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June 30 - July 6, 2018 53rd Year Volume 9 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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Chuck D Talks State of Black America, Obama's Legacy and the Black Press

Hip-hop Legend Praises NNPA's Black Voter Drive; Criticizes Mainstream Media's Coverage of XXXTentacion



Public Enemy founder, activist and Hip-hop legend Chuck D says that the Black Press must get ahead of the curve and continue its global outreach efforts.

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

To many hip-hop fans, historians and to his peers, Chuck D is considered one of the most influential lyricists in contemporary music.

In describing the Queens, New York City-born artist in the biography pages of his new book, "Chuck D

Presents This Day in Rap and Hip-Hop History," the publisher notes that Chuck D helped paved the way for political, social, and culturally conscious hip-hop, both as a solo artist and as the leader of the groundbreaking group, Public Enemy.

In a wide-ranging exclusive interview with NNPA Newswire, the legend, whose given name is Douglas Ridenhour, addressed issues concerning Black

America, including President Donald Trump, the importance of voting, and the need for the Black Press to reach even further around the globe.

"The state of Black America is always going to be a truncated state, if we don't expand to where we are in the world," said Chuck D, who just kicked off the wildly successful Prophets of Rage tour with Cypress Hill and Rage Against the Machine.

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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To date, the concert tour reportedly has drawn more than 3.1 million fans in over 27 countries.

"If [Black people] are going to rely on the United States of America to come around and give us answers, then we don't understand that we're all over the world, the majority...then we are doomed to be slaves in this country forever," Chuck D said. "You've got to fight to get out of the box; to achieve in the United States of America was never going to be an easy ride for Black people, so we shouldn't cut ourselves off from those who look like us in this 21st century."

In an era where new and upcoming hip-hop stars like Migos and Cardi B. are leaders, Chuck D remains universally revered.

His Public Enemy albums remain among the most critically-acclaimed works in rap music, including "It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back" and "Fear of a Black Planet."

Earlier this year, a writer for GQ Magazine noted that not only is he one of the greatest and most influential MCs in rap's history, Chuck D is also blessed with the sort of encyclopedic knowledge and staggering recall that places him among the genre's foremost historians and custodians.

"Chuck was there, and he got receipts," the writer said.

Chuck D said that Black America should have done more to embrace President Barack Obama and realize his limitations.

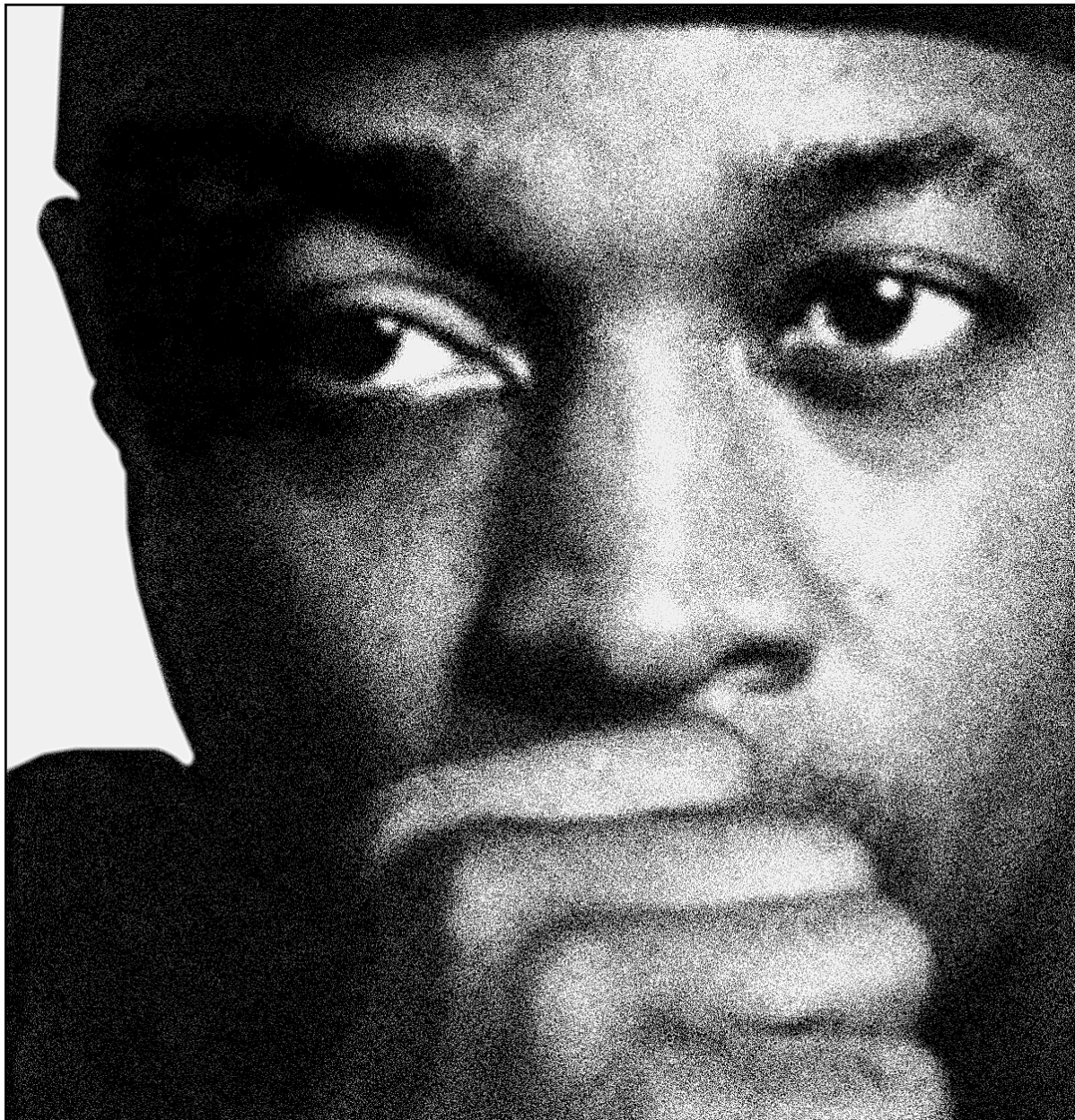
"President Obama was a statement to the world, a gateway to the world and an introduction to understanding what's in the world for us," Chuck D said.

