



**RAPPIN’  
Tommy Wyatt**

**We need to  
teach our  
youth “Our  
History.”**

We spend a lot of time celebrating our history, – Black History Month, Juneteenth, etc- but we do not spend enough time teaching our youth about their family history. That became more apparent to me this summer as I spent time talking with some of the youth participating in the Summer Youth Employment Program.

As many of us are working on ways to highlight the accomplishments of the last generation and many of the accomplishments that they made to the community, we do not take the time to tell our youth the significance of their accomplishments. We can start by telling them why we already have items and places named for these individuals.

Black history has never and will never be a part of our public school curriculum. It is up to us to keep those memories alive. We can start with the things that are already here. For example, who was Dr. Givens that the park is named after. Other facilities such as the Carver Branch Library, Museum and Genealogy Center, the Jimmy Snell Office building and the Kirk Library are named after very influential African Americans from this community. Our youth need to become acquainted with their work.

We need to spend less time complaining about what we do not have and more time working on the things that are in our grasp to accomplish our goals. African Americans have a very rich history that can only be preserved by our youth. However, they will need our assistance in accomplishing their dreams.

We need to start by asking our youth about their dreams. We must also let them know that we will go to the ends of the earth to make sure that they are successful. We have a lot of work to do.

**2019 ESSENCE Festival Draws Over  
Half-Million Attendees,  
Economic Impact of Over \$300 Million**

By **Naomi Richard**  
VILLAGER  
Entertainment Editor

(VILLAGER NEWS) - Whether they came as part of a “Girls’ Trip”, on their own or as part of an eclectic group, attendees arrived in New Orleans to celebrate an historic 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Annual ESSENCE Festival.

The 2019 ESSENCE Festival presented by Coca-Cola® attracted more than half a million attendees this Fourth of July weekend (July 4-7) for the largest gatherings in the event’s history. The economic impact exceeded \$300 million for the New Orleans community.

As part of this historic year, former First Lady Michelle Obama commanded the main stage at the sold-out Superdome on Saturday, July 7 for her first ESSENCE Festival headline appearance.

Throughout the weekend, seven 2020 Democratic Presidential candidates joined Power Stage segments at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center to directly engage the influential audience of Black women in attendance and share plans and policies to address some of their most pressing issues.

“The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary ESSENCE Festival represented a truly transformative global homecoming celebration for Black women and the Black community,” said ESSENCE Chief Executive Officer Michelle Ebanks. “With the debut of 10 new Festival experiences, activations at more than 40 venues across New Orleans, and engagement with more than 300 small businesses and local vendors, we have re-defined the Festival as the largest and most impactful destination at the epicenter of Black culture.”

Ebanks continued, “We were thrilled to reveal the Festival’s official rebrand to the ‘ESSENCE Festival of Culture,’ with a mission to inform, inspire and uplift Black women and provide a holistic approach to how



Mary J. Blige performs onstage during the 2019 ESSENCE Festival Presented By Coca-Cola. (Photo by Bennett Raglin/Getty Images for ESSENCE)

we offer and deliver Black culture in every way.”

Additional highlights of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ESSENCE Festival included:

- Live broadcasts of Power Stage ‘Presidential Spotlight’ and

“Candidate Conversations” segments on MSNBC and CNN, featuring keynote addresses from Senator Michael Bennett, Senator Cory Booker, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Mayor Bill de Blasio, Senator Kamala Harris, Former Repre-

sentative Beto O’Rourke, and Senator Elizabeth Warren. In addition, there were exclusive live-to-tape segments on MSNBC’s “PoliticsNation” with Rev. Al Sharpton.

See **LEADERS**, pg. 8

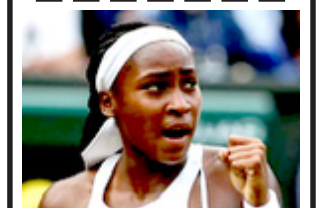


Michelle Obama and Gayle King speak onstage during the 2019 ESSENCE Festival Presented By Coca-Cola. (Photo by Bennett Raglin/Getty Images for ESSENCE)

**INSIDE**



B2G presents two inaugural scholarships. See **WOMEN** Page 4



Is tennis phenom Gauff a result of Williams Dynasty? See **MAGIC** Page 5



House Democrats’ build COE Strategy to increase votes. See **CYCLE** Page 6

**Stevie Wonder  
Says He’s  
Getting A  
Kidney  
Transplant  
In Fall**



**Stevie Wonder**  
By **Gregory Katz**  
The Associated Press

(AP) -

Stevie Wonder surprised concertgoers in London the night of July 6 by announcing that he will take a break from performing so that he can receive a kidney transplant this fall.

The 69-year-old music legend made the announcement after performing “Superstition” at the end of a packed British Summer Time concert in London’s sprawling Hyde Park.

He said he was speaking out to quell rumors and sought to reassure fans that he would be okay.

“I’m going to be doing three shows then taking a break,” he said. “I’m having surgery. I’m going to have a kidney transplant at the end of September this year.”

