Supreme Court Rulings
History in the Making or History Un-Made?
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This past week I’ve been thinking a lot about Ms. Precious Wesley and her poll tax receipt. Ms. Wesley, who died in 2006 at the age of 76, was known for her activism and considered an aggressive advocate for the community’s interest. She was born and raised in a small town in Texas before finally settling in San Bernardino in the 1950s. And it was there in Texas where she had to pay a monetary fee to participate in the democratic process, back then, one of the ways to suppress the minority vote. There were other methods I remembered learning about in Dr. Sandra Kamusikiri’s African-American Literature class in college, such as the “literacy” tests that asked unanswerable questions like “how many bubbles in a bar of soap?” or “how many seeds in a watermelon?”

But the poll tax receipt is a tangible example of these tactics to me. Six years before her death Ms. Wesley allowed me to frame her coveted proof of purchase and display it in an exhibit I curated on Black Political Action. For her, the poll tax receipt was a reminder and tangible symbol of her sacrifice. She used it as an object lesson for young people so we would fully understand the significance of our sacred democratic duty. For those of you who are unaware, in some states (including California) in order to vote individuals had to be citizens, registered, and then pay their poll taxes by a specified date. So even though some poor Blacks had the right to vote, they didn’t have the money to participate in the process.

Ms. Wesley was not a woman of means, but she knew the power of her one vote, so she scraped together the few dollars and paid the required price. An article we published announcing her death said that she never missed an opportunity to share with young people that one way to be a part of the American Dream was to be involved in the community and to vote.

I find it ironic that in the same week we celebrate our independence as a nation, we are engaged in a national debate on discrimination and equal access to our democratic process in the aftermath of the Supreme Court decision voiding a key provision of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. And my mind keeps returning to Ms. Wesley’s poll tax receipt.

The question is really one of history and the gap between the present and the past. Writing for the conservative majority Justice Roberts said the voting law Congress most recently renewed relies on 40-year old data that does not reflect racial progress and the changes in our society. While Justice Ginsburg believes there is still a need to protect against more subtle second-generation barriers to voting.

According to the NAACP Legal Defense Fund within two hours of the Supreme Court decision, several of the formerly covered states moved forward to enact laws that had previously been rejected by federal courts as discriminatory. The Texas Attorney General announced that a voter identification law previously rejected would immediately go into effect. And both Mississippi and North Carolina are moving forward with proposed Voter ID laws. The question now for our members of congress is what constitutes disenfranchisement? What are those now “second generation barriers” that Justice Ginsburg spoke of in her dissenting remarks? And while they might not be as obviously discriminatory as Ms. Wesley being forced to pay a fee to vote, are there modern-day suppression tactics that are being implemented to reduce the vote within certain segments of our electorate?
**in my opinion**

Hardy L. Brown

**Supreme Court Historic Rulings Change American Landscape**

The U.S. Supreme Court was busy handing down many decisions last week but the two that garnered the most attention concerned the 1965 Voting Rights Act and marriage equality for same sex couples in California, Proposition 8.

The court decided to narrow the requirements or change the formula by which Section 5 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act could be used to bring states in court on voter suppression strategies by race. Prior to 1965, the states of Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Virginia did things that denied their Black citizens access to voting. Now we have many states legislating laws that will remove, suppress, and prevent Blacks, Latinos, seniors and younger citizens from casting votes.

In their opinion, the court said, “There is no doubt these improvements are in large part because of the Voting Rights Act” as they referred to the numbers between 1965 and 2004.

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The court also cited the recent voting statistics that showed for the first time in American history African Americans voted at a higher percentage than Whites: 66% verses 64%. While these statistics are true it does not mean that they are not needed. In my opinion it is because of Section 5 in the Voting Rights Act that helped level the playing field when it comes to voting in America. Several states have already introduced legislation to require special ID cards, remove weekend voting, enforced student residency requirements, literacy tests, reducing polling places, proof of citizenship and other special requirements aimed at suppressing Black and Latino voters.