Chuck D continued: "He was not there so that we could simply stay in America and get answers, when the next guy who comes along is a dysfunctional idiot and everything gets reversed."

The hip-hop pioneer added that Obama's presidency gave us a passport to understand where Black people are in the world. Chuck said that he thinks Black people dropped the ball by not seizing on the opportunity while he was still in the White House.

"Waiting for Obama to do anything for Black people was the biggest fault in my opinion, because he was the president knowing damn well that he couldn't make 'the Black move,'" Chuck D said. "I think he gave it his all for eight years and we didn't do all that we could and, even then, it might have taken 30 years to take advantage of a person like Obama in office; but we only got eight."

Still, voting is key, Chuck D said, as he applauded the NNPA-led ef-



Chuck D said that Black America should have done more to embrace President Barack Obama and realize his limitations. "President Obama was a statement to the world, a gateway to the world and an introduction to understanding what's in the world for us," Chuck D said.



Chuck D believes that the mainstream media must share some of the blame, particularly in the shooting death of rapper XXXTentacion (pictured). He said, "When a guy is in that much danger, don't give him coverage. The more you do that, the more of a target and a death sentence you give him."

fort to register 5 million, new African American voters this year.

"Voting is as important as washing your tail in the morning," he said. "Pay attention to the local level and think about the bigger ramifications of not voting."

Chuck D continued: "You have to tell young people to pay attention at the local level, because when they run past that red light and they get pulled into that kangaroo court, where they want to revoke your license, that's who you should look at when voting. The literacy of what voting is to our young people is short-sighted and we can do better."

The recent shooting deaths of rappers XXXTentacion in North Miami, Florida and Jimmy Wapo in Pittsburgh, Penn., are as troublesome as the shooting deaths of his contemporaries, Notorious B.I.G., Jam Master Jay and Tupac, Chuck D said.

The mainstream media must share some of the blame, particularly in the case of XXXTentacion, Chuck D said.

"This is a serious issue. It's not trivial," Chuck D said. "I got on the [mainstream] media for pumping this kid up like he was going to die and when he dies, it's just another headline. What did you do to prevent this?"

Chuck D continued: "When a guy is in that much danger, don't give him coverage. The more you do that, the more of a target and a death sentence you give him."

To remain strong and relevant, the hip-hop legend said that the Black Press must get ahead of the curve and continue its global outreach efforts.

"I think being able to be multimedia and create your text into spoken word, where the Black Press does its own podcasts and also visual stories where sight and sound are used is important for the Black Press," he said. "But also, reaching beyond the border lines. The whole world has something to say and you've got to be eloquent in different languages, especially French and Spanish."