See **RUMORS**, pg. 7





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## BOOK REVIEW: Dallas Weekly Publisher James Washington, Releases Book of Popular Columns

By Stacy M. Brown,  
NNPA Newswire  
Correspondent

Sometimes words alone cannot convey meaning and feelings the way we'd like them to, Dallas Weekly Publisher James Washington wrote in one of his popular "Spiritually Speaking" Columns for BlackPressUSA.com.

"Trust for example. The reference point for my meaning is "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all things acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight," Washington wrote, citing a passage from the book of Proverbs (chapter 3, verses 5-6).

As he has become well-known for, Washington provided his readers with a thorough explanation – one that likely encouraged and built up many.

Many argue that James Washington's style of journalism and



**James A. Washington is a father, husband, Christian, writer, entrepreneur and the owner/publisher of the Dallas Weekly.**

talent for delivering simple straightforward advice is tailor-made for a book. And now, Washington has obliged, penning the new book, "Spiritually Speaking: Reflections for and from a New Christian," available on Amazon.com.

The 258-page book is written to give spiritual insight to the New Christian, Washington said.

It is not based on doctrine but rather unquestioned faith; the kind that answers

the question, "Why me?" and understands the answer is and always has been "Why not you?" he said.

Each week, millions of readers find that they can easily relate to Washington's prose, which is as thought-provoking as it is rich in spiritual wisdom.

Even though he writes regularly for the printed and digital press, writing a book hadn't always been on Washington's radar. "It was a suggestion from a very good friend who reads the column regularly," Washington said. "I know it was not something that ever occurred to me and then I asked a few people who wholeheartedly agreed that it was a good thing," he said.

The NNPA is the trade organization that represents African American-owned newspapers and media companies throughout the country, providing authors like Washington the opportunity to reach all 47 million people of African descent in the United States – along with the millions of others that read NNPA member content online and in print each week.

In addition to his family and supporters, Washington drew inspiration from a host of other people and places. "Inspiration comes from a myriad of sources; some from the pulpit, some from Bible study, but mostly from life situations," he said.

When asked whether there's a primary or underlying message to be taken from his columns and book, Washington said it's a difficult question because he doesn't view himself as a minister.

A book signing for "Spiritually Speaking: Reflections for and from a New Christian," is scheduled for Sunday, July 21, at First Baptist Church in East Point Georgia. Donald Suggs, publisher of the St. Louis American Newspaper, plans to host a second signing for Washington later in the summer.

## 2019 Leadership Seminar

Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church  
2019 Leadership Seminar  
"Building Church Leaders"  
Saturday, August 31, 2019, 9:00a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Theme: "God's Servants Surviving and Thriving in Ministry: Encouraged, Refreshed, and Equipped"

If you serve in any capacity of leadership here at Mt. Sinai (ministry leader, vice president, secretary, treasurer, teacher, advisor, etc., or if you aspire to become a leader, you are encouraged to attend.

Guest instructor will be:

Rev. Dr. George T. Brooks, Sr.  
Pastor, ST. James Missionary Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee

Registration will begin on next Sunday, July 14, 2019 after both 7:45 and 11:00 services.

For more information, please contact Sis. Rhonda Fenner, 1st Vice President of Senior Mission, Office Phone: (512) 451-0808

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Wednesdays: Systematic Bible Study 6pm-7:30 pm  
Fri: "I Believe in Miracle" Prayer Meetings 6-7:30  
Join Operation PUSH Prayerline Team Every  
Friday @ 6pm

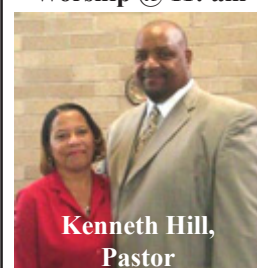
**REV. SAMUEL EHIMEN, Minister in-charge**  
Tel: 512-506-1645

### Olive Branch Fellowship of Austin / All Faith Chapel

4110 Guadalupe St. Bldg #639 Austin, TX 78751

**Sunday Morning**

**Worship @ 11: am**



**Kenneth Hill,**  
Pastor

"This life, therefore, is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness; not health, but healing; not being, but becoming; not rest, but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it. The process is not yet finished, but it is going on. This is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified." --- Martin Luther

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

### Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church

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**Hope thou in God -Psalm 42:11**

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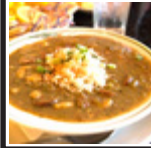
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10:00 a.m. - One Worship Service

8:45 - Christian Education Ministry Experience

**Wednesday:**

7:00 p.m. - Midweek Prayer Service

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#### WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday Worship - 7:45 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Church School - 9:45 a.m.

Bible Studies - Mon, 6:30 p.m. & Wed., 12 noon

Wednesday Night Worship - 7 p.m.

