including \$61,500.00 for Tract 1, \$25,000.00 for Tract 2, and \$22,000.00 for Tract 3. The decedent's 25% interest is \$27,125.00. Notice is hereby given to all parties whom it may concern, including the heirs and creditors of the decedent herein, and of this estate, be ordered to make any opposition which they have or may have to such application, at any time, prior to the issuance of the order or judgment authorizing, approving and homologating such application and that such order of judgment may be issued after the expiration of seven (7) days, from the date of the last publication of such notice, all in accordance with law.

DALE N. ATKINS, Clerk
 Atty: Lindsey S. Olsen
 Publication: La. Weekly 12/25/17, 1/15/18

CIVIL DISTRICT COURT FOR THE PARISH OF ORLEANS
STATE OF LOUISIANA
NO: 1990-8186 DIV: "L"
SUCCESSION OF LILLIE MAE MOORE
NOTICE IS GIVEN that

Joycelyn North, Administrator of the Succession of Lille Mae Moore, has applied for authority to sell at private sale, pursuant to the provisions of the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure, Article 3281, on terms of ONE HUNDRED SIXTY THOUSAND (\$160,000.00) DOLLARS, less claims for open mortgages and related costs and expenses of the sale, all of decedents interest in the immovable property described as follows, to-wit:

THAT CERTAIN PIECE OR PORTION OF GROUND, together with all the buildings and improvements thereon, and all the rights, ways, privileges, servitudes, advantages and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining, situated in the SIXTH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT of the City of New Orleans, State of Louisiana, in Square No. 158, bounded by Annunciation, Delechaize Street, Louisiana Avenue and Laurel Street, which said lot measures 26 feet, 10 inches, front on Delechaize Street by 128 feet in depth between equal and parallel lines. Said lot is comprised of parts of original Lot No. 24 on a plan drawn by W. T. Thompson, Surveyor, dated January 27, 1848, deposited in the office of J. R. Beard, late Notary, as Plan No. 23. In accordance with a sketch of survey by Gilbert and Kelly, Surveyors, dated March 25, 1939, a blueprint of which is annexed to an act passed before Daniel A. McGovern, Jr., Notary Public, dated August 10, 1939, said lot is shown as being situated in the same district and square, in designated by the Lot No. 32 and begins at a distance of 130 feet from the corner of Laurel Street and measures 26 feet, 10 inches front on Delachaise Street, by 128 feet in depth between equal and parallel lines; all in accordance with a survey of Adloe Orr, Jr. & Associates, dated January 6, 1965. According to a survey by John E. Walker, Surveyor, dated November 18, 1971, said lot is designated as Pt. of Lot 24 or Lot 32 and has the same location and measurements as above.

An order authorizing the Administrator to do so may be issued after seven days from the publication of this notice. An opposition to the application may be filed at any time prior to the issuance of such an order.

DALE N. ATKINS, Clerk
 Atty: DAVID W. BIRDSONG
 Gulf South Title
 2201 Veterans Blvd. #200
 Metairie, LA 70002
 Publication: La. Weekly 12/25/17, 1/15/18

THE LOUISIANA WEEKLY - YOUR MULTICULTURAL MEDIUM

Reduce that anxiety — drink more water!



By Glenn Ellis
Contributing Writer

(TriceEdneyWire.com) — When we think about our bodily health, we normally think of exercise and diet. These are important factors, but what may be the most important factor to our health of both mind and body, however, is the amount and quality of water we drink.

What exactly is the importance of drinking water in the grand scheme of things?

Did you know that the human body is made up of 70 percent to 80 percent water? The brain is made of 75 percent water and is home to some important glands that have a direct influence on the organs of the body? Muscles 75 percent, heart 75 percent, bones 22 percent, kidneys 83 percent, lungs 86 percent, eyes 95 percent,

and your blood 82 percent. We have about five quarts of blood and about 50 to 80 quarts of water.

There are so many health benefits to drinking pure water that it is truly amazing, most people only concentrate on the need to satisfy their thirst. Pure water is also essential for relieving stress and tension in the brain. It has also been proven to help reduce anxiety. As a matter of fact, if you are prone to anxiety attacks, a great solution is to drink a few glasses of clean pure water. Water also sharpens our mental functions. This means that it's important to drink plenty of water before big tests, interviews, or any other event that will require you to be at the top of your game.

You may be asking yourself now, how much water to drink? The average person should drink about two to three quarts of high-quality pure water a day. It also depends on your body size, how hot or cold your climate is, humidity, altitude and how much exercise you do. One guide is to take your weight and divide it by half and that will tell you how many ounces to drink. For example, a 200lb person should drink 100 ounces.

When you are considering the effects and importance of drinking water, you should be thinking about the big picture. It is absolutely essential for our digestive system — it could not digest food without plenty of water. Ever had a difficult bowel movement or even a painful one? Chances are it was because of a lack of water.

Bottled water vs tap water is a question many of us have; which kind of water is the better. Usually people want to know if they should drink bottled water, tap water or filter and purify the water that comes out of their tap. It should be noted that a lot of bottled water is tap water that has been filtered and treated.

Think of water as a nutrient your body needs that is present in liquids, plain water, and foods. All of these are essential daily to replace the large amounts of water lost each day. Fluid losses occur continuously, from skin evaporation, breathing, urine, and stool, and these losses must be replaced daily for good health.

When your water intake does not equal your output, you can become dehydrated. Fluid losses are accentuated in warmer climates, during strenuous exercise, in high altitudes, and in older adults, whose sense of thirst may not be as sharp.

Urine is generally pale yellow to clear when you have sufficient water intake. Dark color or strong smell indicates that you need to drink more water.

Thirst is the most obvious sign that you're already dehydrated. It is always a good practice to drink more water when you are not thirsty, don't wait until you're thirsty.

Adequate and regular water consumption has numerous health benefits. As an added plus, it has no calories, fat, carbohydrates or sugar.

For most people, water is the best thing to drink to stay hydrated. Sources of water also include foods, such as fruits and vegetables which contain a high percentage of water. Sports drinks with electrolytes, may be useful for people doing high intensity, vigorous exercise in very hot weather, though they tend to be high in added sugars and calories.

This information is the opinion of this writer, and is not intended to replace the proper medical advice from a medical doctor or other health professional. Glenn Ellis, is a Health Advocacy Communications Specialist. For more good health information, visit www.glennellis.com.

Scientists tune into brain to uncover music's healing power

By Luran Neergaard
AP Medical Writer

(AP) — Like a friendly Pied Piper, the violinist keeps up a toe-tapping beat as dancers weave through busy hospital hallways and into the chemotherapy unit, patients looking up in surprised delight. Upstairs, a cellist strums an Irish folk tune for a patient in intensive care.

Music increasingly is becoming a part of patient care — although it's still pretty unusual to see roving performers captivating entire wards, like at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital one fall morning.

"It takes them away for just a few minutes to some other place where they don't have to think about what's going on," said cellist Martha Vance after playing for a patient isolated to avoid spreading infection.

The challenge: Harnessing music to do more than comfort the sick. Now, moving beyond programs like Georgetown's, the National Institutes of Health is bringing together musicians, music therapists and neuroscientists to tap into the brain's circuitry and figure out how.

"The brain is able to compensate for other deficits sometimes by using music to communicate," said NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins, a geneticist who also plays a mean guitar.

To turn that ability into a successful therapy, "it would be a really good thing to know which parts of the brain are still intact to be called into action. To know the circuits well enough to know the backup plan," Collins added.

Scientists aren't starting from scratch. Learning to play an instrument, for example, sharpens how the brain processes sound and can improve children's reading and other school skills. Stroke survivors who can't speak sometimes can sing, and music therapy can help them retrain brain pathways to communicate. Similarly, Parkinson's patients sometimes

walk better to the right beat.

But what's missing is rigorous science to better understand how either listening to or creating music might improve health in a range of other ways — research into how the brain processes music that NIH is beginning to fund.

"The water is wide, I cannot cross over," well-known soprano Renee Fleming belted out, not from a concert stage but from inside an MRI machine at the NIH campus.

The opera star — who partnered with Collins to start the Sound Health initiative — spent two hours in the scanner to help researchers tease out what brain activity is key for singing. How? First Fleming spoke the lyrics. Then she sang them. Finally, she imagined singing them.

"We're trying to understand the brain not just so we can address mental disorders or diseases or injuries, but also so we can understand what happens when a brain's working right and what happens when it's performing at a really high level," said NIH researcher David Jangraw, who shared the MRI data with *The Associated Press*.

To Jangraw's surprise, several brain regions were more active when Fleming imagined singing than when she actually sang, including the brain's emotion center and areas involved with motion and vision. One theory: it took more mental effort to keep track of where she was in the song, and to maintain its emotion, without auditory feedback.

Fleming put it more simply: "I'm skilled at singing so I didn't have to think about it quite so much," she told a spring workshop at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, where she is an artistic adviser.

Indeed, Jangraw notes a saying in neuroscience: Neurons that fire together, wire together. Brain cells communicate by firing messages to each other through junctions called

synapses. Cells that regularly connect — for example, when a musician practices — strengthen bonds into circuitry that forms an efficient network for, in Fleming's case, singing.

But that's a healthy brain. In North Carolina, a neuroscientist and a dance professor are starting an improvisational dance class for Alzheimer's to tell if music and movement enhance a diseased brain's neural networks.

Well before memory loss becomes severe, Alzheimer's patients can experience apathy, depression and gait and balance problems as the brain's synaptic connections begin to falter. The NIH-funded study at Wake Forest University will randomly assign such patients to the improvisation class — to dance playfully without having to remember choreography — or to other interventions.

The test: If quality-of-life symptoms improve, will MRI scans show correlating strengthening of neural networks that govern gait or social engagement?

With senior centers increasingly touting arts programs, "having a deeper understanding of how these things are affecting our biology can help us understand how to leverage resources already in our community," noted Wake Forest lead researcher Christina Hugenschmidt.

Proof may be tough. An international music therapy study failed to significantly help children with autism, the *Journal of the American Medical Association* recently reported, contradicting earlier promising findings. But experts cited challenges with the study and called for additional research.