Chuck D continued: "The Black Press must be invested in the continents that want to be invested over here. This is what the Black Press could do; bring the world to your region."

This article was originally published at BlackPressUSA.com.

Stacy Brown is an NNPA Newswire Contributor and co-author of "Michael Jackson: The Man Behind the Mask: An Insider's Story of the King of Pop." Follow Stacy on Twitter @stacybrownmedia.

Trump Verbally Threatens Congresswoman Maxine Waters

'Be careful what you wish for Max!' Trump Warns Waters over Call for Public Confrontations

Data Staff Edited Report

President Trump on Monday lashed out at Rep. Maxine Waters after the California Democrat urged protesters to publicly confront members of his administration over its controversial policies.

"Congresswoman Maxine Waters, an extraordinarily low IQ person, has become, together with Nancy Pelosi, the Face of the Democrat Party," Trump tweeted on Monday afternoon. "She has just called for harm to supporters, of which there are many, of the Make America Great Again movement. Be careful what you wish for Max!"

At a rally against Trump's immigration policy in Los Angeles on Saturday, Waters did not, in fact, call for Trump supporters, but she did tell demonstrators to continue the public confrontations.

"If you see anybody from that Cabinet in a restaurant, in a department store, at a gasoline station, you get out and you create a crowd," Waters said. "And you push back on them. And you tell them they're not welcome anymore, anywhere."

Waters did not immediately return a request for a response to the president's tweet.

Her comments came a day after White House press secretary Sarah Sanders was asked to leave



This incident is not the first time Trump has sparred with Waters. At a rally in Pennsylvania in March, Trump called on Republicans to defeat both Pelosi and Waters, whom he labeled a "very low IQ individual". Waters, one of the president's most outspoken critics on Capitol Hill, had called for Trump to be impeached.

a small restaurant in rural Virginia after its staffers told the owner they were uncomfortable with her being there.

Sanders was at least the third Trump administration official to be confronted while dining in public in a six-day span. Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen and White House adviser Stephen Miller were each heckled while eating at different Washington, D.C., Mexican restaurants earlier in the week.

Pelosi, the House minority leader, distanced herself from Waters on Monday morning.

"In the crucial months ahead, we must strive to make America beautiful again. Trump's daily lack of civility has provoked responses that are predictable but unacceptable," she wrote in a tweet that included a link to a story about Waters's remarks. "As we go forward, we must conduct elections in a way that achieves unity from sea to shining

sea."

It's not the first time Trump has sparred with Waters. At a rally in Pennsylvania in March, Trump called on Republicans to defeat both Pelosi and Waters, whom he labeled a "very low IQ individual."

Waters, one of the president's most outspoken critics on Capitol Hill, had called for Trump to be impeached.

"Everybody knows who this bully is," Waters said on MSNBC

in response to Trump's disparaging comments. "This is what we expect of him. I just wonder what took him so long."

She added: "I am not intimidated by him."

Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) appeared on MSNBC Monday night to clarify that she did not call for physical harm or attacks on Trump officials amid widespread backlash to the President's zero-tolerance policy on illegal immigration.

"I did not call for harm for anybody, the President lied again," Waters told Chris Hayes on MSNBC. "As a matter of fact I believe in peaceful protest."

She added: "I believe that protest is at the centerpiece of our democracy. I believe that the constitution guarantees us freedom of speech. And I think that protest is civil. I don't know why the President chose to stretch that out and try to imply that I was causing harm. As a matter of fact the President calls for more violence than anybody else."

Waters has faced a wave of criticism, including from President Trump, since urging her supporters to confront Trump staffers in public for the administration's zero-tolerance policy that has led to over 2,300 migrant children being separated from their families at the U.S.-Mexico border.

State & Local News

Louisiana Legislature Votes to Fully Fund the Louisiana Scholarship Program

Data Staff Edited Report

The Louisiana Federation for Children (LFC), the state's voice for educational choice, applauds the passage of legislation that will fully fund the Louisiana Scholarship Program for the 2018-2019 school year. On the final day of the Legislature's third special session, a bipartisan coalition of lawmakers passed legislation that will provide \$41.9 million to fund Louisiana's private school choice program.

Statement from Ann Duplessis, President of the Louisiana Federation for Children and Board Member of the American

Federation for Children:

"The Louisiana Scholarship Program provides thousands of Louisiana schoolchildren access to a high-quality education in a safe and secure learning environment. We would like to thank lawmakers who have steadfastly supported a parent's right to choose a school that best fits the unique needs of their children."