Congress must act to get a national voting requirement for all citizens to follow. We cannot have 50 different ways for us to do our civic duty.

In another ruling, Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy was the deciding decision in denying the request to stop California from issuing wedding licenses for same sex couples. The supporters were hoping to get an injunction to give them more time to fight last week’s decision that returned Proposition 8 passed by the voters and ruled unconstitutional by the lower court.

This issue is a moral issue for some and a civil rights issue under the constitution for others.

While the religious community is saying the law cannot impose its will on the church, that is true because no one will require them to perform weddings for non-believers or people not of their faith. So the law stops at that door.

The law on the other hand cannot allow the government of the people and by the people to discriminate against any of its citizens because of who they choose to love and want to share their lives and resources with.

In my opinion the government must protect all citizens. Believers and non-believers must have equal protection under the law regardless of sexual orientation, race, gender, religion, national origin, and age.

Now while this might go against my religious beliefs, it does not violate my professional beliefs after years of fighting discrimination in the workplace and our society.

Our courts might not want to face the issue head on but they are chipping away at the belief that only a man and woman can have a legal union to openly unite as a couple in America.
Riverside entrepreneur Robin Allen of Necessary Nutrition, has been installed as the new president of the Inland Empire Chapter for the National Association of Women Business Owners.

The National Association of Woman Business Owners (NAWBO) is the only dues-based national organization representing the interests of all women entrepreneurs in all industries. It currently has over 8,000 members in over 80 chapters nationwide.

Women owned and/or operated businesses in the Inland Empire generate approximately $32B in sales and are responsible for employing more than 247,000 people.

“NAWBO-IE is the premier organization for women business owners in the Inland Empire, says Robin. The power of our voice on business and economic issues affecting women-owned businesses is heard in Sacramento and at the national level. Our goal is to promote and enhance the growth and profitability of our member businesses.”

Robin Allen is a nutrition expert and the co-founder of Necessary Nutrition, Inc. In less than 5 years Robin has grown Necessary Nutrition into the “go to place” for health and wellness education and nutritional supplements.

In 2012 Robin was awarded as the Inland Empire’s Spirit of the Entrepreneur in the “Emerging Entrepreneur” category. In addition to her passion for health and nutrition, Robin has a passion for helping other women business owners and entrepreneurs succeed.

Fair Housing Council of Riverside County Participates in National Conference

Washington D.C.

The Fair Housing Council of Riverside County (FHCRC) spent three intensive days on Capitol Hill attending a three-day National Fair Housing Alliance Conference in Washington D.C. from June 22 to June 25, discussing regional and national fair housing issues: senior mortgage scams, predatory lending targeted towards non-English speaking populations, investors bundling houses, reverse mortgages, for profit education schools, and funding for Fair Housing Initiative Programs.

In addition to attending the national conference, the FHCRC dedicated an entire day to speaking directly to California congressmen: Mark Takano, Dr. Raúl Ruiz, and Ken Calvert about the impediments first time homebuyers are facing, the assault on Affordable Housing, and Section 8 accessibility for Riverside County residents.

If you would like more information about this topic please call Marlan McClanahan at FHCRC, (951) 682-6581, or email fhcrc@fairhousing.net.

Scott Graham

San Bernardino

The Omnitrans Board of Directors appointed Omnitrans Director of Operations Scott Graham as Interim CEO/General Manager following the resignation of CEO/General Manager Milo Victoria on June 5, 2013.

Graham originally joined Omnitrans in 2006 as Director of Operations, overseeing a department of over 400 employees responsible for delivering fixed route bus service to the San Bernardino Valley each day. He previously worked at the Orange County Transportation Authority for 12 years as a transportation base manager.

“I see many opportunities for us to make a positive and secure future for the agency,” said Graham. “At this very moment we are expanding our fleet and changing its composition to welcome our flagship bus rapid transit service – sbX – set to launch in 2014.”