Unlike music therapy, which works one-on-one toward individual outcomes, the arts and humanities program at Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center lets musicians-in-residence play throughout the hospital. Palliative care nurses often seek

Vance, the cellist, for patients anxious or in pain. She may watch monitors, matching a tune's tempo to heart rate and then gradually slowing. Sometimes she plays for the dying, choosing a gently arrhythmic background and never a song that might be familiar.

Julia Langley, who directs Georgetown's program, wants research into the type and dose of music for different health situations: "If we can study the arts in the same way that science studies medication and other therapeutics, I think we will be doing so much good."◊

Gene therapy for rare form of blindness wins U.S. approval

By Matthew Perrone
AP Health Writer

(AP) — U.S. health officials have approved a breakthrough therapy that can improve the eyesight of patients with a rare form of inherited blindness.

Last week's approval of the

treatment from Spark Therapeutics is another major advance for the emerging field of genetic medicine. However, the drugmaker says it will not disclose the price until next year, delaying potential debate about a treatment that Wall Street analysts expect to cost

around \$1 million.

The Food and Drug Administration approved the drug, Luxturna (Lux-turn-a) for a rare vision-destroying mutation that affects up to 2,000 people in the U.S. Luxturna is the first gene therapy in the U.S. for an inherited disease.◊

HIV TREATMENT WORKS

"Hear this, HIV: I'm going to take care of me so I can take care of those I love."

Angie - Loganville, GA
Living with HIV since 1995.

I break into dance whenever the mood and music move me. I won't let my HIV rob me of anything in life. I know that staying in care and on treatment helps me to be the best mother, wife, and HIV prevention educator I can be. I tell other HIV-positive women: All the fear that you have can be overcome. Every day I wash down my pills with a prayer. I'll continue to do so until my dying day—and HIV will not be the cause of it.



Get in care. Stay in care. Live well.
cdc.gov/HIVTreatmentWorks

Omarosa's last days in White House

Continued from Page 1

story that I know the world will want to hear," she said, leaving an obvious cliffhanger.

Omarosa was reached to obtain responses on issues raised in this article, but she declined comment due to the fact that she is still a White House employee until Jan. 20. She was only allowed the interviews with ABC News.

Black Republicans say Omarosa blocked them from jobs.

Meanwhile, Black Republicans claim Omarosa blocked them from jobs in order to maintain her status as the "only African-American woman... senior staff and assistant to the president" as she described herself on ABC. Her actual White House title has been assistant to the president and director of communications in the White House Office of Public Liaison.

But her actual job description appears not to have been clearly defined. In interviews with the Trice Edney News Wire Black Republicans blame her for blocking Black job applicants from the Trump administration — including Republican stalwart Kay Coles James, who was appointed Dec. 19 as the first African American and first woman president of the conservative Heritage Foundation.

"I was blocked personally. Essentially, my file was pulled and I wasn't deemed pro-Trump enough," says Eugene Craig. "The official excuse was that I wasn't pro-Trump enough although I was the sitting chair of the Maryland Republican Party."

Sources said because of President Trump's need for loyalty, that attribute — loyalty — was among the top considerations for key White House positions. Craig admits that he was a "never Trumper all the way," but that was during the campaign. Craig says he noticed that when the time came for consideration for jobs and the broad banner of Republicanism, white never-Trumpers were given consideration where African Americans were not.

"The flood gates were opened, but Omarosa held all of us to a different standard. She had say over a lot of the Black resumés. I know for a fact from promises that she made us directly."

Craig says a January conference call with the Republican National Committee and Trump transition team was held "specifically for African-American activists and party loyalists." He said, "During the middle of the call, she jumped on and bogarted on. And she came in and she made us these promises that this would be the most diverse administration in history. And she'll help us with whatever we need and wherever we wanted to go into government and to shoot our resumés over to her and she gave us her official transition email. She said this administration has a goal of having 25 percent minority hiring. They wanted 25 percent of the work force to be Black and Hispanic... So she positioned herself as the end all be all for Black things; for Black people in the administration," Craig said.

Ayshia Connors, a former deputy director of African-American engagement at the Republican National Committee, now a senior advisor to Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.), agrees. She describes an initiative by The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies and Insight America, an organization headed by former Republican Congressman J. C. Watts:

"There were hundreds, probably thousands of resumés of qualified individuals in the Black community that were ready and prepared to go into any administration no matter who won the election. And when President Trump got elected, all of those names were submitted and Omarosa literally trashed those names. Nobody got a call back. Nobody was ever heard about again. People tried to go in. People were eager and willing to serve the President, willing to

serve our country. But Omarosa, she didn't want other Black Republicans there. She wanted to be the Big Shot. She wanted to be the only one. And so, everybody kind of just decided it wasn't worth our times to keep dealing with it. And so, by February, people had just moved on from Omarosa and dealing with the White House and decided to start working with Congress and dealing some other policy matters."

Connors added that Kay Coles James, former Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Resources under Virginia Republican Gov. George Allen and director for the United States Office of Personnel Management under President George W. Bush, received the same treatment.

"She was willing and prepared to go back into the government and to help the administration. But Omarosa was such a distraction and created so much drama and confusion that Ms. James just decided not to engage it anymore. So that's what ended up happening. That's why you only saw Omarosa as a senior Black Republican in the White House."

In a brief interview with James upon her appointment as president of the Heritage Foundation, James was clear about why she did not go to work in the Trump White House.

"When Donald Trump said that he wanted to improve the urban areas and that he wanted to make the lives of minorities in this country better, I said, 'Wow, if he wants to do that, I genuinely want to be a part of that' and I was excited and hopeful about the opportunity to come in," she said. "But that opportunity never really afforded itself. I am told that I was blocked... I don't have specifics about how that happened, but I was extremely disappointed that I didn't have the opportunity to serve there."

Connors said the clearest evidence that Omarosa was not going to work with other Black Republicans came in February when Omarosa was in charge of pulling together the Black History Month program for President Trump.

"During Black History Month, these credible Republicans such as Kay Coles James and J. C. Watts and Elroy Sailor, they tried to engage Omarosa." Instead, Omarosa put an event together that included her personal picks of African Americans, including Black Democrats, Connors said.

"She didn't invite any of the prominent Black Republicans. In fact, we had folks calling us from the White House calling and saying, 'Why aren't your names on the list for this event?' It was very evident from the beginning that she wasn't going to work with us and that she was just going to do her own thing."

Connors cited another event for Vice President Pence that was planned by Black Republicans to be held at West Point. "That was another example of Omarosa using her position in the White House to block that event as well. And that was actually the turning point for Black Republicans. We decided she was just too distracting, too disruptive and we decided to focus our efforts elsewhere."

On the record sources willing to speak in defense of Omarosa were difficult to find. But, high placed Republican sources say it is not possible that Omarosa could have made such powerful decisions without oversight in the White House — most likely the President himself. Other high Republican sources said James was offered positions, but Omarosa fought against any Black staff appointment that would be above her own.

Yet another rationale for why some Black Republicans seeking employment were rejected may have been because they had left the Republican National Committee Headquarters in protest against treatment by then RNC Chairman Reince Priebus nearing the end of the presidential campaign. Priebus then became President Trump's first chief of staff and was likely adverse to hiring the same staffers who had

left the RNC, one source said.

Christopher Metzler, an active member of the Black GOP Coalition, who has long worked Republican policy and strategy, had one answer when asked why there were no longtime Black Republicans hired as White House staff. "It's very simple. Omarosa," he said.

"Somebody like Kay [Coles James] who could serve as a whisperer in the President's ear like a Condoleezza Rice; like a Valerie Jarrett, was never given that opportunity. There was a lot of back and forth pertaining to that. And Kay said, 'Well, it is not going to serve the President well for me to try to cut through this thicket.' And as a result of that, she did not push it any further."

Metzler concluded, "All of these things were blocked by Omarosa. At the end of the day, Omarosa is first and foremost a Democrat. She is not a conservative. She is not a Republican. She never has been. She is simply an opportunist. And that's where we ended up."

Black Republicans Do Not Necessarily Mean Black Representation; nor Justice

Dr. Ron Daniels, president of the Institute of the Black World 21st Century (IBW) and a longtime associate of Omarosa's Youngstown, Ohio family, has had a unique view of Omarosa in the White House. He worked directly with her when she was a Democrat. He even named her a celebrity ambassador for IBW's Haiti Support Project after she traveled with a group of journalists to document the level of disaster following the 2010 earthquake. His view in the midst of her departure from the White House is two-fold.

First, as it pertains to those Black Republicans who felt that they earned a position due to their loyalty to Black Republicans, "diversity does not equal representation of the Black community," he said. "That's one of the fallacies... Trump's agenda is a negative agenda. Fact number one is the way he dogged President Obama, the way he talked badly about Mexicans, etc. Why would anybody want to associate with that administration in the first place?"

Citing pioneering Black Republicans such as Nixon's Art Fletcher, known as "the father of affirmative action," Daniels says modern day Black Republicans can hardly hold a candle to some of the Black Republicans who — instead of following the party line — stood for justice when it was needed most. "The brand of Republicanism that we have now is extremely out of step with the vast majority of Black people and the mainstream of Black aspirations and Black policy and the concepts of Black policy prescriptions."

Because of his working with Omarosa and his affinity for projects that she led for Haiti and for children in the U. S., Daniels now sees what he believes to have been her true agenda based on her most recent situation.

"I think Omarosa, for whatever reason, is somebody who had been on the liberal side. She had supported Hillary Clinton...She had been in Democratic politics and all that. I think Omarosa saw an opportunity to advance her own interests and that is why she was blocking everybody else in terms of the Republicans who wanted to get close. She wanted to be the Queen bee," Daniels said. "She wanted to be able to fire folks, metaphorically speaking, or block people. That's not a good thing. But the idea that if she had opened the flood gates of somehow having more Ben Carsons or more Clarence Thomases or people like that, [that would not have been a good thing either]. But I don't think Omarosa was there advocating. It was really stunning to see her make that transformation."

Black Republicans are not the only ones who say they were rejected by Omarosa

American Urban Radio Network

reporter April Ryan, a White House correspondent who has covered four presidents, confirmed that now former Trump press secretary, Sean Spicer, told her that Omarosa had asked him to "stop calling on me" during press briefings. Had he adhered to that request, it could have blocked important information and coverage on behalf of millions of African-American listeners to AURN radio stations across the nation. Ryan says Omarosa also tried to get her fired by calling her boss at AURN.