The Louisiana Scholarship Program received more than 9,000 applications from parents for the 2017-2018 school year. 6,909 students were awarded a scholarship to attend 122 schools in 31 school districts across the state. Participa-



Ann Duplessis, President of the Louisiana Federation for Children and Board Member of the American Federation for Children

tion in the Louisiana Scholarship Program has grown steadily since the statewide expansion of the program in 2012, when 4,967 students received scholarships.

Strong Louisiana Scholarship Program accountability guidelines have resulted in program-wide student achievement gains, with more participating schools meeting performance expectations.

A 2017 study by the School Choice Demonstration Project at the University of Arkansas and the Education Research Alliance for New Orleans at Tulane University found the longer students are enrolled in the Louisiana Scholarship

Program, the better they perform.

LFC's annual Parental Satisfaction Survey found an overwhelming majority of parents approve of academic gains and support the Louisiana Scholarship Program. More than 93 percent of parents surveyed said they were satisfied with every aspect of the Louisiana Scholarship Program.

Created in 2008 and expanded statewide in 2012, the Louisiana Scholarship Program allows low and moderate-income families with students in failing public schools or students entering kindergarten for the first time to transfer to the private school of their choice.

Mayor Cantrell Calls for LGBTQ+ Task Force

Commission to Address Needs of Communities of Color and Transgender Community

Data News Staff Edited Report

On Monday, Mayor LaToya Cantrell announced the formation of a Task Force led by the Human Relations Commission to focus on the needs of LGBTQ+ communities of color and the transgender community of New Orleans.

"We recognize that deep disparities exist within the LGBTQ+ community itself," said Mayor Cantrell, who announced the Task Force at an interfaith memorial service at St. Mark's United Methodist Church. The service marked the 45th anniversary of the UpStairs Lounge fire that led to 32 deaths. "The concerns of our most marginalized residents can often be overlooked even within the LGBTQ+ movement as a whole."

The Office for Victims of Crime has reported that as much as 66 percent of the transgender community has survived a sexual assault. Data on HIV rates show much higher rates of contraction between LGBTQ+ people of color than their white cisgender counterparts. Further, about half of hate crimes against the LGBTQ+ community were against people of color. Most indicators suggest that those living in the City of New Orleans face even greater inequities.

The Human Relations Commission's Task Force will work to address the following recommendations:

Currently, no coordinated strategy exists within City or State government that seeks to specifically address the challenges faced by the



Mayor Cantrell's LGBTQ+ Task Force aims to tackle issues based upon the data on HIV rates which show much higher rates of contraction between LGBTQ+ people of color than their white cisgender counterparts. It also shows that about half of hate crimes against the LGBTQ+ community were against people of color.

most marginalized segments of LGBTQ+ residents. The Task Force will be comprised of residents who are currently on the ground doing the work to help these populations. The Task Force will be driven and led by representatives of the communities who are most vulnerable.

The challenges faced by marginalized groups within the LGBTQ+ community are unique, urgent and often life-threatening. While it is important to create a forum to discuss these challenges, the work of this Task Force should lead to concrete policy recommendations that are actionable.

The Human Relations Commission will provide a critical link between the Task Force and the Administration. Mayor Cantrell

recommends that the Commission coordinate and oversee the work of the Task Force by:

Seating members of the Task Force by producing a list of possible candidates for the Commission's approval;


Ensuring that the Task Force produces actionable recommendations;

Calling a public hearing of the Commission to hear the Task Force's final report;

Submitting findings to the Commission upon completion of the work of the Task Force;

Strategizing ways to implement approved recommendations.

"We hope that announcing this initiative will send a powerful message of care and concern for these communities, and to the LGBTQ+ community as a whole," Mayor Cantrell said.




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Summer Style Tips



Delaney George
Columnist

Summer is here and no matter if you're on vacation, a night out on the town or just a day at work, here are some summer tips that will keep you styling all summer long:

Tip #1: Always keep a cool pair of shades or a sexy hat

This summer is bound to throw a couple of curve balls. Between the humidity, rain, heat or any other fashion mishap, shades for the sun or a hat for a rainy day is sure to keep you cute and comfy

for whatever this summer season may throw at you.

Tip #2: Always keep Jean Jackets

No matter where you go or what you wear, a jean jacket is a fashion necessity. Restaurants, movies or just a walk in the park can turn into a nightmare but with a jean jacket you can get back to your comfortable self and still be your cutest self.