Prior to embarking on a career in public transportation, Graham spent 26 years in the US Marine Corps, serving in progressively responsible positions in Southeast Asia, the Middle East and stations throughout the United States. He earned a Master of Transportation Management from San Jose State University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from East Carolina University.

Omnitrans currently employs about 640 people directly and has 220 contracted employees. Annual ridership tops 16 million on 32 bus routes and paratransit services combined. The agency fleet includes 164 transit coaches and 105 vans and minibuses for demand response.
MVUSD Ordered to Conduct a Special Election to Fill Vacancy on BoE

Moreno Valley

The Moreno Valley Unified School District (MVUSD) has been notified that the provisional appointment of Gary Baugh to the Board of Education was rescinded as of June 26, 2013. A petition submitted by registered voters of the Moreno Valley Unified School District to terminate the appointment and call for a special election to fill the Board seat was determined to be legally sufficient by the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools, and an Order of Election has been sent to the Riverside County Registrar of Voters.

Gary Baugh was appointed to the Board of Education following an extensive day-long interview process conducted by the District and Board members on May 7, 2013. Mr. Baugh was selected out of 21 candidates after only one round of voting. Mr. Baugh’s qualifications include a prior four year term on the MVUSD Board of Education, an extensive background in education including BA, MA, and EdS degrees in Education, and a 25 year involvement with the Moreno Valley community, during which five of his six children graduated from MVUSD schools, and he served in several leadership positions on civic and community boards. The existing School Board members were impressed with Mr. Baugh’s knowledge and ability to productively step into the role.

Some Board members have expressed disappointment that the petitioners have thwarted the existing Board’s authority to make an appointment for the unfinished term, questioned their judgment in selecting a qualified candidate, and forced the District to incur the cost of an election.

MVUSD Board of Education President, Cleveland Johnson, remarked, “I think this is a sad day for the Board, Cabinet and entire District. While the community showed tremendous confidence in the Board by electing us, I guess they questioned our confidence in selecting someone to fill the vacated seat with one and a half years left on that term.”

Although this action will now require the District to fund a special election to fill the Board vacancy, the District and Board members are thankful that the timing will allow the vote to take place in conjunction with an existing General Election in November 2013, which will save the District money as opposed to conducting a stand-alone election for this purpose.

The California Wellness Foundation Honors Health Education Leaders

Sora Park Tanjasiri, Kevin D. Williams and the Late Antronette K. Yancey Receive Champions of Health Professions Diversity Award

Los Angeles

The California Wellness Foundation (TCWF) honored three inspiring leaders in health education at its 11th annual Champions of Health Professions Diversity Awards ceremony for their successful efforts to improve the health and wellness of California’s most underserved communities. Sora Park Tanjasiri, an educator and researcher at the department of health science at California State University, Fullerton, has guided minority students into health professions, while addressing health disparities through community-based research programs. Kevin D. Williams of Berkeley Youth Alternatives organizes 27 programs for at-risk youth and young adults, and provides direction to graduate-level students entering the public health field. The late Dr. Antronette K. Yancey was a professor in the department of health services and cofounder of the Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Equity at UCLA; she was tireless in her commitment to ensure that research findings would be translated to community programs and policy to transform lives.

In recognition of their efforts to mentor and inspire students and better serve the health and well-being of California’s underserved and disadvantaged communities, each honoree received a cash award of $25,000. As one of the only California Foundations making grants in this area, TCWF has awarded more than $49 million to increase the diversity of the health workforce through a variety of approaches, including research, scholarship, loan repayment programs and leadership recognition.

“It is a tremendous privilege to recognize these stellar individuals for their outstanding commitment to communities of color and their groundbreaking work to increase the ethnic diversity of the health care workforce,” said Crystal D. Crawford, TCWF program director.