Many of Omarosa's previous friends and associates, who rejected Trumpism, say they were also rejected. Daniels says he was one of them.

"Omarosa is my home girl. My roots are in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and most of my adult life was spent in Youngstown, Ohio," her hometown, he recalls. "I had my own television show in Youngstown, Ohio for 18 years. She said she grew up watching me and was inspired by that. I saw the good work she was doing with children in Compton and that she had a progressive vision. So we forged a friendship," he said. "All of that was positive."

Then, all of a sudden Trump came along and I saw her in and around Trump and I became very nervous. She's my homegirl. I cared about her. So at one point, I

just sort of, as an elder, a friend, I just sort of called her to say, 'Be careful. You seem to be getting very close to Donald Trump and I don't think...' And she just sort of went off on me, kind of like, 'You don't need to be telling me, nobody needs to be telling me what's going on. I know what I'm doing. And somebody needs to be able to talk to him. And that was it. I just said bye because I did not want to see her become what she has now become in the Black community — a pariah in the Black community.'

There are many such stories told by former friends. But the truth about Omarosa's tenure and final days at the White House is yet to be made clear.

NNPA Interviewed Omarosa last fall, but is still awaiting Trump interview that she promised.

Ben Chavis, president/CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, said he interviewed Omarosa last fall in her White House office, located in the Old Executive Office Building. At that time, shortly after the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Weekend, there was no indication that she would be leaving, Chavis said.

However, he speculated that, based on the content of the interview — which he said has not been published — she may have been pressing for diversity too much.

"She indicated broadly her determination to press diversity and inclusivity issues. She's always maintained that posture," Chavis said. "I think that's probably one of the things that probably got her in trouble in the White House is that she probably was pressing for more diversity," Chavis said.

In an off-the-record meeting with several hundred Black leaders, including Chavis, during the Trump transition last January, Omarosa said NNPA would get the first interview with President Trump, a promise she later denied despite multiple sources that confirmed the conversation. In the recent interview, she indicated that the Trump/NNPA interview was still possible, Chavis said. He said NNPA will continue to request the interview with Trump.

What happened in the final days of Omarosa's tenure and the detailed reasons for her departure from the Trump administration are far from clear.

"There are two sides of the story — Omarosa's story and those being told by other sources are two completely different stories," said Ayshia Connors. "But based on her patterns of erratic behavior and disruptive behavior, it wouldn't surprise me at all if she was confrontational with General Kelly and things were played out the way they were reported to have played out — outside of her story."◊

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MISCELLANEOUS Request For Information On Absentee Persons Anyone knowing the whereabouts of **David J. Bindewald, Jr.** and/or **Amy F. Bindewald**, please contact attorney Blake Crohan, with Kean Miller LLP, in New Orleans, Louisiana, at (504) 620-3188.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of **Ashley Marie Girard** contact Gerald J. Calogero, Atty., at (504) 581.1416.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of a certain Promis-sory Note payable to **DECISION ONE MORTGAGE COMPANY, LLC**, executed by Dwayne

Sanders and dated December 23, 2004, in the principal sum of \$180,000.00, bearing interest at the rate of 4.89% from dated until paid, and providing reasonable attorney fees, and all charges associated with the collection of same. Please contact Herschel C. Adcock, Jr., Attorney at Law, at P.O. Box 87379, Baton Rouge, LA 70879-8379, (225) 756-0373.

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BUSINESSSCOPE

THE LOUISIANA WEEKLY - YOUR MULTICULTURAL MEDIUM

Study: Blacks work jobs at high risk of automation

By Frederick H. Lowe
Contributing Writer

(Special from NorthStarNews Today) — Black men and women consistently suffer the highest unemployment rates compared to other racial and ethnic groups, and it's about to get worse.

Joblessness among Blacks is expected go even higher because 30 jobs we work in are at high risk of automation, according to a study by the Joint Center for

Political and Economic Studies, a Washington D. C.-based think tank for Black elected officials.

"Twenty-seven percent of African-American workers are concentrated in 30 occupations at high risk of automation. By comparison, these 30 occupations account for 24 percent of all white workers and 20 percent of all Asian-American workers," according to the report "Race and Jobs at High Risk of Automation." African Americans are one-

and-a-half times more likely to be cashiers, cooks, combined food preparation and serving workers, fast food workers, production workers, laborers, freight/stock material movers, security guards, bus drivers, taxi drivers and chauffeurs.

For example, there 3.3 million cashiers and 580,000 are Blacks or 3.22 percent of the African-American workforce compared to 1.92 percent of the white workforce and 2.54 percent of

the Asian workforce.

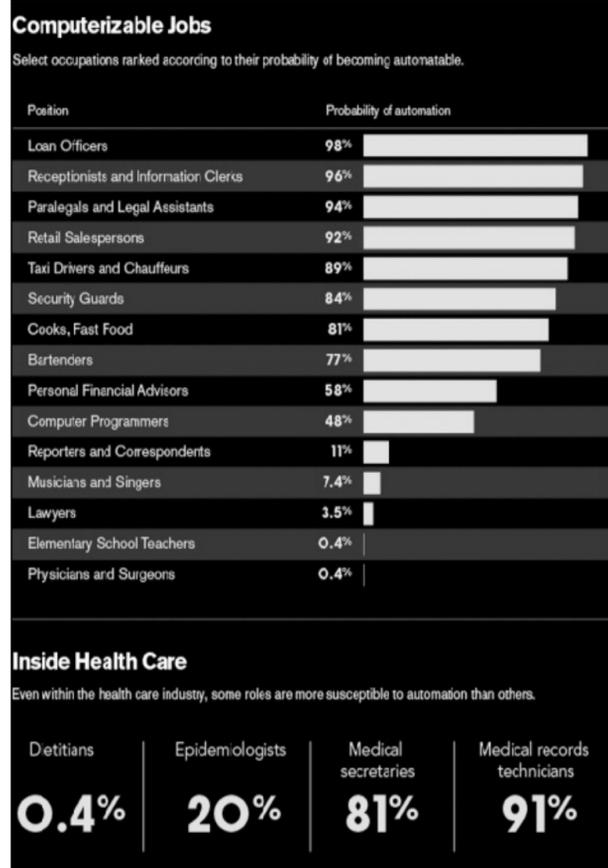
There are 500,000 taxi drivers and chauffeurs and 143,000 are African-American or 80 percent of the Black workforce compared to 21 percent of the white workforce and 87 percent of the Asian workforce.

"While automation will create new types of jobs, the African-American community faces a unique combination of well-documented challenges that make it particularly vulnerable in labor-market transitions," the report said. "These challenges include: an average household net worth that is one tenth of whites, making periods without income particularly difficult."

The study also noted that automation could increase the African-American unemployment rate from 7.5 percent to more than 20 percent.

On the other hand, economic disruption, if properly harnessed, can create new opportunities that address long-standing social inequities, the study reported.

The U.S. Bureau for Labor Statistics reported that November's unemployment rate for black men and women was 7.3 percent compared to whites at 3.6 percent, Hispanics at 4.7 percent and Asians at 3.0 percent.



Oil and gas plumes found at site of 13-year-old leak in Gulf

By Michael Kunzelman
AP Writer

(AP) — Federal regulators have found fresh evidence of an "ongoing oil release" at the site of a 13-year-old oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico, where chronic sheens often stretch for miles (kilometers) off Louisiana's coast, according to government lawyers.

In a court filing Friday, Justice Department attorneys said recent scientific surveys revealed two plumes of oil and gas flowing from where an underwater mudslide during Hurricane Ivan in 2004 toppled an offshore platform and buried the cluster of wells owned by Taylor Energy Corp.

The New Orleans-based company has repeatedly insisted there is no evidence that oil is seeping from any of its unplugged wells on the seafloor. The government's court filing doesn't address whether any of Taylor's wells could be the source of the plumes.

"There is no evidence of an actively leaking well, and all evidence continues to support the conclusion of remnant oil that has long been trapped in sediment on the sea floor," Taylor Energy spokesman Todd Ragusa said in a statement Monday.

But the presence of the plumes could complicate the company's efforts to negotiate a settlement that could allow it to recover millions of dollars it set aside for work to end the leak.

Taylor Energy sued the federal government nearly two years ago, seeking to recover up to \$432 million from a trust it formed nearly a decade ago. The lawsuit has remained on hold for months amid settlement talks between the government and company.

Those negotiations were ongoing when the Interior Department's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement conducted an underwater survey of the leak site in September, using a remotely operated vehicle. Earlier this year, scientists for the government and the company also performed a series of studies at the leak site.

The survey and studies showed the two "active plumes" emanating from a depression adjacent to and partly underneath the wreckage of Taylor Energy's toppled platform, Justice Department lawyers said in Friday's filing. They didn't disclose any other details of their findings.

In its January 2016 lawsuit, the company said it had eliminated two oil plumes that were present at the site in Ivan's aftermath. Sonar surveys "confirmed an absence of any plumes (well leaks) remaining in existence," the company said in a November 2016 court filing.

Taylor Energy has argued nothing can be done to completely eliminate the persistent slicks on the surface. The company has claimed the sheens are coming from residual oil oozing from contaminated sediment.

Ragusa, Taylor Energy's spokesman, said the recent detection of plumes "is not new information" and "merely refers to a well-known water column anomaly largely consisting of naturally occurring biogenic gas, which is prevalent in the Mississippi River Delta area."

But an expert said the plumes could be the source of the oil on the water's surface.

"If these plumes are associated with the oil slicks on the surface, then it's not just incidental gas common everywhere in the Mississippi River Delta," said

Ian MacDonald, a Florida State University oceanography professor. MacDonald, who has flown over the leak site roughly 20 times in the past five years, was an expert witness for environmental groups that sued Taylor Energy in 2012.

Representatives of Taylor Energy and the agencies overseeing the company's response work are scheduled to meet Tuesday in New Orleans. The government "believes that this meeting will likely have important ramifications with respect to the response to the ongoing oil release from the Taylor site," Justice Department lawyers wrote.

Regulators have warned that the leak could last a century or more if left unchecked.

A 2015 investigation by *The Associated Press* revealed evidence that the leak is worse than the company, or government, had publicly reported.

Presented with AP's findings that year, the Coast Guard provided a new leak estimate that was about 20 times larger than one cited by the company in a 2014 court filing.