Tip #3: Keep Sneakers or Rainboots handy

The summer weather can be so unpredictable and so can your plans. As much as we love our heels and sandals, mother nature may have other plans. Keep your feet dry and your pedicures popping with a backup pair of sneakers or for the extra careful fashionista, a pair of rain boots.

For more information on Summer Tips email Delaney@yahoo.com



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The Question in November

‘What Kind of Country Do We Want to Be?’



By Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr.
Founder & President, Rainbow
PUSH Coalition

For President Trump, the campaign never ends.

He is on the stump, in full campaign mode now. He is intent on nationalizing this fall's congressional elections. As Steve Bannon put it, "Donald Trump will be on every ballot." The choice will be for Trump or against.

Trump is even prepared to scar thousands of toddlers and infants

— many of them permanently — by separating them from their parents at the border in order to frame that choice. The question this fall won't be simply about who controls the House or the Senate or the statehouses. It will be a choice of what kind of country, what kind of people we are.

Trump has and will put the question directly, brutally and inescapably. He isn't really interested in policy. His lack of knowledge and attention is infamous, even among his own aides. He isn't really interested forging a majority in Congress and actually passing reforms.

After creating the human horror at our border, he said only Congress could change it. When it became apparent that Americans couldn't abide torturing children, he changed it overnight, and told Congress they were wasting their

time trying to deal with immigration policy before the next election. He wants immigration to be a threat, an issue, a club for the election, not something addressed by a bipartisan compromise.

Immigration flows into this country are down. The record long economic recovery that began under President Barack Obama has driven down unemployment. It is hard to argue that immigration is still about the threat of those people taking our jobs.

Trump uses immigration to rouse racial fear; immigrants "infest" our country, he charges. They are criminals, rapists, murderers and gang members. Democrats, he slanders, want open borders. Nancy Pelosi wants to open the country to MS-15 gang members.

That these are lies and libels is irrelevant. Trump is using the same

scurrilous tactics made famous in the Jim Crow South — paint "those people," the other, as a fearsome threat to rouse fears and gain support. It was ugly then and it is grotesque now.

It was effective in the old South; it remains to be seen if it will work again in today's America. But that's the gamble that Trump is making, and he will stick to it. Trump will ensure that this will be one of the most vile and poisonous election campaigns in memory.

Trump is on a rampage on immigration and posturing on trade to reinforce his biggest con, that he somehow is a populist champion for working people. The reality, of course, is much different. He's provided the bumptious cover for the traditional Republican agenda for corporations and the rich. His administration's major accomplish-

ment — the tax cuts that overwhelmingly benefit the rich and the corporations — is already unpopular.

Dismay will spread as Republicans use the deficits the tax cut exploded to justify cuts in basic security programs — Medicare and Medicaid, health care, food stamps, investments in schools, and more. Meanwhile, the administration's claim to be cleaning out the swamp turns out to mean allowing lobbyists to savage protections for workers, consumers and the environment. This isn't a "populist agenda." It is a plutocrat's agenda, with a populist sales pitch and Trump as the lead huckster.

Most of this is about turnout in what are traditionally low-turnout, off-year elections. Trump wants to

**Commentary, Continued
on page 10.**

Separated by Borders

Immigration Policy Rips Families Apart



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

"The new policy is the latest example of harmful actions by the Department of Homeland Security against immigrant families, hindering their right to seek asylum in our country and denying parents the right to remain with their children. We can and must do better for these families. We can and must remember that immigrant children are still children; they need our protection, not prosecution." — American Academy of Pediatrics, Statement Opposing Separation of Children and Parents at the Border, May 8, 2018

I am the lucky father of three beautiful children. It has been my life's work and great pleasure to play a part in their development into keen, compassionate and successful individuals. And but for the "right" documents and legal status, Marco Antonio Muñoz and his wife could have experienced that same, singular joy of parenthood. Instead, Mr. Muñoz, a Honduran father who came here seeking asylum as he crossed the Rio Grande with his wife and three-year-old son, was taken into custody and separated from his small family. According to news reports, "they had to use physical force to take the child out of his hands." After a night in the Starr County Jail, guards found Mr. Muñoz lying on the floor of his jail cell, unresponsive. The deputy's office reported his death as a "suicide in custody."

The inhumane separation of desperate families risking their lives to reach and cross our southwest border is neither arbitrary nor aligned with our nation's core, espoused

values on the sanctity of family. As of May of this year—this is America—and is formal American policy enforced by the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security, also known as the Trump administration's zero-tolerance policy.