The California Wellness Foundation is a private independent foundation created in 1992 with a mission to improve the health of the people of California by making grants for health promotion, wellness education and disease prevention. The Foundation prioritizes eight issues for funding: diversity in the health professions, environmental health, healthy aging, mental health, teenage pregnancy prevention, violence prevention, women’s health and work and health. It also responds to timely issues and special projects outside the funding priorities.

Since its founding in 1992, TCWF has awarded 6,919 grants totaling more than $852 million. Please visit TCWF’s website at CalWellness.org for more information, including a newsroom section devoted to the award and the three honorees. High-resolution photos are available. Video interview clips are posted at TCWF’s YouTube channel.
San Bernardino

Pastor Levonzo Gray, Sr. has become a staple for the past 14 years standing in the pulpit at Good News Community Baptist Church. Last Sunday, he preached his retirement sermon.

Pastor Gray is an Air Force Viet Nam Veteran, former member of NAACP, Masons, Concerned Citizens of UCR, Riverside Clergy Association, one of those responsible for the remodeling of Presley Detention Center in 1989, teacher in Val Verde School District and San Bernardino City Unified School District, Staff member of Park Avenue Baptist, New Vision Church, Good News Community Baptist, Pastor of Friendship Baptist Church in Casa Blanca, Grace Bethel Baptist Church in La Sierra area, and Good News Community Baptist Church for the last 14 years.

He has overseen the façade improvements, as well as served as an Overseer in the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship, Good News Hope & Help, Inc. SES Tutoring Program Director, Gray Smith Enterprises, preaches revivals in the Bahamas.

Pastor Gray is a husband for 48 years, father of four and grandfather of seven. He retires as Pastor Emeritus and states about his retirement that he is going, “to enjoy golfing, family, golfing, traveling, and more golfing.”

Save Energy, Stay Cool in Summer Heat With These Tips and Programs

As summer officially begins and triple digit temperatures begin to turn up the heat in southern California, Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) is reminding customers to practice those simple steps that will help them stay cool, conserve energy, and ensure the stability of both the local and state power grids.

Some of those easy steps include setting thermostats to 78 degrees or higher; keeping window blinds closed; cooling off with fans; turning off unneeded lighting, computers, and electronics; and waiting to use appliances like dish and clothes washers until the evening or early morning hours. Continued wise energy use through easy steps like these can lead to big savings. In fact, for every two degrees a thermostat is increased cooling costs are reduced by about five percent.

Riverside residents can also beat the heat and reduce their energy consumption by going to local malls, pool facilities, or the city’s Cool Centers located at designated libraries, parks and community centers. A complete list of Riverside’s Cool Centers and their hours of operation can be found at ReadyRiverside.com or by contacting the city’s Call Center at 826-5311.

In addition to using energy wisely, RPU electric customers can take advantage of a variety of programs the utility offers which provide rebates for making homes and businesses more energy efficient. Among them, the Energy Star rebate program which offers rebates on qualifying energy efficient Energy Star rated products like: up to $200 for a new refrigerator; $50 for dishwashers; $50 for room air conditioners; and $25 for ceiling fans (limit 4). Other program rules and restrictions apply.

For additional information about Riverside Public Utilities follow us on Facebook and on Twitter @RPUNews.

SB Community College Receives Safety Award

The San Bernardino Community College District (SBCCD) received the Outstanding Safety Performance Award for San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC) Central Plant and Infrastructure Project from The Statewide Educational Wrap-Up Program (SEWUP) Joint Powers Authority Board of Directors. SEWUP is a comprehensive owner-controlled insurance program that covers the SBCCD as the owner, as well as the general contractor and subcontractors on the project. The SBVC Central Plant and Infrastructure Project is a Measure M bond-funded project whose original construction value was $10,878,000.

The award was presented at the SBCCD Board of Trustees meeting on June 13. There were no workers compensation claims and no general liability losses throughout the 13 months of the project. More than 50 workers were involved in the project.