"Ministries For Mankind" Luke 4:18

A.W.. Anthony Mays, Senior Pastor

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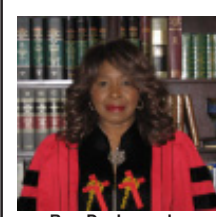
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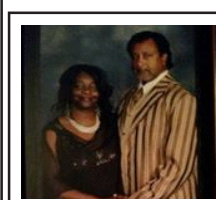
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Worship Service - 10:00 A.M.  
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**Pastor J. R. Roberson**  
& First lady  
Lillian Robertson

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**Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.**  
**Wednesday Night Bible**  
**Study 6:00p.m.**

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# Bridge2Greatness Empowers Young Women

Courtesy Bridge2Greatness, Inc. | VILLAGER Special



B2G tours the Dell EMC facility in Austin, Texas.

(AUSTIN, TX) - Bridge2Greatness, Incorporated hosted its annual Power Girls Summit in Austin on June 21 at Dell Technologies. The young women learned coding, technology careers, toured the Dell EMC facility, and were privileged to be among African American women in STEM related fields who looked like them. The girls enjoyed the second day of activities with an HBCU college tour experience to Huston-Tillotson University. Participants enjoyed eating the great food on campus



**Brigid Roberson**  
CEO/Founder  
Bridge2Greatness, Inc.

with a 4.0 GPA and will attend Spelman College in the fall. The second scholarship was awarded to Micha Moore for community advocacy work founding the Black Student Union at predominantly white high school. Micah also graduated from Round Rock High School and will attend Prairie View A&M University in the fall. Bridge2Greatness, Incorporated is a 501 (c)3 nonprofit foundation designed to provide mentorship and life skills services to deserving adolescent girls. Brigid Roberson is the Founder/CEO of



B2G tours Huston-Tillotson University

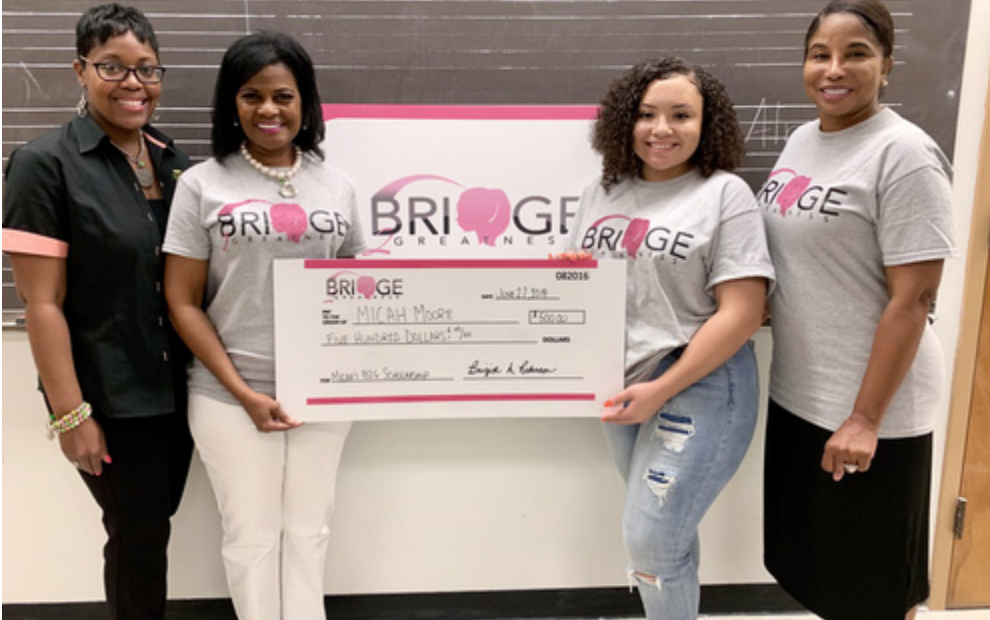
while learning etiquette skills, the school's history, course offerings to inform their college majors and diverse career aspirations. This summit also featured workshops on empowerment, conflict resolution, vision boarding, and more to help the girls realize their

highest potential. The highlight of the Power Girls Summit was the presentation of not one but two inaugural scholarships. One scholarship was awarded to Demi Browder for her academic achievement and community service. Demi graduated from Round Rock High School

Bridge2Greatness, Incorporated who is committed to building confidence, mentoring, career exploration, cultural awareness, and community engagement for young women along with the Board of Directors Alicia Moore, Patrice Withers-Stephens, and Tiffany Dudley.



Demi Browder, 2nd from right, receives a scholarship for academic achievement.



Micha Moore, 2nd from right, awarded scholarship for community advocacy work.

# 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DJ BLING'S BACK 2 SCHOOL FESTIVAL



(AUSTIN, TX) - FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES & Educational Resources, workshops, live music and entertainment, special celebrity guests, food and cold beverages, giveaways, games, activities, and a lot more. DJ Bling's 7th Annual Back 2 School Festival presented by DJ Bling Foundation. Saturday, August 3rd, 10am - 4pm (Early Arrival Suggested), Carver Museum, Genealogy, and Cultural Center 1165 Angelina St. Austin, TX

78702. FREE EVENT ALL AGES. DJ Bling Foundation has been equipping kids of low-income families with free school supplies and educational resources since 2013 and has helped over 6,000 kids and their families in the Austin area. In 2018, DJ Bling's Back 2 School Festival hosted over 2,000 attendees with hundreds of kids receiving school supplies, free bikes, health screenings, dental assistance and information, and many other needed resources.