Using satellite images and Coast Guard pollution reports, West Virginia-based watchdog group SkyTruth estimated in 2015 that between 300,000 and 1.4 million gallons (1 to 5 million liters) of oil had spilled from the site since 2004. The leak site is about 10 miles (16 kilometers) off Louisiana's coast.

The mudslide during Ivan buried Taylor Energy's wells under treacherous mounds of sediment. The company plugged nine wells at the site, but has cited experts as concluding it would be impossible to plug the other 16 wells and remove the contaminated soil without risking environmental damage.

Company co-owner pleads guilty in industrial site explosion

(AP) — One of the owners of a company that abandoned thousands of tons of potentially explosive artillery propellant in Louisiana has admitted lying in order to be awarded federal contracts to "demilitarize" the smokeless powder, known as M6.

Explo Systems co-owner David Alan Smith, 62, of Winchester, Kentucky, filed a plea bargain earlier this month in federal court pleading guilty to one count each of conspiracy and making false statements. Smith also admitted lying about selling demilitarized powder to another company. As part of the conspiracy plea, he admitted preventing authorities from properly monitoring Explo's operations at Camp Minden, a 15,000-acre (6,100-hectare) industrial site owned by the Louisiana National Guard in north Louisiana.

The maximum penalty for each count would be five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Under the plea agreement, he could also be required to compensate the federal government for \$35.4 million, including \$8.7 million in contract losses plus cleanup costs after an

October 2012 explosion at Camp Minden, Acting U.S. Attorney Alexander Van Hook said in an emailed statement.

The judge could order other defendants to pay all or part of the restitution.

Federal prosecutors agreed to drop most charges against Smith: 21 counts of making false statements and six of wire fraud.

The magistrate before whom he appeared last week filed papers Monday recommending that U.S. District Judge Elizabeth E. Foote approve the agreement.

A second owner of the company and four company executives are scheduled for trial April 26 on similar federal charges. They are: co-owner David Perry Fincher, 70, of Burns, Tennessee; William Terry Wright, 64, of Bossier City, the operations manager at Camp Minden; Kenneth Lampkin, 65, and Lionel Koons, 58, both of Haughton; and Charles Callihan, 68, of Shreveport.

Callihan faces only one count each of conspiracy and false statements; the others were indicted on at least as many charges as Smith.

Fincher, Smith, and Wright also face state charges. Fincher and Smith have pleaded not guilty to 10 state counts of unlawful storage and reckless use of explosives. Prosecutors have been waiting until federal charges are resolved to deal with those.

Explo Systems left 7,800 tons (7,100 metric tons) of M6 and 160 tons (145 metric tons) of clean-burning igniter at Camp Minden when the company went bankrupt in 2013.

Louisiana State Police had begun investigating the company in 2012, after the explosion in one of Explo's leased bunkers and a nearby trailer shattered windows four miles (6 kilometers) away in Minden and created a 7,000-foot (2,130-meter) mushroom cloud and derailed 11 rail cars near the bunker.

The bunker had held about 62 tons (56 metric tons) of smokeless powder and the trailer had held about 12 tons (11 metric tons) of demilitarized M6, according to a news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Much of the remaining material was in bags out in the open, state police said.

\$2B in wages stolen from workers by employers

By Frederick H. Lowe
Contributing Writer

(Special from NorthStarNews Today) — Federal and state agencies have recovered \$2 billion stolen from workers by employers in 2015 and 2016 through wage theft, and a study by the Economic Policy Institute argues the amount is just a "drop in the bucket" of what has actually been stolen.

The U.S. Department of Labor recovered \$246.8 million in 2015 and \$266.6 million in 2016 in stolen wages, the EPI, a Washington D.C.-based think tank reported. State departments of labor and attorney generals in 39 states recovered \$170.0 million in 2015 and \$147.5 million in 2016.

Class-action settlements recovered \$436.6 million in 2015 and \$695.5 million in 2016.

Wages are stolen when employers refuse to pay promised salaries or pay employees for some—not all—of the hours worked and refuse to pay overtime although employees work more than 40 hours a week.

Other instances of wage theft include:

- Minimum-wage violations: paying workers less than the legal minimum wage;
- Off-the-clock violations: asking employees to work off the clock before or after their shift begins or ends
- Meal break violations: denying workers their legal meal breaks
- Illegal deductions: taking illegal deductions from wages
- Tipped minimum wages violations: confiscating tips from workers or failing to pay tipped workers the difference between

their tips and legal minimum wage

- Employee misclassification violations: Misclassifying employees as independent contractors to pay wages lower than the legal minimum to avoid paying overtime

Wage theft disproportionately affects workers from low-income households, who are already struggling to make ends meet. The loss of wages can be devastating. And these recovery numbers likely under represent dramatically the pervasiveness of wage theft. It has been estimated that low-wage workers lose more than \$50 billion annually to wage theft, EPI reported.

A few things that can be done to stop wage theft: Protecting workers' rights to class action, protecting workers from retaliation and raising the cost to employers for violating the law.

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BEARING MUNICIPAL NO. 904 N. RENDON STREET AND 3137-39 DUMAINE STREET, CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, IN THE CASE ENTITLED: DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR LONG BEACH MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2005-WL1 VS JESSE LEE

Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans No. 2014-12347 By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE to me directed by the Honorable The Civil District Court of Orleans, in the above entitled cause, I will proceed to sell by public auction, on the ground floor of the Civil District Court Building, 421 Loyola Avenue, in the First District of the City on January 25, 2018, at 12:00 o'clock noon, the following described property to wit:

LOT X, SQUARE 432, SECOND MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, MUNICIPAL NO. 904 N. RENDON STREET AND 3137-39 DUMAINE STREET ACQUIRED MIN 810865 WRIT AMOUNT: \$172,244.60

Seized in the above suit, TERMS CASH. The purchaser at the moment of adjudication to make a deposit of ten percent of the purchase price, and the balance within thirty days thereafter. (NOTE: The payment must be Cash, Cashier's Check, Certified Check or Money Order. No personal checks.)

MARLIN N. GUSMAN Sheriff Parish of Orleans ATTY: LOUIS ARCENEAUX (504) 522-8256 LM 1 LA. WEEKLY 12/25/2017, 1/22/2018

SALE BY ORLEANS SHERIFF JUDICIAL ADVERTISEMENT THAT PORTION OF GROUND

BEARING MUNICIPAL NO. 5610 MAPLE RIDGE DRIVE, CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, IN THE CASE ENTITLED: STANDARD MORTGAGE CORPORATION VS TANJANIKA LASHE JOHNSON

Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans No. 2017-7509 By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE to me directed by the Honorable The Civil District Court of Orleans, in the above entitled cause, I will proceed to sell by public auction, on the ground floor of the Civil District Court Building, 421 Loyola Avenue, in the First District of the City on January 25, 2018, at 12:00 o'clock noon, the following described property to wit:

LOT 25, SQUARE 5, THIRD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, MAPLE RIDGE SUBDIVISION MUNICIPAL NO. 5610 MAPLE RIDGE DRIVE ACQUIRED MIN 1001158 WRIT AMOUNT: \$79,926.89

Seized in the above suit, TERMS CASH. The purchaser at the moment of adjudication to make a

deposit of ten percent of the purchase price, and the balance within thirty days thereafter. (NOTE: The payment must be Cash, Cashier's Check, Certified Check or Money Order. No personal checks.)

MARLIN N. GUSMAN Sheriff Parish of Orleans ATTY: STACY WHEAT (504) 522-8256 LM 7 LA. WEEKLY 12/25/2017, 1/22/2018

SALE BY ORLEANS SHERIFF JUDICIAL ADVERTISEMENT THAT PORTION OF GROUND

BEARING MUNICIPAL NO. 2444-46 MITHRA STREET A/K/A 5335-37 MUSIC STREET, NEW ORLEANS, LA, IN THE MATTER ENTITLED: "DAVID G. EBERT VS HILAL F. CHOGHARI"

Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans No. 2013-7174 By virtue of a WRIT OF FIERI FACIAS to me directed by the Honorable The Civil District Court of Orleans, in the above entitled cause, I will proceed to sell by public auction, on the ground floor of the Civil District Court Building, 421 Loyola Avenue, in the First District of the City on January 25, 2018, at 12:00 o'clock noon, the following described property to wit:

LOT D, SQUARE 4061 THIRD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MUNICIPAL NO. 2444-46 MITHRA STREET A/K/A 5335-37 MUSIC STREET ACQUIRED MIN 1136777 WRIT AMOUNT: \$41,600.00

Seized in the above suit, TERMS CASH. The purchaser at the moment of adjudication to make a deposit of ten percent of the purchase price, and the balance within thirty days thereafter. (NOTE: The payment must be Cash, Cashier's Check, Certified Check or Money Order. No personal checks.)

MARLIN N. GUSMAN Sheriff Parish of Orleans ATTY: JULIEN JURGENS (504) 722-7716 JD 8 LA. WEEKLY 12/25/2017, 1/22/2018

SALE BY ORLEANS SHERIFF JUDICIAL ADVERTISEMENT THAT PORTION OF GROUND

BEARING MUNICIPAL NO. 2432 SAINT ANDREW STREET, NEW ORLEANS, LA, IN THE MATTER ENTITLED: "JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION VS HAZEL JEAN LUTER FELTUS WIFE OF/AND JAMES FELTUS, JR."

Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans No. 2017-7959 By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE to me directed by the Honorable The Civil District Court of Orleans, in the above entitled cause, I will proceed to sell by public auction, on the ground floor of the Civil District Court Building, 421 Loyola Avenue, in the First District of the City on January 25, 2018, at 12:00 o'clock noon, the following described property to wit: LOT A-2, SQUARE 348 FOURTH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MUNICIPAL NO. 2432 SAINT ANDREW STREET ACQUIRED MIN 902876 WRIT AMOUNT: \$91,136.90

Seized in the above suit, TERMS CASH. The purchaser at the moment of adjudication to make a deposit of ten percent of the purchase price, and the balance within thirty days thereafter. (NOTE: The payment must be Cash, Cashier's Check, Certified Check or Money Order. No personal checks.)