Chancellor Bruce Baron said, “The safety and welfare of our workers is of paramount importance in each project and on each site of our District. In addition to safeguarding the health of our construction crew, we also reap the benefit of lower employment costs that serves the taxpayers of our community. We are honored to have been recognized for our ongoing commitment to workplace safety.”
NBA: What Happens to the Undrafted?

In 2011, 17,500 college basketball players were registered with the National Collegiate Athletic Association. That year, 48 college players were drafted by NBA teams.

What happens to the undrafted? Some bounce around the international leagues for a few years, and a few even make it to the NBA. Many more go on to office jobs. But far too many college basketball players, especially players of color, leave college without an NBA contract and without another crucial ingredient for success: a college degree. As we complete this year’s NBA draft, we should consider the fate of those many undrafted.

In the student-athlete equation, being a student must come first. In order to make that happen, colleges need to start rewarding coaches for encouraging their players’ growth in the classroom as much as their success on the field.

The student-athlete relationship in this country has always been out of balance. Colleges grow rich off of ticket sales, television rights and merchandise while many athletes struggle academically and ultimately fail to graduate. This crisis regained national attention in 2011, when the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport (TIDES) released a report that included Black and White graduation rates on men’s Division I basketball teams.

The report found a gaping racial gap. Overall, White players graduated at a 32 percent higher rate than their Black teammates. Many large colleges and universities failed to graduate even half the Black players on their teams. At the University of Akron, the men’s team had a 33 percent graduation rate - and a 33 percent White team. The graduation rate for Black students? Zero.

In the wake of the report, the NCAA Board of Directors finally took action. Urged on by TIDES, the NAACP, and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, the NCAA’s governing body voted to raise the minimum four-year Academic Progress Rate, effectively setting a minimum graduation rate for teams involved in the men’s March Madness tournament. According to the new rules, any team that fails to graduate half their players for three years in a row is banned from postseason play. They also lose access to scholarship money.

This higher standard has helped bring the student-athlete relationship back into balance somewhat. This year, ten schools were banned from the March Madness tournament for poor grades, including perennial powerhouse University of Connecticut. The graduation rate for Black players in this year’s tournament increased from 59 percent to 65 percent, and the overall graduation rate inched up to 70 percent.

However, the race gap still is stubbornly persistent. The 65 percent graduation rate for Black players this year is still 25 percentage points lower than the rate for White students. Nearly half of the teams that participated in this year’s tournament suffered racial gaps of 30 percent or more.

One solution is to change the incentive system for college coaches. According to a recent study, the average bonuses for athletic achievements are 11 times greater than bonuses for academics. In recent weeks, USA Today's editorial board and former Maryland Congressman Tom McMillen both suggested that coaches’ bonuses should be tied more strongly to players’ academic performance.

Coaches’ contracts should reflect the spirit of teamwork and mutual responsibility that makes the NCAA the premiere institution for young athletes. Coaches should be rewarded for effective strategies that keep their students at the top of their academic game. One example of how to do this comes from Xavier, which employs a nun as academic adviser to make sure that students attend class and study hard. Xavier has graduated every male basketball player, Black and White, since Sister Rose Ann Fleming began advising in 1985.

Colleges and universities clearly benefit from their students’ athletic performance. They should also push their student-athletes to perform at peak academic capacity. That is the only way we can ensure that college athletes are prepared for victory in life as well as victory on the court.
My “Encounters” with Nelson Mandela

There are those who believe that our human journey is just an accumulation of our experiences with the people we encounter in our lives and how they affect us. As the eyes of the world turn towards South Africa at this time holding vigil for an international icon of peace, I’ve been reflecting on my various “encounters” with Nelson “Rolihlahla” Mandela.