DJ Bling's Back 2 School Festival has become the biggest back 2 school event in the city of Austin thanks to support from the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Department, H-E-B, Access Dental, Bags in Bulk, Capitol View Arts, various local artists and businesses. For more information about DJ Bling Foundation and DJ Bling's Back 2 School Festival please email info@djblingfoundation.org or you may visit us at djblingfoundation.org.

# LION JERRY L. WILLIAMS RECEIVES AWARD



Pictured (L-R): Austin Capital City Chapter First Vice President Lion Richard Hopkins, Zone Chair Lion Jerry Williams, his wife Dr. Connie P. Williams and Club President, Lion William Smith.

(AUSTIN, TX) - At the District 2-S3 Convention of the Lions Club International, Jerry L. Williams was awarded the Certificate of Excellence and named Zone Chairperson of the Year. The award was presented by District Governor Linda Davis. Lion Williams has served as Zone Chair since 2017. During his tenure, communication lines and membership increased in the Lions Club Chapters for which he was responsible. Lion Williams is a member of the Austin Capital City Lions Club where he has served in several positions including Lions Club Secretary, Vice President, and President. Lion Williams was also recognized by the Lions International President with a Certificate of Excellence as Club Secretary. The Austin Capital City Lions Club was chartered in 1967 and was the first African American Club in the United States. Lion Williams is proud to continue his service in the greater Austin community. The Austin Capital City Lions Club meets on the first and third Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. at 3403 Cambridge Court, Austin, TX. 78723. If interested, please feel free to attend a meeting.



# Forklift Danceworks to perform Givens Swims through July



Pictured from L to R are: Elma, Joylie, Rosa, Mary and Ada Stewart at the opening of Givens Pool in 1958. (Austin History Center)

(AUSTIN, TX) – Forklift Danceworks, a nationally-recognized Austin-based dance company, announces a community performance— **Givens Swims**—at historic **Givens Pool**. Show dates are July 20, 21 and 27, 28 (2019) with all shows starting at 8:30pm. See ad below for more details.

Givens Swims is part of My Park, My Pool, My City – a trilogy of dances for city pools and the people who use and maintain them. Through a three year artistic residency with Austin’s Parks & Recreation Department, performances have taken place at Bartholomew Pool (2017) and Dove Springs Pool (2018).

Givens Swims is co-directed by Forklift Danceworks Founder and Artistic Director **Allison Orr** and Forklift Danceworks Associate Artistic Director & Community Collaborations Director **Krissie Marty**. It will feature live original music by **Graham Reynolds**, a featured musical performance by **NOOK Turner** and production design and lighting by **Stephen Pruitt**. Performers include **City of Austin Lifeguards**,

**City of Austin Aquatics Maintenance Staff**, and **Givens neighborhood residents who grew up at and swim at the pool**.

As **Featured Musical Performer in GivensSwims**, **Nook Turner** says, “I’m thankful to be part of this event because it celebrates our great past at Givens Pool and will usher in a new and improved pool that blacks must continue to support and be involved with!”

Longtime resident, **Ada Harden** will be performing, and says of the project, “I really appreciate what Forklift is doing. Young kids, teens, older and younger adults, with diversity in race, creed and color, are working together as a team. It’s just going to be fabulous—an excellent way to show what the public workers are doing, and a celebration of the reopening of Givens Pool. This performance is a long overdue celebration of Givens Pool and represents a great new beginning. I’ve been swimming at Givens since its origin, and now I’m dancing in the pool, if you can imagine! I’m having a ball and getting a sun-tan.”

In collaboration with this summer’s performances, visual artists **Cindy Elizabeth** and **Ernesto Hernández** are creating temporary installations at Givens Pool. The collaboration is commissioned through Art in Public Places, a program of the Economic Development Department’s Cultural Arts Division. The temporary installations will connect My Park, My Pool, My City to a permanent artistic work to be installed at the future renovation of Givens Pool.

Artist **Cindy Elizabeth** grew up playing basketball, kickball, and cheerleading for the football team at **Givens Park**. She says of her role in the project, “Givens Park is a symbol of deep rooted history for the black community, and it represents my coming of age. The people who worked at the rec center helped raise me, my sister, and my friends. I hope my installation is a way for the community around Givens to see itself.

I’ve witnessed East Austin change with newcomers, and it’s time for the community to acknowledge the legacy of people originally from this neighborhood.”



(VILLAGER) - It was a beautiful sight when 15-year-old tennis phenom Coco Gauff upset Venus Williams at Wimbledon. Gauff broke down in tears after defeating one of her idols whose poster once adored her bedroom wall.

When Gauff upended the 39-year-old Williams, it was another sign that black girl magic in tennis is alive and well.

Unlike golf, where the dominance of Tiger Woods failed to produce even the hint of a successor of color, women’s tennis is riding the Williams gravy train.