MARLIN N. GUSMAN Sheriff Parish of Orleans ATTY: FRED DAIGLE (504) 522-8256 JD 9 LA. WEEKLY 12/25/2017, 1/22/2018

SALE BY ORLEANS SHERIFF JUDICIAL ADVERTISEMENT THAT PORTION OF GROUND

BEARING MUNICIPAL NO. 4724 ST PETER ST, THIS CITY, IN THE MATTER ENTITLED STANDARD MORTGAGE CORPORATION VS ROBERT J. ROTH, JR.

Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans No. 2017-3996 By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE to me directed by the Honorable The Civil District Court of Orleans, in the above entitled cause, I will proceed to sell by public auction, on the ground floor of the Civil District Court Building, 421 Loyola Avenue, in the First District of the City on January 25, 2018, at 12:00 o'clock noon, the following described property to wit:

LOT "D" SQUARE NO. 607 SECOND MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MUNICIPAL NO. 4724 ST PETER ST ACQ MIN:1160482 WRIT AMOUNT: \$54,634.52

Seized in the above suit, TERMS CASH. The purchaser at the moment of adjudication to make a deposit of ten percent of the purchase price, and the balance within thirty days thereafter. (NOTE: The payment must be Cash, Cashier's Check, Certified Check or Money Order. No personal checks.)

MARLIN N. GUSMAN Sheriff Parish of Orleans ATTY: LOUIS ARCENEAUX (504) 522-8256 TW 11 LA. WEEKLY 12/25/2017, 1/22/2018

SALE BY ORLEANS SHERIFF JUDICIAL ADVERTISEMENT THAT PORTION OF GROUND

BEARING MUNICIPAL NO. 5879 MARSHALL FOCH STREET, NEW ORLEANS, LA, IN THE MATTER ENTITLED: "NATIONAL CITY BANK VS MELISSA ORTIZ, WIFE OF/AND KEITH CHARLES LEE"

Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans No. 2009-2531 By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE to me directed by the Honorable The Civil District Court of Orleans, in the above entitled cause, I will proceed to sell by public auction, on the ground floor of the Civil District Court Building, 421 Loyola Avenue, in the First District of the City on January 25,

2018, at 12:00 o'clock noon, the following described property to wit: LOTS 1 & 2, SQUARE 379

SECOND MUNICIPAL DISTRICT LAKEVIEW MUNICIPAL NO. 5879 MARSHALL FOCH STREET ACQUIRED MIN 852163 WRIT AMOUNT: \$209,953.32

Seized in the above suit, TERMS CASH. The purchaser at the moment of adjudication to make a deposit of ten percent of the purchase price, and the balance within thirty days thereafter. (NOTE: The payment must be Cash, Cashier's Check, Certified Check or Money Order. No personal checks.)

MARLIN N. GUSMAN Sheriff Parish of Orleans ATTY: KELLY MASSEY (318) 388-1440 JD 13 LA. WEEKLY 12/25/2017, 1/22/2018

SALE BY ORLEANS SHERIFF JUDICIAL ADVERTISEMENT THAT CERTAIN CONDOMINIUM UNIT C OF THE 811 MARIGNY CONDOMINIUMS

BEARING MUNICIPAL NO. 811 MARIGNY STREET, UNIT C, CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, IN THE CASE ENTITLED: FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION VS MARGARITA BERGEN

Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans No. 2011-9299 By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE to me directed by the Honorable The Civil District Court of Orleans, in the above entitled cause, I will proceed to sell by public auction, on the ground floor of the Civil District Court Building, 421 Loyola Avenue, in the First District of the City on January 25, 2018, at 12:00 o'clock noon, the following described property to wit:

A CONDO: LOT 3, SQUARE 259, THIRD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, 811 MARIGNY CONDOMINIUMS MUNICIPAL NO. 811 MARIGNY STREET, UNIT C ACQUIRED MIN 697446 WRIT AMOUNT: \$111,805.54

Seized in the above suit, TERMS CASH. The purchaser at the moment of adjudication to make a deposit of ten percent of the purchase price, and the balance within thirty days thereafter. (NOTE: The payment must be Cash, Cashier's Check, Certified Check or Money Order. No personal checks.)

MARLIN N. GUSMAN Sheriff Parish of Orleans ATTY: ANNE RAYMOND (504) 581-9444 LM 14 LA. WEEKLY 12/25/2017, 1/22/2018

SALE BY ORLEANS SHERIFF JUDICIAL ADVERTISEMENT THAT PORTION OF GROUND

BEARING MUNICIPAL NO. 9017-19 PEACH STREET, NEW ORLEANS, LA, IN THE MATTER ENTITLED: "NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC VS WEI WANG"

Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans No. 2017-4178

By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE to me directed by the Honorable The Civil District Court of Orleans, in the above entitled cause, I will proceed to sell by public auction, on the ground floor of the Civil District Court Building, 421 Loyola Avenue, in the First District of the City on January 25, 2018, at 12:00 o'clock noon, the following described property to wit:

LOT 12, SQUARE 635 SEVENTH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MUNICIPAL NO. 9017-19 PEACH STREET ACQUIRED MIN 959691 WRIT AMOUNT: \$121,330.70

Seized in the above suit, TERMS CASH. The purchaser at the moment of adjudication to make a deposit of ten percent of the purchase price, and the balance within thirty days thereafter. (NOTE: The payment must be Cash, Cashier's Check, Certified Check or Money Order. No personal checks.)

MARLIN N. GUSMAN Sheriff Parish of Orleans ATTY: KELLY MASSEY (318) 388-1440 JD 16 LA. WEEKLY 12/25/2017, 1/22/2018

SALE BY ORLEANS SHERIFF JUDICIAL ADVERTISEMENT THAT PORTION OF GROUND

BEARING MUNICIPAL NO. 417-19 SOUTH BROAD STREET, NEW ORLEANS, LA, IN THE MATTER ENTITLED: "CITY OF NEW ORLEANS VS JOHN PAUL SAPIR, LLC"

Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans No. 2017-1672 By virtue of a WRIT OF FIERI FACIAS to me directed by the Honorable The Civil District Court of Orleans, in the above entitled cause, I will proceed to sell by public auction, on the ground floor of the Civil District Court Building, 421 Loyola Avenue, in the First District of the City on January 25, 2018, at 12:00 o'clock noon, the following described property to wit:

LOT 5, SQUARE 604 FIRST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MUNICIPAL NO. 417-19 SOUTH BROAD STREET ACQUIRED MIN 1222349 WRIT AMOUNT: \$3,900.88

Seized in the above suit, TERMS CASH. The purchaser at the moment of adjudication to make a deposit of ten percent of the purchase price, and the balance within thirty days thereafter. (NOTE: The payment must be Cash, Cashier's Check, Certified Check or Money Order. No personal checks.)

MARLIN N. GUSMAN Sheriff Parish of Orleans ATTY: JOHN HAGAN (504) 658-4346 JD 20 LA. WEEKLY 12/25/2017, 1/22/2018

SALE BY ORLEANS SHERIFF JUDICIAL ADVERTISEMENT THAT PORTION OF GROUND

BEARING MUNICIPAL NO. 7506 BRIARWOOD DRIVE, CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, IN THE CASE ENTITLED: U.S. BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION VS

TODD K. BAZZLE Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans No. 2010-5225

By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE to me directed by the Honorable The Civil District Court of Orleans, in the above entitled cause, I will proceed to sell by public auction, on the ground floor of the Civil District Court Building, 421 Loyola Avenue, in the First District of the City on January 25, 2018, at 12:00 o'clock noon, the following described property to wit:

LOT 23, SQUARE "C", THIRD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, BRIARWOOD SUBDIVISION, PHASE I, SECTION II, MUNICIPAL NO. 7506 BRIARWOOD DRIVE ACQUIRED MIN 764798 WRIT AMOUNT: \$104,428.73

Seized in the above suit, TERMS CASH. The purchaser at the moment of adjudication to make a deposit of ten percent of the purchase price, and the balance within thirty days thereafter. (NOTE: The payment must be Cash, Cashier's Check, Certified Check or Money Order. No personal checks.)

MARLIN N. GUSMAN Sheriff Parish of Orleans ATTY: RACHEL WILLIAMS (318) 388-1440 LM 21 LA. WEEKLY 12/25/2017, 1/22/2018

SALE BY ORLEANS SHERIFF JUDICIAL ADVERTISEMENT THAT PORTION OF GROUND

BEARING MUNICIPAL NO. 3526 TIMBER BLUFF LANE, NEW ORLEANS, LA, IN THE MATTER ENTITLED: "LASALLE BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS OF THE MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES 1997-R3 VS SHERLYN HILL VIGNE (A/K/A SHERLYN H. VIGNE, SHERLYN HILL, SHERLYN VIGNE) AND SHARON WISE SAM (A/K/A SHARON WISE, SHARON W. SAM, SHARON SAM) AND PETER J. SAM, JR. (A/K/A PETER SAM, JR., PETER J. SAM, PETER SAM)"

Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans No. 2010-4728

By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE to me directed by the Honorable The Civil District Court of Orleans, in the above entitled cause, I will proceed to sell by public auction, on the ground floor of the Civil District Court Building, 421 Loyola Avenue, in the First District of the City on January 25, 2018, at 12:00 o'clock noon, the following described property to wit:

LOT 6, SQUARE 7 FIFTH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT TALL TIMBERS EXTENSION NO. 2 MUNICIPAL NO. 3526 TIMBER BLUFF LANE RECORDED IN MOB 2552 FOLIO 508 WRIT AMOUNT: \$42,459.53

Seized in the above suit, TERMS CASH. The purchaser at the moment of adjudication to make a deposit of ten percent of the purchase price, and the balance within thirty days thereafter. (NOTE: The payment must be Cash, Cashier's Check, Certified Check or Money Order. No personal checks.)

The payment must be Cash, Cashier's Check, Certified Check or Money Order. No personal checks.)