The first time I “met” Mr. Mandela was in 1985 while a student at El Camino College where I had been given the assignment of writing a paper on a person or subject of interest to me. I accidently ran across the name of Nelson Mandela and wrote my paper on a man from about whom I knew nothing from a country about which I knew even less. My paper though, helped me to discover a man living under the type of brutal oppression based on race that I had heard about existing in the U.S. way back in the 50’s and 60’s, but that had been “overcome” by the Civil Rights Movement. I was shocked to find out that a similar and in some ways a much more vile system than the Jim Crow one that had been eradicated in America existed in South Africa under the Apartheid system of oppression imposed by the white minority rulers. I discovered at that time that Mr. Mandela had been imprisoned for 20 years (since 1964). I tried to understand what kind of fortitude it took to be imprisoned for so long and still maintain hope not only for his freedom, but for the very people who imprisoned and brutalized him.

My next encounter with Mr. Mandela came in the form of the play Sarafina a couple years later. The plot centered around a group of Black South African high school students planning a performance for their school and deciding to make the play about the day Mandela is set free. Through music, dance and singing this encounter with Mandela, increased my understanding of his significance both as a comrade in the struggle as well as a symbol for the movement. His willingness to go to prison for a cause greater than himself and to “Carry on the fight even in the fortress of the enemy,” as he later stated, became inspiration for me to stand up for those things that were important including fighting for the divestment of the University of California from South Africa, when I was a student there.

My next encounter with Mr. Mandela came through a group of South African students/performers who came to perform at UC Riverside. This was the closest, physically that I would get to Mandela as it was the first time that I had actually met someone from South Africa. This was also when I was introduced to the demonstration movement/march/trot know as the Toi Toi or Toyi Toyi. The movement could be described as a cross between marching and jogging while chanting to a beat. During a performance at UCR’s Barn, the student/performers invited some of us to do the Toi Toi with them. We were also able to talk to them about what we could do to support their cause. They told us to continue to support the divestment movement and to tell as many others as we could about their struggle. I did what I could including using my position as the host of Black Awareness, a talk show on the university’s radio station KUCR to bring attention to South Africa’s Apartheid system.

My next encounter with Mr. Mandela was a couple of years later upon his release from prison to become South Africa’s first Black president, a year later transitioning peacefully from an oppressive racist government to one of equality for all.

It has been 23 years since Nelson Mandela walked out of prison and changed his country, and as I write this he finds himself in critical condition in the hospital. Thank you Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. Your spirit and influence will continue to affect us now and for the rest of our lives.

Amandla!
Awethu!
Popular Touring Rodeo Show Thrives

To the delight of thrilled audiences and rodeo fans, some of the nation’s most skilled and entertaining Black cowboys and cowgirls will ride into Southern California to compete in the nation’s only touring Black rodeo competition—the thrilling Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo (BPIR). Celebrating its 28th year, BPIR will proudly showcase its athletes performing and competing Saturday, July 20, 2013 at 7:0 p.m. and Sunday, July 21, 2013 at 3:30 p.m. at the Industry Hills Expo Center, 16200 Temple Avenue, City of Industry. Each day, dust will fly as spectators cheer for their favorite competitors during thrilling Calf Ropin’, exhilarating Bareback Ridin’, Bull Doggin’, Ladies Barrel Racin’, Junior Barrel Racin’, Ladies Steer Undercoatin’, and gripping Bull Ridin.’

Like most special events, the Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo has built a following over 28 years that has generation-after-generation coming back year-after-year.

Lu Vason, president and producer of the Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo (BPIR), long-ago challenged the false perception of the absence of Blacks in the development of the West, while molding his touring rodeo into an unquestionable success. A former entertainment producer, media impresario and marketing consultant, Vason founded the BPIR in 1984.

For tickets or more information contact 951.682.6070 or visit theievoice.com.
July 13, 2013
Location: Romano’s, 5225 Canyon Crest Drive, Riverside, CA. Proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society & the Riverside Relay for Life. Featuring three awesome bands: Master Splinter and the Shredders Borrowed Bones Future Villains Reserve your table today! Seating is Limited!! Tickets are $15. Ages 21+ Buy tickets at the door or online at: http://main.acsevents.org/goto/iерockfortherecure.