If not for the unparalleled success of Venus and younger sister Serena, who were trained to be great by their father, Richard Williams, who knows if there would be so many black females currently thriving on the professional tour.

Serena and Venus, by the way, have combined to win a total of 58 Grand Slam titles. That

# Black Girl Tennis Magic Is Real

By John Harris Jr. | Villager Sports Columnist



Coco Gauff

includes 30 singles titles (Serena has 23, the most wins in the Open Era and second all-time) and 28 doubles titles (the sisters have won 14 each, always playing as a team).

Even at 37, Serena remains a favorite to win any Grand Slam she enters.

The number of Grand Slam titles won by Serena and Venus will probably never be duplicated. Nevertheless, they serve as inspiration for other African-American females such as Gauff, who became the youngest player ever to reach the main draw at Wimbledon. The same holds true for 26-year-old Sloane Stephens, the 2017 US Open champion, and 23-year-old Madison Keys, who has been ranked as high as No. 7 in the world and

lost to Stephens in the 2017 US Open final. Naomi Osaka, 21, whose father is Haitian and identifies with her Japanese mother, is the defending US Open and Australian champion.

Simply put, Venus and Serena made it easier for the next generation of black women tennis players to succeed.

As the Williams sisters continued to win big, more attention was given to their on-court talent instead of their skin color.

That natural progression has trickled down to Stephens, Keys and Gauff, who have followed the course established by Venus and Serena. Gauff has even trained under one of Serena’s coaches.

Thank you, Richard Williams.

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### 8 AM - 9 AM

## The Breakfast Club

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# givensswims

a dance for a city pool and its people

Featuring kids, community members, lifeguards, and Aquatics staff - people who have long lived, worked, and played around Givens Pool.

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Photo by Cindy Elizabeth



# Transplant Seeks to Build the Community

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon  
VILLAGER Columnist



LeAndra Kentish

**VILLAGER NEWS** - In 2017, Ms. LeAndra Kentish relocated from the Washington DC area to Austin, Texas, after, she missed the African American experience and lifestyle. Consequently, she sought to recreate the atmosphere by starting the Round The Way (RTW) Organization. According to Ms. Kentish, "our mission is to love our bodies by feeding it good food, build our communities and empowering members in them, and transforming cities one garden at a time."

RTW plans to hold an event on August 7, 2019, at the Imagine Art gallery, a one-night dining experience in an effort to build the community from the inside out by focusing on our three pillars; Community, Health, and the Environment."

Finally, RTW strongly believes in investing in our communities and the people that make them. That's why their pop-up doesn't only highlight local restaurants and chefs, but also music, arts, and goods all from within the local community. You'll leave the dining extravaganza with a happy belly, the conscious mind of great food, people, and establishments that are just "Round The Way."

## PRESS ROOM: DCCC Announces “Cycle of Engagement” – an Aggressive and Sustained Effort to Connect with People of Color and Young Voters



(Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)

**NNPA NEWS** - Today, DCCC Chairwoman Cheri Bustos formally announced the Cycle of Engagement – the largest early investment House Democrats have ever made to improve the way we're connecting with the base of our Democratic Party – especially people of color and younger Americans. Following through on a promise to expand upon 2018's Year of Engagement, and inspired by her own work recruiting and training diverse voices to run for office, the DCCC's Cycle of Engagement program began with a major early investment in grassroots organizers across America and has continued with targeted digital ads holding Republicans accountable.

In a recognition of

the importance of this work, Chairwoman Bustos also announced that DCCC veteran, Taylor Coleman, will lead this effort as the DCCC's first ever Director of the Cycle of Engagement.

"Four years ago, I launched a candidate boot camp that focused primarily on electing women, people of color and younger Americans because our strength as Democrats has always come from our diversity," said DCCC Chairwoman Cheri Bustos. "We can't take anything for granted in 2020; we need to work to earn every vote one conversation at a time. That's why one of my first decisions as DCCC Chair was to put boots on the ground in dozens of communities across America.

# ‘Bring Back the Block’ Party

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon  
VILLAGER Columnist

**VILLAGER NEWS** - On July 6, 2019, African American organizations, Up SZX the Culture, Flo Code, an Round The Way organized a Block Party. During the party, at-

tendees were asked to bring feminine hygiene items for Flo Code. The mission of Flo Code includes the following: provide access to menstrual products to those in need, bring people together to end the stigma of menstruation through service and encouraging women to reclaim their power.

Finally, the Bring Back the block party was a success, nearly one hundred people attended this summer social mixer, enjoying games and music.

## NNPA Publishers Honor Marjorie Parham, a Living Legend of the Black Press

By Stacy M. Brown,  
NNPA Newswire Correspondent



Marjorie Parham

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) honored Majorie B. Parham with the organization's Legacy Award during its annual convention in Cincinnati on Friday, June 29.

The NNPA is a trade association that represents African American-owned newspapers and media companies in the United States.

Parham, who turned 101 in February, spent more than three decades as publisher of the Cincinnati Herald, which was established in 1955 and counts as the longest running African American newspaper in the city.