MARLIN N. GUSMAN Sheriff Parish of Orleans ATTY: COREY GIROIR (225) 756-0373 JD 22 LA. WEEKLY 12/25/2017, 1/22/2018

SALE BY ORLEANS SHERIFF JUDICIAL ADVERTISEMENT THAT PORTION OF GROUND

BEARING MUNICIPAL NO. 66 YOSEMITE DRIVE, CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, IN THE CASE ENTITLED: U.S. BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE HOLDERS OF THE SPECIALTY UNDERWRITING AND RESIDENTIAL FINANCE TRUST, MMORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-BC4 VS KYSHUN A. WEBSTER, SR., AKA KYSHUN WEBSTER, SR. AND TARRALYN JOHNSON WEBSTER, A/K/A TARRALYN J. WEBSTER

Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans No. 2012-10363 By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE to me directed by the Honorable The Civil District Court of Orleans, in the above entitled cause, I will proceed to sell by public auction, on the ground floor of the Civil District Court Building, 421 Loyola Avenue, in the First District of the City on January 25, 2018, at 12:00 o'clock noon, the following described property to wit:

LOT 300-B, SQUARE G, FIFTH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MUNICIPAL NO. 66 YOSEMITE DRIVE ACQUIRED MIN 855291 WRIT AMOUNT: \$335,780.86

Seized in the above suit, TERMS CASH. The purchaser at the moment of adjudication to make a deposit of ten percent of the purchase price, and the balance within thirty days thereafter. (NOTE: The payment must be Cash, Cashier's Check, Certified Check or Money Order. No personal checks.)

MARLIN N. GUSMAN Sheriff Parish of Orleans ATTY: COREY GIROIR (225) 756-0373 LM 23 LA. WEEKLY 12/25/2017, 1/22/2018

SALE BY ORLEANS SHERIFF JUDICIAL ADVERTISEMENT THAT PORTION OF GROUND

BEARING MUNICIPAL NO. 36 SEAWARD COURT, CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, IN THE CASE ENTITLED: BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. VS MARIA LOUISE LAFLEUR AKA MARIA L. LAFLEUR AKA MARIA LAFLEUR

Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans No. 2013-4193 By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE to me directed by the Honorable The Civil District Court of Orleans, in the above entitled cause, I will proceed to sell by public auction, on the ground floor of the Civil District Court Building, 421 Loyola Avenue, in the First District of the

City on January 25, 2018, at 12:00 o'clock noon, the following described property to wit:

LOT 19, SQUARE C, FIFTH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MUNICIPAL NO. 36 SEAWARD COURT ACQUIRED MIN 1001009 WRIT AMOUNT: \$262,577.83

Seized in the above suit, TERMS CASH. The purchaser at the moment of adjudication to make a deposit of ten percent of the purchase price, and the balance within thirty days thereafter. (NOTE: The payment must be Cash, Cashier's Check, Certified Check or Money Order. No personal checks.)

MARLIN N. GUSMAN Sheriff Parish of Orleans ATTY: ETHAN HUNT (318) 388-1440 LM 25 LA. WEEKLY 12/25/2017, 1/22/2018

SALE BY ORLEANS SHERIFF JUDICIAL ADVERTISEMENT THAT PORTION OF GROUND

BEARING MUNICIPAL NO. 826-28 N. ROCHEBLAVE STREET, NEW ORLEANS, LA, IN THE MATTER ENTITLED: "SPECIALIZED LOAN SERVICING LLC VS THE ROCH GROUP, LLC AND LAUREN K. GIOVINGO AKA LAUREN GIOVINGO"

Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans No. 2017-727

By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE to me directed by the Honorable The Civil District Court of Orleans, in the above entitled cause, I will proceed to sell by public auction, on the ground floor of the Civil District Court Building, 421 Loyola Avenue, in the First District of the City on January 25, 2018, at 12:00 o'clock noon, the following described property to wit:

LOT 5, SQUARE 312 SECOND MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MUNICIPAL NO. 826-28 N. ROCHEBLAVE STREET ACQUIRED MIN 928171 WRIT AMOUNT: \$144,585.34

Seized in the above suit, TERMS CASH. The purchaser at the moment of adjudication to make a deposit of ten percent of the purchase price, and the balance within thirty days thereafter. (NOTE: The payment must be Cash, Cashier's Check, Certified Check or Money Order. No personal checks.)

MARLIN N. GUSMAN Sheriff Parish of Orleans ATTY: COREY GIROIR (225) 756-0373 JD 26 LA. WEEKLY 12/25/2017, 1/22/2018

SALE BY ORLEANS SHERIFF JUDICIAL ADVERTISEMENT THAT PORTION OF GROUND

BEARING MUNICIPAL NO. 7616 AVON PARK BLVD, THIS CITY, IN THE MATTER ENTITLED: DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR AMERIQUEST MORTGAGE SECURITIES INC., ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CER-

Continued on next page

Lessons from the African-American vote in Alabama

Continued from Page 5

requirements, to deter us from going to the polls.

According to Nonprofit VOTE, "In all but two states, voting age citizens convicted of a felony are barred from voting for some period of time." In Washington, D.C., Hawaii,

Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Utah, the voting rights of returning citizens are restored automatically once they're released. In Florida, Iowa, Kentucky and Virginia, ex-offenders are forced to petition the government to have their vot-

ing rights restored.

African Americans are disproportionately affected by voter-suppression tactics and laws that deny ex-felons the right to vote; that's why we should be focused on "voter registration" and not candidate endorsements at this stage of the game. We cannot allow apathy and indifference to take the place of the hard-won

battle for voter participation on the part of African Americans. Just as we rallied and voted for President Barack Obama, we must rally and vote against the policies and political candidates promoted by the Trump Administration. We have to do whatever it takes to defeat those who would continue to support a system of economic inequality

dressed up as tax reform that ultimately harms the majority of Americans.

Jones' victory in the special election in Alabama demonstrates that Black votes matter and that Black voters cast crucial votes in elections, where white voters are decidedly split; that's the real lesson. We make our victories and define our value. Let's

not let others do that for us. Every Black vote counts and can make a difference in the Deep South and across the nation.

Dr. John E. Warren is the publisher of the San Diego Voice and Viewpoint and a contributing writer for the NNPA Newswire specializing in intergovernmental affairs.

ORLEANS PARISH

Sheriff Real Estate Sale Notices

Continued from previous page

TIFICATES, SERIES 2005-R2 VS RICKEY WILSON

Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans No. 2017-1235

By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE to me directed by the Honorable The Civil District Court of Orleans, in the above entitled cause, I will proceed to sell by public auction, on the ground floor of the Civil District Court Building, 421 Loyola Avenue, in the First District of the City on January 25, 2018, at 12:00 o'clock noon, the following described property to wit:

LOT NO. 11 SQUARE "D"

THIRD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MUNICIPAL NO. 7616 AVON PARK BLVD SUBDIVISION: LAKESHORE LAND ACQ MIN: 805111 WRIT AMOUNT: \$36,379.91

Seized in the above suit, TERMS CASH. The purchaser at the moment of adjudication to make a deposit of ten percent of the purchase price, and the balance within thirty days thereafter. (NOTE: The payment must be Cash, Cashier's Check, Certified Check or Money Order. No personal checks.)

MARLIN N. GUSMAN

Sheriff Parish of Orleans
ATTY: COREY GIROIR (225) 756-0373
TW 29
LA. WEEKLY 12/25/2017, 1/22/2018

SALE BY ORLEANS SHERIFF JUDICIAL ADVERTISEMENT THAT PORTION OF GROUND

BEARING MUNICIPAL NO. 217 RHODES AVENUE, CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, IN THE CASE ENTITLED: U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS TRUSTEE, FOR THE HOLDERS OF STRUCTURED ASSET SECURITIES CORPORATION MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-BC3 VS CHERYL BROWN (A/K/A CHERYL C BROWN, CHERYL ANN BROWN, CHERYL ANN CHAMBERS)

Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans No. 2017-6308

By virtue of a WRIT OF FIERI FACIAS to me directed by the Honorable The Civil District Court of Orleans, in the above entitled cause, I will proceed to sell by public auction, on the ground floor of the Civil District Court Building, 421 Loyola Avenue, in the First District of the City on January 25, 2018, at 12:00 o'clock noon, the following described property to wit:

LOT B, SQUARE K,

FIFTH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, GARDENS SUBDIVISION MUNICIPAL NO. 217 RHODES AVENUE ACQUIRED MIN 855740 WRIT AMOUNT: \$95,444.40

Seized in the above suit, TERMS CASH. The purchaser at the moment of adjudication to make a deposit of ten percent of the purchase price, and the balance within thirty days thereafter. (NOTE: The payment must be Cash, Cashier's Check, Certified Check or Money Order. No personal checks.)

MARLIN N. GUSMAN

Sheriff Parish of Orleans
ATTY: LINDSAY FAULKNER (504) 831-7726
LM 30
LA. WEEKLY 12/25/2017, 1/22/2018

SALE BY ORLEANS SHERIFF JUDICIAL ADVERTISEMENT THAT PORTION OF GROUND

BEARING MUNICIPAL NO. 3521 RUE MIGNON, CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, IN THE CASE ENTITLED: CITIMORTGAGE, INC. VS DEBRA HALL WATKINS

Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans No. 2013-10936

By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE to me directed by the Honorable The Civil District Court of Orleans, in the above entitled cause, I will proceed to sell by public auction, on the ground floor of the Civil District Court Building, 421 Loyola Avenue, in the First District of the City on January 25, 2018, at 12:00 o'clock noon, the following described property to wit:

LOT 110, SQUARE 130, FIFTH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT BOCAGE SUBDIVISION MUNICIPAL NO. 3521 RUE MIGNON ACQUIRED MIN 895395 WRIT AMOUNT: \$182,280.68

Seized in the above suit, TERMS CASH. The purchaser at the moment of adjudication to make a deposit of ten percent of the purchase price, and the balance within thirty days thereafter. (NOTE: The payment must be Cash, Cashier's Check, Certified Check or Money Order. No personal checks.)

MARLIN N. GUSMAN

Sheriff Parish of Orleans
ATTY: RACHEL WILLIAMS (318) 388-1440
LM 31
LA. WEEKLY 12/25/2017, 1/22/2018

SALE BY ORLEANS SHERIFF JUDICIAL ADVERTISEMENT THAT PORTION OF GROUND

BEARING MUNICIPAL NO. 14020 KINGSWOOD DRIVE, NEW ORLEANS, LA, IN THE MATTER ENTITLED: "LIVE WELL FINANCIAL, INC VS

DARIUS COLLINS AND LYLTON COLLINS, II A/K/A LYLTON A. COLLINS, JR."

Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans No. 2015-10530

By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE to me directed by the Honorable The Civil District Court of Orleans, in the above entitled cause, I will proceed to sell by public auction, on the ground floor of the Civil District Court Building, 421 Loyola Avenue, in the First District of the City on January 25, 2018, at 12:00 o'clock noon, the following described property to wit:

LOT 11, SQUARE A THIRD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MUNICIPAL NO. 14020 KINGSWOOD DRIVE ACQUIRED MIN 1149379 WRIT AMOUNT: \$61,394.95

Seized in the above suit, TERMS CASH. The purchaser at the moment of adjudication to make a deposit of ten percent of the purchase price, and the balance within thirty days thereafter. (NOTE: The payment must be Cash, Cashier's Check, Certified Check or Money Order. No personal checks.)

MARLIN N. GUSMAN

Sheriff Parish of Orleans
ATTY: ETHAN HUNT (318) 388-1440
JD 32
LA. WEEKLY 12/25/2017, 1/22/2018

SALE BY ORLEANS SHERIFF JUDICIAL ADVERTISEMENT THAT PORTION OF GROUND

BEARING MUNICIPAL NO. 1031 N. CLAIBORNE AVENUE, CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, IN THE CASE ENTITLED: CITY OF NEW ORLEANS VS SWANK RESTAURANT, LLC

Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans No. 2017-977

By virtue of a WRIT OF FIERI FACIAS to me directed by the Honorable The Civil District Court of Orleans, in the above entitled cause, I will proceed to sell by public auction, on the ground floor of the Civil District Court Building, 421 Loyola Avenue, in the First District of the City on January 25, 2018, at 12:00 o'clock noon, the following described property to wit:

LOT 8, SQUARE 206, SECOND MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, MUNICIPAL NO. 1031 N. CLAIBORNE AVENUE ACQUIRED MIN 1186161 WRIT AMOUNT: \$16,335.00

Seized in the above suit, TERMS CASH. The purchaser at the moment of adjudication to make a deposit of ten percent of the purchase price, and the balance within thirty

days thereafter. (NOTE: The payment must be Cash, Cashier's Check, Certified Check or Money Order. No personal checks.)

MARLIN N. GUSMAN

Sheriff Parish of Orleans
ATTY: KELLY MASSEY (318) 388-1440
TW 37
LA. WEEKLY 12/25/2017, 1/22/2018

Seized in the above suit, TERMS CASH. The purchaser at the moment of adjudication to make a deposit of ten percent of the purchase price, and the balance within thirty

days thereafter. (NOTE: The payment must be Cash, Cashier's Check, Certified Check or Money Order. No personal checks.)

MARLIN N. GUSMAN

Sheriff Parish of Orleans
ATTY: MICHAEL KARAM (504) 658-4346
LM 36
LA. WEEKLY 12/25/2017, 1/22/2018

SALE BY ORLEANS SHERIFF JUDICIAL ADVERTISEMENT THAT PORTION OF GROUND

BEARING MUNICIPAL NO. 1824 MAURICE STREET, THIS CITY, IN THE MATTER ENTITLED THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CWMBS, INC. REPERFORMING LOAN REMIC TRUST CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-R2 VS SHEMAKKA MATHEWS BROWN

Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans No. 2016-12019

By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE to me directed by the Honorable The Civil District Court of Orleans, in the above entitled cause, I will proceed to sell by public auction, on the ground floor of the Civil District Court Building, 421 Loyola Avenue, in the First District of the City on January 25, 2018, at 12:00 o'clock noon, the following described property to wit:

LOT NO. 2 SQUARE NO. 833 THIRD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MUNICIPAL NO: 1824 MAURICE STREET ACQ MIN: 633658 WRIT AMOUNT: \$38,624.68

Seized in the above suit, TERMS CASH. The purchaser at the moment of adjudication to make a deposit of ten percent of the purchase price, and the balance within thirty days thereafter. (NOTE: The payment must be Cash, Cashier's Check, Certified Check or Money Order. No personal checks.)

MARLIN N. GUSMAN

Sheriff Parish of Orleans
ATTY: KELLY MASSEY (318) 388-1440
TW 37
LA. WEEKLY 12/25/2017, 1/22/2018

SALE BY ORLEANS SHERIFF JUDICIAL ADVERTISEMENT THAT PORTION OF GROUND

BEARING MUNICIPAL NO. 4437-39 S. ROCHEBLAVE STREET, CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, IN THE CASE ENTITLED: FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION ("FANNIE MAE") VS RICARDO R. SILVA

Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans No. 2017-6042

By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE to me directed by the Honorable The Civil

District Court of Orleans, in the above entitled cause, I will proceed to sell by public auction, on the ground floor of the Civil District Court Building, 421 Loyola Avenue, in the First District of the City on January 25, 2018, at 12:00 o'clock noon, the following described property to wit:

LOTS 1 AND 2, SQUARE 784, SIXTH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, MUNICIPAL NO. 4437-39 S. ROCHEBLAVE STREET ACQUIRED MIN 936121 WRIT AMOUNT: \$192,587.13

Seized in the above suit, TERMS CASH. The purchaser at the moment of adjudication to make a deposit of ten percent of the purchase price, and the balance within thirty days thereafter. (NOTE: The payment must be Cash, Cashier's Check, Certified Check or Money Order. No personal checks.)

MARLIN N. GUSMAN

Sheriff Parish of Orleans
ATTY: CANDACE BOWEN (318) 388-1440
LM 39
LA. WEEKLY 12/25/2017, 1/22/2018

SALE BY ORLEANS SHERIFF JUDICIAL ADVERTISEMENT THAT PORTION OF GROUND

BEARING MUNICIPAL NO. 1318 S. SALCEDO STREET, THIS CITY, IN THE MATTER ENTITLED: STONEGATE MORTGAGE CORPORATION VERSUS W. RHODES AND ASSOCIATES, LLC, WAYNE G. RHODES A/K/A WAYNE RHODES AND KATHLEEN A. RHODES

Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans No. 2016-6344

By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE to me directed by the Honorable The Civil District Court of Orleans, in the above entitled cause, I will proceed to sell by public auction, on the ground floor of the Civil District Court Building, 421 Loyola Avenue, in the First District of the City on January 25, 2018, at 12:00 o'clock noon, the following described property to wit:

LOT 36-A, SQUARE NO. 506 FIRST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT 1318 S. SALCEDO STREET ACQ. MIN 1147496 WRIT AMOUNT: \$313,459.37

Seized in the above suit, TERMS CASH. The purchaser at the moment of adjudication to make a deposit of ten percent of the purchase price, and the balance within thirty days thereafter. (NOTE: The payment must be Cash, Cashier's Check,

Certified Check or Money Order. No personal checks.)

MARLIN N. GUSMAN

Sheriff Parish of Orleans
ATTY: COREY GIROIR (225) 756-0373
NNB 40
LA. WEEKLY 12/25/2017, 1/22/2018

SALE BY ORLEANS SHERIFF JUDICIAL ADVERTISEMENT THAT PORTION OF GROUND

BEARING MUNICIPAL NO. 2113-15 FIRST STREET, THIS CITY, IN THE MATTER ENTITLED: FLAG BOY PROPERTIES, LLC VERSUS THE UNOPENED SUCCESSION OF KENNETH LLOYD AND RUBY FONVILLE WATSON LLOYD

Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans No. 2016-11515

By virtue of a WRIT OF COURT ORDER to me directed by the Honorable The Civil District Court of Orleans, in the above entitled cause, I will proceed to sell by public auction, on the ground floor of the Civil District Court Building, 421 Loyola Avenue, in the First District of the City on January 25, 2018, at 12:00 o'clock noon, the following described property to wit:

LOT 7 - SQUARE 300 FOURTH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MUNICIPAL NO. 2113-15 FIRST STREET ACQ. CIN 626686 WRIT AMOUNT:

Seized in the above suit, TERMS-CASH 100% CASH AT THE MOMENT OF ADJUDICATION (NOTE: The payment must be Cash, Cashier's Check, Certified Check or Money Order. No personal checks.)

MARLIN N. GUSMAN

Sheriff Parish of Orleans
ATTY: JONAH FREEDMAN (504) 475-8075
BTD 33
LA. WEEKLY 12/25/2017, 1/22/2018

SALE BY ORLEANS SHERIFF JUDICIAL ADVERTISEMENT THAT PORTION OF GROUND

BEARING MUNICIPAL NO. 201-203 SOUTH BROAD STREET, NEW ORLEANS, LA, IN THE MATTER ENTITLED: "PRIME IMPORTS COMPANY, INC. VS NOLA RENEWAL GROUP, LLC AND LARRY JACKSON, JR."

Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans No. 2017-9974

By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE to me directed by the Honorable The Civil District Court of Orleans, in the above entitled cause, I will proceed to sell by public auction, on the ground floor of the Civil District Court Building,

421 Loyola Avenue, in the First District of the

City on January 25, 2018, at 12:00 o'clock noon, the following described property to wit:

A CERTAIN LOT OF GROUND, together with all the buildings and improvements thereon and all the rights, ways, privileges, servitudes, appurtenances and advantages thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining, situated in the FIRST DISTRICT of the City of New Orleans, in the Square bounded by S. Broad, S. White, Gasquet (now Cleveland) and Palmyra Streets, forming part of the back concession and being a part of that tract of land known as Macarty's Plantation; said portion of ground forms the corner of S. Broad Street by a depth and front on Cleveland Street and measures in American Measure 30 feet front on S. Broad Street by a depth and front on Cleveland Avenue of 103 feet 2 inches 6 lines; the whole as set forth on a private sketch annexed to an act passed on June 19, 1858, before W. J. Castell, N.P., said portion of ground and other on a plan by C. F. Zimpel, then Deputy City Surveyor, adjoining it, form part of the lots designated by the Nos. 1 and 2 on a plan of C. F. Zimpel, deposited in the office of G. R. Stringer, late Notary, and arc also shown on a plan of C.S. Hedin, Architect, deposited in the office of Michael Forman, late Notary, and according to a plan of survey by F. G. Stewart, Surveyor, dated July 7, 1961, said lot or portion of ground has the same location and dimensions as hereinabove set forth.

The improvements bear the Municipal Number 201-203 South Broad Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70119. This act is made and accepted subject to the following:

1. Any and all restrictions, conditions, and/or servitudes which may appear in the chain of title; said reference thereto is not to be construed as an extension, recreation or re-establishment thereof.