15th Annual International Crime Free Association Annual Training Conference
We invite you to join together with Crime Free Coordinators, police officers, crime prevention practitioners, security specialists, property owners and managers as we work together towards a goal of a Crime Free tomorrow. Location: Marriott Hotel, Riverside, 3400 Market Street, Riverside, CA 92501 - Information: (951) 784-8000. For more info, please call Officer Celeste Neiman, Riverside Police Department, at (951) 826-5147.

SoCal Coin, Currency and Collectibles Show
July 18-20, 2013
Buy, sell and trade for three days in an exciting competitive marketplace of over 200 dealers. Sell old coins, paper money, stamps, gold jewelry or sterling silverware. Get a free appraisal! Learn about history. Shop for a gift. Purchase gold and silver coins. See interesting and rare stamps. Browse fine jewelry at trade show prices. Enjoy a fun day with the whole family! Location: Ontario Convention Center, Ontario, CA. Tel: (888) 330-5188 or (800) 208-1810.

Community Clinic Association of San Bernardino Second Annual Conference
July 20, 2013
Join us for a day of speakers and panel presentations informing healthcare and quality of life leaders in San Bernardino County and the greater Inland Empire about the current issues and conversations gaining traction in the region. Learn about formal and informal collective impact initiatives and the potential learning and operational opportunities for you and your organization. Location: Orton Conference Center, University of Redlands, 1200 East Colton Avenue, Redlands, CA 92373. For more info, please visit www.communityclinicassociation.org.

healthy living
with Dr. Ernest Levister F.A.C.P., F.A.C.P.M.

Enjoying The Fresh Fruits Of Summer

Nothing evokes memories of childhood like eating fresh watermelon at the picnic table. Who doesn’t love the anticipation of the fresh fruits of summer – juicy strawberries, raspberries, cherries, blueberries, grapes, peaches, nectarines, apricots, cantaloupe and of course watermelon.

In California, we are fortunate to have many of our favorite summer fruits ripening in our back yard. Fruits provide important vitamins and minerals, antioxidants and enzymes. They also contain phytochemicals or plant nutrients which help boost immunity, have a protective effect against cancer, and help protect against heart diseases and circulatory problems. Stay healthy this summer by simply enjoying all the fresh fruits the season has to offer.

All those sweet flavors that bring back memories of picnics on long hot days or sunset barbeques. Of course, they are wonderful eaten just as they are, maybe with a sprinkling of sugar or a dollop of cream, but they are so versatile that they’re not just great for dessert – summer fruits also go brilliantly with meat and fish to create really light and refreshing dishes. –

Watermelon is a great source of hydration -- just look at its name! That’s Fit reported that the red-fleshed fruit is composed of about 92 percent water, and also contains the nutrients beta carotene, lycopene and vitamin C.

Finding good affordable produce at the grocery store is becoming harder these days. To help the environment and your wallet always shop at your nearest farmer’s market. Most times they are cheaper and have better quality of fruits and vegetables.

So, it’s important to at least reduce your risk in selecting bad fruits and vegetables by knowing what to look for. Before purchasing your fruits or vegetables, make sure you do not select any that have bruises or are damaged. Clean them off with running tap water when you are about to use them, not before. Depending on what fruit or vegetables, water can hasten deterioration.

When you do not refrigerate, fruits and vegetables will ripen quicker on the counter and most times taste better. Do not use the same cutting board to cut your fruits or vegetables that you use to cut meats with.

In a nutshell, summer fruit is pure enjoyment. So enjoy this delicious treat while filling up on important nutrients!
History in the Making or History Un-Made?

By VOICE Staff

Since last week, many pundits have suggested that the decision by the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) to invalidate sections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 does not mean minority voters are invalid.

Editor’s Note: The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is one the most significant pieces of legislation to help advance the African-American community, opening new doors for equality. With the SCOTUS decision to strike down a crucial part of the bill, and in the same week protect marriage equality for the LGBT community, the VOICE staff wanted to take a look at the parallels, victories and connection between the SCOTUS decisions for African-Americans and the LGBT community.
Try telling that to Black people – many are still in disbelief.