Parham was unable to attend the ceremony but was represented by the husband of her granddaughter Rhonda Spillers, and Parham was feted with proclamations and commendations from Ohio State Sen. Cecil Thomas, State Reps. Sedrick Denson and Catherine Ingram; Cincinnati City Councilman Wendell Young; and Hamilton County Commissioner Stephanie Dumas.

Former Ohio State Sen. Eric Kearney served as master of ceremonies and co-chair of the convention.

Kearney's wife, Cincinnati Herald Publisher Jan Michele Lemon Kearney, served as the

host for the annual convention which this year celebrates 192 years of the Black Press of America.

The convention's partner and sponsors included Macy's; AARP; Procter & Gamble; Ford; General Motors; Chevrolet; RAI American Services Company; the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; American Petroleum Institute (API); Volkswagen; MillerCoors; Fifth Third Bank; Ascension; AmeriHealth Carita; Wells Fargo; and Pfizer Rare Disease.

Born in 1918 in Clement County, Ohio, Parham graduated from Batavia High School and attended Wilberforce University, a Historically Black College, according to her bio. In 1954, Parham married Gerald Porter and one year later he founded the Cincinnati Herald.

Within six years, Parham would retire from the Veterans Administration and take over as publisher of the Dayton Tribune, which her son ran until he was drafted in the military, her bio said.

Active in the Urban League, the American Red Cross and various scouting groups, Parham also was known for her work as a member of NNPA where she served on the organization's board as treasurer.

# Donna Imam Runs for Congress

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon  
VILLAGER Columnist



Donna Imam

**VILLAGER NEWS** - Thursday, July 4, 2019, Donna Iman announced her intention to run for Texas Congressional District 31. Iman is among numerous Democrats running in the 2020 primaries. According to the political scientists, the 31st Congressional District is a battleground for Republicans and Democrats. Consequently, Ms. Imam will give a reason why people should vote.

Contender Imam believes she can increase voter turnout through policies she has put forth, her platform ranges from; health care, education, wages, veterans, and rural farmers. According to Ms. Imam, her signature Healthcare for All (HCA) policy proposal establishes a single-payer plan that lowers the cost of healthcare prescription drugs and costs less than what we pay today. Donna Iman mentioned, "HCA is cheaper and delivers higher quality care than Medicare for All and covers every person in the US. HCA also allows you to keep your current physician should you choose to."

Iman's education proposal ensures everyone in the United States can attend college, trade schools, or certification programs without being in debt forever. Donna seeks to lower the cost of education so families and students would be able to pay off their college debt. For instance, she proposed an electronic textbook, which, would drastically reduce the price of college costs.

## Being Black and Republican in the Era of Trump Presents Real Challenges

By Stacy M. Brown,  
NNPA Newswire Correspondent



(Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)

It's likely that identifying as a Republican today isn't as easy as it once was, particularly with President Donald Trump's policies that have included separating children from parents; the administration's escalating racial rhetoric; and a special counsel report that strongly suggests the nation's commander-in-chief committed crimes that may not just end with obstruction of justice.

And, as tough as it is for White GOP members to identify with the party (See: Michigan Rep. Justin Amash's declaring his independence this month and leaving the party) African American Republicans may have an even

more difficult task of letting people know where they stand.

In fact, prominent Republicans like South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott and Telly Lovelace, who once was responsible for African American outreach, press strategy and field engagement for the Republican National Committee, nixed requests by the NNPA Newswire to detail life as a Black Republican.

Having worked in Republican politics for 15 years and being the head of the only black GOP political campaign consulting firm, Richard S. Holt said his experience shows that having an all-white administration makes many African Americans believe that the party is racist.





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# Push to Posthumously Give Black Soldier D-Day Medal of Honor

By Rebecca Tana | The Associated Press

**(AP)** - The Congressional Black Caucus is pushing to posthumously award an African-American soldier the Medal of Honor for his bravery on D-Day.

Cpl. Waverly B. Woodson Jr. was an Army medic assigned to the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion. The battalion's job was to set up explosive-rigged balloons to deter German planes. At a time when the military was still segregated by race, the balloon battalion was the only African-American combat unit to land on Normandy on June 6, 1944.

U.S. Sen. Chris Van Hollen of Maryland, who's been pushing to recognize Woodson's heroism during the Normandy invasion, and 51 caucus members are petitioning the Army to review Woodson's case. Van Hollen became involved in Woodson's case in 2015 when Woodson's wife, who lives in Maryland, came to him for help.

"Corporal Woodson was a hero who saved dozens, if not hundreds, of lives on Omaha Beach. His courage deserves to be honored with the Medal of Honor, and I continue to work with the

Army to make this a reality," Van Hollen said in a news release.

A letter sent to the Army July 3 asks Ryan McCarthy, the acting secretary of the Army, to open a formal review into the Woodson case. The letter describes how Woodson was wounded while still on his landing craft but spent the next 30 hours saving lives on the beach.