Previously, adults apprehended at the border would be charged in civil court, detained in immigration facilities and potentially face deportation back to their country of origin, unless they qualified for asylum. The new policy prosecutes adults caught crossing the border as felons in criminal court, including those who qualify for asylum. Felony criminal charges sends these adults to prison, and for those who crossed with their children, it triggers the tragically common place forced family separations. This new, vicious twist in the Trump administration's immigration policy is abysmal, ahistorical and abhorrent.

Staying true to his campaign promises, Trump has doubled down on immigration in all of its

forms, particularly from origin countries of color. The zero-tolerance strategy follows a litany of actions and policies—such as the decision to end DACA and protect DREAMERS from deportation, reducing the numbers of refugees accepted into the country, and ending temporary protected status for Haitians and Hondurans—intended to punish those deemed unfit or undesirable, purge our communities and narrow legitimate avenues of settlement and entry into the United States. But the last time I checked, our nation was in the business of welcoming those seeking to better their lives, not weaponizing their children as deterrents to economic opportunity (that benefits all) and an escape from violence, chaos or natural disaster.

It is no small irony that the party that has traditionally monopolized the "family-values" moniker is the very same one orchestrating this now-daily trauma at our U.S./Mexico border. Heart-breaking stories, like the story of Mr. Muñoz, are not

accidental, they are the byproduct of an inhumane, anti-family, value-deficient policy—and there are many more stories in the vein of Mr. Muñoz's story to tell.

This weekend, many of us will celebrate Father's Day. We should especially recognize the privilege of being able to do so when our government is engaging in the forced separation of families and the traumatizing of innocent children torn from their loved ones, penned into camps or sent to live with strangers. Children belong in the loving arms of their parents, not locked behind the cold bars of cells.

The National Urban League has joined forces with sister civil rights organizations to call for an end to family separation. If you agree that destroying families should not be a priority of the government that represents you, get angry, get engaged—tracking the votes of your representatives on the issue of family separation and comprehensive immigration reform, and be sure to hug your loved ones a little tighter.

Patients, Health Professionals Observe World Sickle Cell Day

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

It's been 100 years since sickle cell disease (SCD), a hereditary blood disorder, was first discovered.

And, according to health experts, it's no secret that an alarming number of children and adolescence have died, and the condition remained in the province of pediatrics.

Known as "the silent killer," SCD is one of the most common genetic disorders in the United States where about 100,000 citizens currently live with the disease.

With Tuesday, June 19 deemed World Sickle Cell Day, researchers said approximately 270,000 babies worldwide are born each year with sickle cell disease.

With one in 365 African American babies born with SCD and one in 13 born with the trait, Black people are disproportionately affected by the disease, which also primarily affects those of Latin American, Indian, Mediterranean and Middle Eastern descent.

Actress and director KC Morse, one of the many African Americans living with SCD, recalled her first major pain crisis, where she didn't have the support of her loved ones.

Morse told NNPA Newswire that she was attending college in Allentown, Pennsylvania while her parents were three hours away in Connecticut on a late Saturday night when she returned to her dorm room and began experiencing the excruciating pain known to just about every SCD patient.

"It was my first experience on my own outside of my comfort zone," said Morse, now 25. "When it happened, I was really afraid to call anyone. It was 2 a.m. and I felt alone, and I wasn't sure about calling an ambulance or campus safety because I wasn't sure they'd understand."

Like so many others battling the disease, Morse said she often has to give way to the limitations imposed by SCD.

"One of my biggest challenges is that I've always been a very busy person. I studied in school theater and we've had exhausting rehearsals until 11 p.m. and there was homework and I joined a sorority," she said. "I loved being busy, but



KC Morse (left) and Dr. Biree Andemariam say that more work needs to be done to empower sickle cell disease patients and to increase awareness about SCD in the medical community. (KC Morse/Dr. Biree Andemariam)

I had to realize that I had to slow down because I needed rest because exhaustion triggers attacks and crisis."

Morse said things were a little different in high school, where students go home after school and are afforded the opportunity to rest and hit the reset button.

"In college, you're on your own and creating your own schedule and I realized that I wasn't given myself time to rest and recuperate," she said. "It took a long time to realize that I can't do that, and I have to know when to say 'no' to things and I had to realize that keeping hydrated is a key and when you're very busy, water isn't something you think about, but it affects me. Most of my severe attacks were, because of dehydration."

