



The Villager

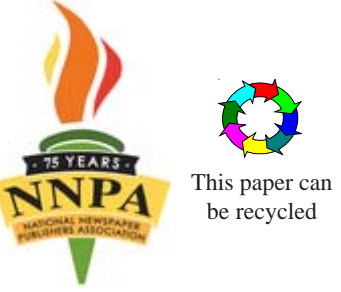
Martin Luther King Day is Monday, January 15

I HAVE A DREAM...



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Black Panther Movie Causing Excitement Around Country

by: Jesse J. Holland | Associated Press



Trailer screen from the new upcoming superhero movie "Black Panther", in theaters February 16. (Marvel Studios/Disney)

National News - There's a Black Panther party going on all around the country.

Superhero fans, movie fans and especially connoisseurs of Black culture — American and African — are all eagerly awaiting the debut of Marvel's "Black Panther" movie starring comic book's first Black superhero with an enthusiasm not often seen in American cinema.

"Black Panther" viewing parties are already being scheduled around the country for its February release, smack dab in the middle of Black History Month. There are lines of clothing based on the movie's African style being prepared — the bright colors and Afrofuturism styles of Wakanda are in for the

spring. And Grammy-winning rapper Kendrick Lamar was just named to produce the soundtrack.

And people are already calling the yet-to-be seen movie one of the most important of 2018, despite the fact that the character that has only appeared once on the silver screen and until now, has not occupied the same pantheon as comic book stalwarts like Superman, Batman and Spiderman.

But for some fans, none of that matters because the Black Panther holds a unique position in the superhero world and especially in the African and Black diaspora.

"As the father of two little Black boys I'm super excited to have a superhero that looks like them on screen," said Glen Greezy of New York City,

who along with more than 900 of his friends on Facebook, plan to hit Times Square and see the movie together on opening weekend. "Other super heroes are great and I see their movies too, but something about having a Black man as the main character in a superhero movie is extra appealing."

"Black Panther," starring Chadwick Boseman as the eponymous superhero, debuts on February 16, picking up the adventures of the newly crowned African king and superhero who debuted in 2016's "Captain America: Civil War." Existing in the same shared universe as Iron Man, the Hulk, Captain America and Spiderman, the Panther, however, is African royalty and his adventures center around his futuristic hid-

den homeland of Wakanda, considered to be the most technologically advanced nation on

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INSIDE



Austin Bar Association honors the illustrious Rev. Joseph C. Parker. See **LAWYER** Page 3



Democrats shake up the political landscape of Williamson county. See **BATTLE** Page 5



TV One's new film is slated to premiere for Black History month. See **MOVEMENT** Page 6

Cherokee Nation to Recognize Martin Luther King Jr. Day

by: The Associated Press



(Photo/Twitter@CherokeeNation)

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. (AP) — The Cherokee Nation next week will mark **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** as an official holiday for the first time, months after a federal court ruled that descendants of Black slaves, known as **freedmen**, who were owned by members of the nation have a right to **tribal citizenship**.

On Monday, **Principal Chief Bill John Baker** announced he recently signed an executive order declaring next Monday as a Cherokee Nation national holiday. Baker said the declaration was both a tribute to King's contributions and a call to play a part in continuing his work.

"He was a remarkable advocate for change for all people of color in America, including Indian Country," Baker said in a statement.

In August, **U.S. District Judge Thomas Hogan** ruled in a long-standing dispute between Cherokee Freedmen and the second-largest tribe in the United States which claims more than **350,000** citizens.

"The Cherokee Nation can continue to define itself as it sees fit," Hogan wrote, "but must do so **equally and evenhandedly** with respect to native Cherokees and the descendants of Cherokee Freedmen."

Under the ruling that ended a dispute that began in 2003, **Cherokee Freedmen** would have all the rights that tribal citizens have, including the right to run for office, vote in elections and receive benefits, including access to tribal health care and housing.

The principal chief noted in Monday's statement that King wrote about colonization and the injustices committed against indigenous peoples and asked Cherokee Nation citizens to dedicate a day of service to their communities.

MAKE HIM PROUD

2018 MLK Celebration
Monday, Jan 15, 2018 @ 9am
the 25th annual MLK celebration to commemorate the national holiday and celebrate Dr. King's legacy, will begin at 9am with a program at the MLK Statue on UT's campus (21st & Speedway) and continue to Huston-Tillotson University, 8th & Chalmers.

The MLK Festival
Monday, Jan 15, 2018 @ 11am
Immediately after the march until 3pm. The outdoor concert will feature:
Soul Sessions f/ Ter'ell Shahid & Rashay Anastasia
Ghost Notes
Distinguished Soundz f/ Charmin Green

Contact: carol@aahc.org | 512-657-3084

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HAPPY MLK DAY!

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2018