"Cpl. Woodson went above and beyond the call of duty by spending 30 grueling hours saving the lives of dozens, if not hundreds, of his fellow soldiers," the letter reads. "Cpl. Woodson was a war hero who has been inadequately recognized for his actions on D-Day."

It is clear, the letter says, that Woodson did not receive the medal during World War II "because of the color of his skin."

"We respectfully ask the Army to rectify this historic injustice and appropriately recognize this valorous Veteran with a posthumous recommendation for the Medal of Honor."

Woodson died in 2005. He spoke to The Associated Press in 1994 about how his landing craft hit a mine on the

way to Omaha Beach.

"The tide brought us in, and that's when the 88s hit us," he said of the German 88mm guns. "They were murder. Of our 26 Navy personnel there was only one left. They raked the whole top of the ship and killed all the crew. Then they started with the mortar shells."

Woodson's widow, Joann, said in a telephone interview July 3 that for decades her husband never talked about the war or what he'd seen and done on Omaha Beach. It wasn't until the 50th anniversary of D-Day in 1994 when television stations came to interview her husband that she really heard his stories. She's glad his case is getting renewed attention.

"He needs to be given credit for what he did," she said. "It's never too late to correct something or to recognize something that should have been done."

The letter says the Army is preventing a formal review of Woodson's case because it lacks an original award recommendation. But the letter points to a document found by a journalist who wrote a book about African-American troops

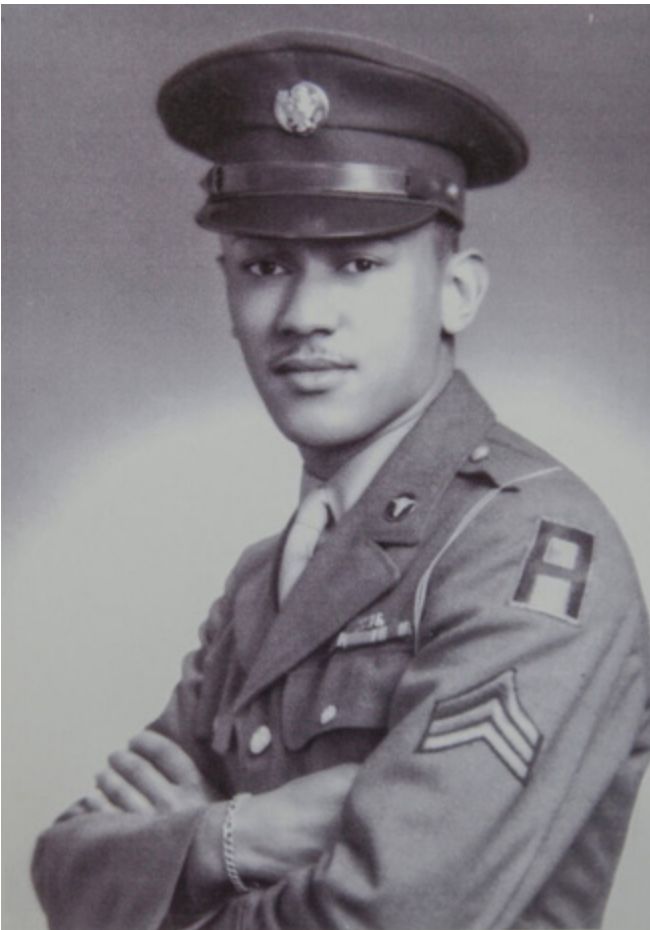
who took part in D-Day. In her book, "Forgotten: The Untold Story of D-Day's Black Heroes, At Home and At War," Linda Hervieux cited a memorandum in the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library that comments on Cpl. Woodson's bravery.

The memorandum notes that Woodson's actions merited a Congressional Medal given by the president.

"There is only one medal to which the General could have been referring: the Medal of Honor," the letter from the Congressional Black Caucus members states.

Woodson enlisted in Philadelphia after graduating from Pennsylvania's Lincoln University. He attended antiaircraft officers' training school, one of only two Blacks in the course. But before graduation he was told there were too many antiaircraft officers and was sent back to the 320th for training as a medic.

Woodson went on to study medical technology and worked for 28 years at the Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., and the National Institutes of Health.



This undated photo provided by Woodson family shows Cpl. Waverly B. Woodson Jr. A new push is under way to posthumously award Woodson Jr. the Medal of Honor for his bravery on D-Day. Woodson Jr. was an army medic assigned to the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion. The battalion's job was to set up explosive-rigged balloons to deter German planes. At a time when the military was still segregated by race, the balloon battalion was the only African American combat unit to land on Normandy on June 6, 1944. (Woodson family via AP)

Continued from page 1

He said a donor has been found and that he would be fine, drawing cheers from a devoted crowd of tens of thousands that stretched out from the stage as far as the eye could see.

"I came here to give you my love and to thank you for yours," he said. "You ain't gonna hear no rumors about us. I'm good."

He did not provide additional information about his kidney illness. There had been a recent report that Wonder was facing a serious health issue.

A representative for Wonder didn't immediately respond to a request July 6 for details about his health. He has kept an active schedule, including performing recently at a Los Angeles memorial service for slain rapper Nipsey Hussle.