Dr. Biree Andemariam, a noted hematologist, associate professor of medicine at the University of Connecticut Health Center, and founder and director of the adult sickle cell center at the New England Sickle Cell Institute, said Morse's experience and reaction isn't uncommon.

However, Dr. Andemariam said the tide is slowly beginning to turn as more people become aware of SCD.

"The disease is not anything to be ashamed of," said Dr. Andemariam, who also serves as Chief Medical Officer on the board of directors for the Sickle Cell Disease Associa-

tion of America.

"Researchers and doctors are really beginning to understand the impact of chronic pain [although] many people living with SCD typi-

cally don't let friends or extended family know about the diagnosis," she said.

Dr. Andemariam continued: "It's really important for families to un-

derstand that no one did anything wrong and, as far as we can tell, with medical advances people are living longer now."

Morse said that she plans to launch a new video series on Facebook depicting what it's like living with SCD, which will appear on the page, "Spotlight on Sickle Cell Disease."

"I think people need to be aware of SCD and there's a need to start a national discussion," Dr. Andemariam said.

Still, Dr. Andemariam added, that there's a lot more education and advocacy occurring across the country and there's enhanced education in the medical community.

"The focus today is on the effect of having SCD; on the social and emotional well-being of those living with the disease," Dr. Andemariam said. "There's lots of efforts underway to broaden the medical community and empower patients to have the best knowledge and to develop patterns that will ensure they will have access to medical care and finding out who the best physicians are in their community."

Health, Continued on page 10.



CUMULUS

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June Is National Homeownership Month

Real Estate Industry Insiders Work to Educate Potential Home Buyers during National Homeownership Month

By Christopher G. Cox
Publishing/Managing Editor,
www.realesavvy.com

If you've been thinking about buying a home, there might be no better time than June, which is annually recognized by such organizations as the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB) as National Homeownership Month.

These entities work with lending institutions, realtors, housing counseling agencies, community organizations and many others to make individuals aware of programs that will assist them in the quest to become homeowners.

"One of the many opportunities potential home buyers can take advantage of is free counseling," said Coleen Baumert, the director of homeownership programs for the Harrisburg, Pa.-based Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA). "We believe that financial education is a key component to purchasing a home, so we work with a network of counseling agencies to provide one-on-one, group and online counseling."

Baumert noted that counseling is mandatory for anyone with a FICO score of 680 or lower.

"We want buyers to be able to maintain and sustain their decision to enter the housing mar-



June is a great month for African Americans to learn more about homeownership. June is recognized by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB) as National Homeownership Month.

ket," she added.

Baumert's emphasis on counseling is reinforced by research from HUD. According to independent research, HUD reported that, "...delinquency, default and foreclosure rates for borrowers who have received counseling from a HUD-approved housing counseling agency are 30 percent lower than uncounseled borrowers."

In addition to free financial counseling programs, Baumert points out that PHFA can assist qualified buyers to obtain mortgage loans at rates below prevailing mortgage interest rates obtained by most buyers.

"Even a quarter of a percent reduction in a mortgage interest rate can help potential buyers to obtain more home for their money," Baumert said.

Baumert noted that PHFA works with first-time buyers, buyers who are moving up to larger homes and single buyers, as well as families that own a larger home and have decided to downsize. PHFA also helps buyers to find affordable financing for different types of mortgage loans: conventional, FHA, rural development and VA.

Charaka Cook, the Region V vice

president of NAREB, noted that her organization hosted a number of community events around the country in June in recognition of National Homeownership Month. She pointed out that the goal of the NAREB is to increase homeownership among African Americans by 2 million over the next 5 years.

"Homeownership is the cornerstone of the American dream," Cook said. "Creating awareness of this fact is particularly important in the African-American community where homeownership has slipped from 49 percent to 41 percent since the housing crisis of 2007."

Cook noted that homeownership among non-Hispanic Whites by contrast is about 71 percent.

Cook observed that NAREB works with real estate professionals who can help potential home buyers to overcome past financial mistakes and low credit scores.

"There are many ways to help people get back on the right track," she said. "We want everyone to understand the many benefits of home ownership."

Cook continued: "Among other things homeowners are less likely to move so family stability is enhanced, and more importantly you're creating a lasting legacy that can be handed down to future generations. Overtime this will help to close the generational wealth gap that exists in much of the African-American community."

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Health, Continued from page 9.

For Morse, who is producing and starring in the upcoming New York stage show, "Tumbleweed," World Sickle Cell Disease Day, is a time to reflect and count her blessings, she said.