2. Any and all servitudes, encroachments, encumbrances, and/or exceptions that would have been revealed by a current survey of the referenced property.

WRIT AMOUNT: \$75,000.00

Seized in the above suit, TERMS CASH. The purchaser at the moment of adjudication to make a deposit of ten percent of the purchase price, and the balance within thirty days thereafter. (NOTE: The payment must be Cash, Cashier's Check, Certified Check or Money Order. No personal checks.)

MARLIN N. GUSMAN

Sheriff Parish of Orleans
ATTY: IRL SILVERSTEIN
JD 18
LA. WEEKLY 12/25/2017, 1/22/2018

SALE BY ORLEANS SHERIFF JUDICIAL ADVERTISEMENT THAT PORTION OF GROUND

BEARING MUNICIPAL NO. 1327 SHIRLEY DR, THIS CITY, IN THE MATTER ENTITLED: NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC VS BRUCE JOSEPH BERTIN.

Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans No. 2017-4167

By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE to me directed by the Honorable The Civil District Court of Orleans, in the above entitled cause, I will proceed to sell by public auction, on the ground floor of the Civil District Court Building, 421 Loyola Avenue, in the First District of the City on January 25, 2018, at 12:00 o'clock noon, the following described property to wit:

A CERTAIN PORTION OF GROUND, together with all the buildings and improvements thereon, and all of the rights, ways, privileges, servitudes, appurtenances and advantages thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining, situated in the Fifth District of the City of New Orleans, Parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana, in SQUARE NO. 3, of ALBERNA PLACE SUBDIVISION, bounded by Shirley Drive, Socrates and DeArmas Streets and the line of the Kohn property, designated as LOT "F" on a blue print of plan by E. L. Eustis, C.E., and Surveyor, dated September, 1941, according to which plan said lot lies (109'11"2") from the corner of Shirley Drive and Socrates Street and measures thence fifty-three feet (53') front on Shirley Drive, by a depth, between equal and parallel lines, of one hundred forty feet (140') and is composed of twenty-seven feet of original Lot No. 14 and the adjoining twenty-six feet of original Lot No. 15.

The improvements thereon bear the Municipal No. 1327 Shirley Drive, New Orleans, La. 70114.

WRIT AMOUNT: \$47,763.13

Seized in the above suit, TERMS CASH. The purchaser at the moment of adjudication to make a deposit of ten percent of the purchase price, and the balance within thirty days thereafter. (NOTE: The payment must be Cash, Cashier's Check, Certified Check or Money Order. No personal checks.)

MARLIN N. GUSMAN

Sheriff Parish of Orleans
ATTY: KELLY MASSEY (318) 388-1440
TW 38
LA. WEEKLY 12/25/2017, 1/22/2018



Jade Peoples
Queen



Alex Williams
Princess Royale



Karrington Knight
Princess Royale



Tate Robertson
Princess Royale



Shana Hill
Princess



Paige Magee
Princess



Deja Crayton
Princess



Eboné Baker



Mya Calice



Jada Gibson



Angel Love



Jerricka McClue



Sionne Murray



Kaitlyn Pittman



Kenedi Reed



Kyia Rubin



Kayla Smith



Caitlin Toregano

N.O. Alumnae Chapter Deltas host Annual Cotillion

It just wouldn't be the New Orleans Holiday Season without the Annual Debutante Cotillion hosted by the New Orleans Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

The gala was held on Saturday, December 23, with the theme "Beaute Noir" at the Marriott Hotel.

Reigning over the pageantry was Queen Jade Ivar Peoples, daughter of

Mr. and Dr. William Eugene Peoples.

The Cotillion's Royalty were Misses Alex Williams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hillary A. Williams Jr., princess royale; Karrington Knight, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Brian M. Knight, princess royale; Tate Robertson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Darryl R. Thomas and Dr. and Mrs. Corey A. Robertson, princess royale; Shana Hill, daughter of the Rev.

and Mrs. Duane A. Hill Sr., princess; Paige Magee, daughter of Mr. Eric Christopher Magee and Ms. Monica Selina Dumas-Magee, princess; and Deja Crayton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin K. Crayton Sr., princess.

Also making their debuts were Misses Eboné Baker, daughter of Mrs. Ronia Muse Baker and the late Mr. Andrew W. Baker III; Mya Calice, daughter of

Live music in N.O. – (Some of) The best of 2017

By Geraldine Wyckoff
Contributing Writer

It remains remarkable just how much great live music is available on a nightly and often daily basis in New Orleans. Even perhaps more extraordinary is the number of the shows on this "best of" column are free and also welcome children. The music-loving people who visit the Crescent City are continually blown away by the number and variety of offerings. Yeah, we're spoiled — in a good way.

What is a totally real New Orleans musical experience? That question was answered near the end of December 2016 (too late for inclusion in last year's wrap-up) at the Prime Example. Trumpeter and vocalist **Wendell Brunious** gathered a group of old friends, most of whom had played together in various configurations through the decades, for a night of great music and much hilarity. The ensemble included saxophonist **Roderick Paulin**, drummer **Shannon Powell**, bassist/vocalist **George French**, pianist **Thaddeus Richard** and trumpeter **Percy Williams**. Just seeing all those names in one sentence offers the flavor of the night. To top things off, trumpeter/vocalist **Kermit Ruffins** strolled in the North Broad Street club, sat in and then proceeded to use a beer bottle rather than his fingers to push down the valves of his trumpet. The band and the audience went wild.

Okay, another question could be, "What's a totally real Treme musical experience? Well, yeah runnin' the streets on a second line with a brass band will do it. The free 10th Annual Congo Square Rhythms Festival, held in March 2017, was another way with bands led by two of New Orleans' Tremé-born and bred musicians, **James Andrews** and **Corey Henry**.

Trumpeter/vocalist Andrews, the ultimate showman, invited two of this city's finest vocalists — Treme icon **John Boutte** and the energetic **Sharon Martin** — to kick it up a notch. The next day trombonist/vocalist and oh-so-solid **Corey Henry** also augmented his **Treme Funktet** with the soulful organ of **Ike Stubblefield** and the amazing guitar of **June Yamagishi**.

Members of the audience at Tipitina's for guitarist/vocalist/bandleader **Deacon John's** celebration of his 60 years in the music business definitely got their money's worth. Deacon, who boasts a mammoth repertoire,

played and sang an amazing variety of styles during his two sets with his band, the **Ivories**. There was no warm-up group required this night at the historic club that was full of friends and well-wishers. Deacon kicked off at 9:30, took a short break, and kept the place jumpin' until almost 2 a.m.

OffBeat's Best of the Beat's 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award was given to drummer **Johnny Vidacovich** and he obviously couldn't resist getting in on the action when the band, filled with his longtime musical associates, played in his honor at the party. He, **Brian Blade** and **Stanton Moore** started switching off at the drum seat and at one point all three were playing at once. The climax of the show was Vidacovich and keyboardist **David Torkanowsky** enjoying an extended, mid-stage slow dance — hilarious.

Torkanowsky and Vidacovich were again in on the fun at one of the Jazz & Heritage Center's free programs. With **Detroit Brooks** on guitar, the special guest this night was noted bassist **Christian McBride** who not only played immaculately but obviously dug the free-wheelin' atmosphere.

The Jazz & Heritage Foundation's Blues & BBQ Festival is considered by many to be the jewel of its "community" series. Guitarist and vocalist **Robert Cray** just killed his set that included longtime bassist **Richard Cousins**. The soul and blues man moved from material from his latest album to end with faves from his earlier works including his deftly written "Strong Persuader." He proved he is like no other. On a simpler note at the fest was guitarist **John Mooney's** excellent, straight up blues set with **Tom Worrell** on keys.

Pianist/vocalist **Davell Crawford** seemed especially inspired by the presence of his father and Uncle Charlie in the audience at his solo gig at Snug Harbor. He offered the full range of his stylistic genius including material from his release *Piano in the Vault - Vol. 1*.

On the same stage, the always-spiritual and intriguing organist **Dr. Lonnie Smith** was already going strong with regular sidekicks saxophonist **Donald Harrison Jr.**, drummer **Joe Dyson** and guitarist **Detroit Brooks** onboard. The set then exploded when trumpeter **Nicholas Payton** jumped in. He does that.

Other memorable moments



Photo by Keith Hill

WENDELL BRUNIOUS

include some extraordinary jazz with pianist **Jon Cowherd** with drum master **Brian Blade** and the always-imaginative bassist **James Singleton**. On the traditional side, clarinetist/saxophonist **Louis Ford** really opened up some ears to his full-range of abilities during his energetic sets at one of those fun Nickel-A-Dance shows.

That **Kermit Ruffins** sure knows how to throw a party. What would be a normal Tuesday afternoon in most places in America, turned into his

birthday/Christmas bash in the side yard of Kermit's Mother-In-Law Lounge. The big band, some 16 pieces, kicked in at 1 p.m. on what turned out to be a beautiful, warm, sunny day. Ruffins had some fun blowin' and singin' with the ensemble and as master of ceremonies and man of the hour, Ruffins told jokes and messed around in typical Kermit style.

Many thanks are also in order to the social aid and pleasure clubs and the brass bands that set the beat throughout the year. New Orleans wouldn't be New Orleans without their dedication to the second-line tradition. "Do whatcha wanna..."

Mr. Marlon Calice and Ms. Kuwana Sanders Calice; Jada Gibson, daughter of Mr. Jarvis Gibson and Ms. Lequecia Dunn; Angel Love, daughter of Bishop Lester and Pastor Fran Love; Jerricka McClue, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald D. McClue; Sionne Murray, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stephon Murray; Kaitlyn Pittman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Keith B. Pittman; Kenedi Reed, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald a. Reed Jr.; Kyia Rubin, daughter of Mr. Rodd Rubin and Ms. Sharonda Baham; Kayla Smith, daughter of Mr. Kendell Sheppard and Ms. Chrisey Smith; and Caitlin Toregano, daughter of Mr. Malcolm and Dr. Blanche Toregano.

Pamela M. White is president of the New Orleans Alumnae Delta chapter. Tracey L. Rollins, Cotillion Chair and Daryl Dabon Jarvis and Tina M. Jones served as Cotillion Co-Chairs.

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