Wonder, who has received more than two-dozen Grammy Awards, has produced a string of hits over a long career that began when he was a youngster who performed as Little Stevie Wonder. His classic hits include "You Are the Sunshine of My Life" and

"Living for the City."

Wonder seemed in top form throughout the concert, performing a series of his hits and paying tribute to musical heroes including Aretha Franklin, Marvin Gaye and John Lennon, performing a stirring rendition of the latter's "Imagine" near the end of the show.

It was a joyous event, with his fans reveling in the warm summer night — though a light drizzle fell near the end — and the career-spanning retrospective that evoked Wonder's early days as a young



Stevie Wonder (AP Photo)

Motown star.

He did seem less ebullient than in the past and made his health announcement in a somber tone with a severe look on his face. But he was smiling as he left the stage with the band playing the memorable conclusion of "Superstition" one final time.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

On August 06, 2019 at 9 A.M., in the Travis County Commissioners Courtroom on the 1st floor at 700 Lavaca Street, the Travis County Commissioners will receive public comment on the Travis County District Clerk's Records Management Plan for Fiscal Year 2020, which includes the DISTRICT COURT RECORDS TECHNOLOGY FUND (FUND 139) and RECORDS MANAGEMENT AND PRESERVATION FUND (FUND 127). To review a copy of the Plan before the hearing, contact Laura Jimenez of the Travis County District Clerk's Office at (512) 854-9737.



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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE) GOAL FOR FY2020-2022**

Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Capital Metro) hereby announces its DBE goal of 19% for participation in federally funded contracts for Fiscal Year 2020-2022. Capital Metro's proposed Three Year Overall Goal and its rationale were developed pursuant to U.S. Department of Transportation's DBE regulation 49 CFR Part 26. The goal methodology is available for public inspection and comments Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CST at the Capital Metro Office, 2910 E. 5th Street, Austin, Texas 78702 for thirty (30) days following this notice. For further information and/or submission of comments, please contact

**Capital Metro**  
**Office of Diversity**  
**2910 E. 5th Street**  
**Austin, Texas 78702**  
**Officeofdiversity@capmetro.org**  
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**Continued from page 1**



Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Reverend Al Sharpton, Michelle Ebanks, and Richelieu Dennis speak on stage at 2019 ESSENCE Festival Presented By Coca-Cola.  
(Photo by Naomi Richard)

· Over 100 performing artists across the Mercedes-Benz Superdome and the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. Many of the biggest names in the entertainment industry including Mary J. Blige, Missy Elliott, H.E.R, Nas, Pharrell, Patti LaBelle, Teyana Taylor, Yolanda Adams, Koryn Hawthorne, Tasha Cobbs and others performed at the event's

concert series and dozens of others across ESSENCE's Center Stage and All-Star Gospel Celebration.

More than 300 influencers, leaders, creators and celebrities participated in the Festival's daytime experience – featuring powerhouse speakers Ava Duvernay, Yara Shahidi, Tyler Perry, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Iman, Common, Mona Scott-Young, Miles

Brown and Iyanla Vanzant, among others.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ESSENCE Festival is executive produced by ESSENCE Festivals LLC, a division of ESSENCE Communications Inc. (ECI). Sponsors of the 2019 ESSENCE Festival include presenting sponsor **Coca-Cola** and major sponsors **AT&T, Ford, Disney, McDonald's, State Farm** and **Walmart**.



**Koryn Hawthorne (L)  
performs on stage at  
2019 ESSENCE  
Festival Presented By  
Coca-Cola. Tyler Perry (R)  
speaks on stage at  
2019 ESSENCE  
Festival Presented By  
Coca-Cola. (Photos by  
Naomi Richard)**



For illustrative purposes. Proposed station locations subject to change, as well as alignment, and map not to scale

# Blue Line Corridor Workshops

We invite you to “roll up your sleeves” with your fellow community members to help us evaluate alternatives for the Blue Line Corridor, a proposed transitway that could connect the Austin Community College (ACC) Highland Campus through Downtown Austin to the Austin Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA).

**July 30, 2019, 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.**  
ACC Highland Business Center  
5930 Middle Fiskville Road  
**Doors open at 5 p.m.**

**July 31, 2019, 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.**  
Austin Energy Town Lake Center  
721 Barton Springs Road  
**Doors open at 5 p.m.**

**August 1, 2019, 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.**  
Ruiz Branch Library  
1600 Grove Boulevard  
Doors open at 5 p.m.

RSVP appreciated. Please RSVP at [bluelinefeedback@projectconnect.com](mailto:bluelinefeedback@projectconnect.com), or call 512-369-6201 with your name, email address and preferred date to attend.

### Unable to attend?

Review materials and provide comments at the Virtual Open House available from July 30, 2019 through August 13, 2019 at [projectconnect.com](https://projectconnect.com).

Communication or accommodation needs? Contact Courtney Black at 512-531-5920 or [Courtney.Black@capmetro.org](mailto:Courtney.Black@capmetro.org).



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