"I try to live my best life and I think some days are good and some days are bad. I've been very fortunate to have good days and have family and friends who have been extremely supportive," Morse said. "I can't imagine having this disease without having people there holding my hand and telling me it's going to be okay."

Commentary, Continued from page 8.

rouse his base. He believes that the politics of fear, featuring poisonous, racially charged libels and slanders directed at immigrants will turn more supporters out than off. The tax cuts consolidate support among the affluent that tend to vote; the venom rouses and distracts those whose interests are being trampled.

Trump does make the stakes this fall clear. If Republicans — almost universally cowed into echoing the president — sustain their majorities, we'll get more of the same: action that serves the rich; rhetoric that divides the rest. If instead Trump's foul politics rouse more opposition than support, the rebuke will attest to what kind of country we are.

All of us are complex. We have our better angels, our ideals and aspirations; we harbor fears and anxieties. Good leaders can appeal to our better angels, bring the country together and unleash energy. Dark leaders can evoke horrors, drive the country apart and unleash hatred.

Trump has chosen the latter, over and over, in greater and greater extremes. In the fall, citizens will have to choose: Is that the kind of leader we want? Is that the kind of nation we are?

Donald Trump may find out that we are a better people than he assumes.

@DataNewsWeek

Jackson Family Patriarch Joe Jackson Terminally Ill with Cancer

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

After his own failed musical aspirations, Joseph Jackson help launch his children to international stardom in the 1960s and 1970s.

He managed the Jackson 5 before the group left Motown and was rebranded as the Jacksons.

Ultimately, the patriarch is responsible for the emergence of the biggest star in pop music history, the late King of Pop, Michael Jackson.

The family has announced that the 89-year-old patriarch is terminally ill following a long battle with cancer.

"He's very frail. It's any day now," Jermaine Jackson told reporters recently.

Born in 1928 in the one-horse town of Fountain Hill, Arkansas, Joe's grandfather was a slave and he later described his upbringing as "lonely" and with "few friends," according to his biography.

His parents separated when he was 12 and after a period living with his father in California, he moved to be with his mother and four siblings in a Chicago suburb and pursued his dream of becoming a professional boxer.

It was while living with his mother that he met and married a local girl named Katherine Scruse and in 1950 the couple moved to near-by Gary, Indiana, and within eight years had nine children, including twins Marlon and Brandon, the latter of whom died at birth.

The pressures of looking after his family meant Jackson had to abandon boxing to work full-time,



Jackson family patriarch Joseph Jackson is terminally ill following a long battle with cancer. (Georges Biard/Wikimedia Commons)

though he also played guitar with a blues band named The Falcons.

Although he remained frustrated at The Falcons' lack of success, it was when he caught nine-year-old son Tito playing with his guitar in 1962 that Joe's fortunes changed.

Despite initially threatening Tito with punishment for snapping a string, he urged his son to keep playing.

Jackson then encouraged Jermaine and Jackie to join Tito in forming a group, later adding Marlon to it, and eventually Michael.

Five years later The Jackson 5 played New York's Apollo Theatre in Harlem and in 1969 they were signed to Motown Records.

Their first single, "I Want You Back," was released that same year and shot straight to No. 1.

The Jackson 5 set a world record as the first musical act ever to sell 10 million records in 10 months.

described "regurgitating" whenever he'd see his dad.

"Yeah, he regurgitates all the way to the bank," Joseph Jackson said after Michael's comment. "I taught them to be tough. We raised them in a tough neighborhood, where other kids were in gangs and getting into drugs."

Jackson continued: "I didn't want them to be soft. I whipped him with a switch and a belt. I never beat him. You beat someone with a stick."

Jackson also managed the careers of his daughters, Latoya and Janet, who first earned fame as "Penny," an abused foster child, on the 1970s hit television show, "Good Times."

She later appeared on "Diff'rent Strokes," and "Fame."

Today, Janet is considered one of the world's biggest music stars and she also has several film credits under her belt, including Tyler Perry's "Why Did I Get Married?"

In 2011, Janet reflected on her relationship with her father.

"I wish our relationship was different," she said. "I think my father means well and wants nothing but the best for his kids... but that is not necessarily the right way."

Although Jackson remains married to Katherine, in 1974 he fathered another daughter, Joh'Vonnie, out of wedlock.

Earlier this year, Joh'Vonnie described Joseph as a loving father. For his part, Joseph Jackson said he held no regrets.

"I'm glad I was tough, because look what I came out with," he said. "I came out with some kids that everybody loved all over the world."

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