Civil rights activists and politicians from the Left are still picking up their teeth and the Obama administration is in damage control mode, with the President and Vice-President Joe Biden pledging their commitment to protecting the rights of minorities, i.e. African-Americans.

Still, people are asking what’s the big deal. Conservatives are quick to point out that the landmark legislation signed by then-President Lyndon B. Johnson signified a turning point in American history -- an opportunity to allow African-Americans to be a part of the electoral process without jumping through proverbial hoops. No literacy tests. No counting jellybeans in a jar. By far, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was one of the most crucial political protections afforded to African-Americans, truly comparable to the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863.

While the parallels between the movements in 1863 and 1965 are more than apparent, additional comparisons became fodder last week. The month of June was highly anticipated, not only because of the hot-button racial issues of the Voting Rights Act and Affirmative Action but also due to the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) marriage equality cases on the SCOTUS agenda. Simply put: The gay community was resoundingly victorious, with Proposition 8 being struck down and the controversial Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) deemed unconstitutional.

If these monumental four SCOTUS cases had to be pit up against each other, it would seem that African-Americans were surely at a loss. Furthermore, many have already asked, “What gives”? Are African-Americans taking a back seat? Are “gay rights” the new darling of the Democratic Party?

We say “no” ... not quite. No matter our viewpoints on gay marriage and sexuality, whether positive or negative, a win for any minority group in America is a reminder that the voiceless can be heard. President Obama and the congressional houses must move forward with a plan to restore every group’s faith in our government’s commitment to ensure that all voters are treated equally and fairly.
He was born a slave in 1818. 77-years later Frederick Douglass died a statesman. Now a statue of Mr. Douglass stands in the U.S. Capitol.

Speaker of the House John Boehner led a bipartisan group of Congressional leaders in the statue dedication on June 19, 2013. He called Frederick Douglass an example for humanity who is unmatched.

Frederick Douglass had little formal education and taught himself to read and write. He was beaten for trying to help other slaves read. He unsuccessfully tried to escape slavery in 1826 but was finally able to do so two years later. Mr. Douglass soon became a powerful voice for freedom and equality and became a friend and advisor to President Abraham Lincoln. Fittingly, his statue is in Emancipation Hall only a few feet away from a memorial to the many slave laborers who helped build the U.S. Capitol.

The statue is a gift to the U.S. Capitol from the District of Columbia.

Independence Day? Douglass’ Response “What To The Slave is the 4th of July”

The Scene:
The year was 1852. The day, July 5th. Frederick Douglass was delivering an address to the Ladies of the Rochester Anti-Slavery Sewing Society in the city’s Corinthian Hall in commemoration of Independence Day. There were from 500-600 individuals who paid twelve and a half cents each for admission. After the opening prayer and ceremonial reading of the Declaration of Independence, a practice at the time, Mr. Douglass stood at the podium and delivered a biting oratory. He told his audience, “This Fourth of July is yours, not mine. You may rejoice, I must mourn.” And he asked them, “Do you mean, citizens, to mock me, by asking me to speak today?”
The Speech:
What, to the American slave, is your 4th of July? I answer; a day that reveals to him, more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim. To him, your celebration is a sham; your boasted liberty, an unholy license; your national greatness, swelling vanity; your sound of rejoicing are empty and heartless; your denunciation of tyrants brass fronted impudence; your shout of liberty and equality, hollow mockery; your prayers and hymns, your sermons and thanksgivings, with all your religious parade and solemnity, are to him, mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety, and hypocrisy -- a thin veil to cover up crimes which would disgrace a nation of savages. There is not a nation on the earth guilty of practices more shocking and bloody than are the people of the United States, at this very hour.

The Reaction:
Douglass’s speech made an immediate impact on the northern American reading public. It was published in pamphlet form in the weeks following the address and read by hundreds who had not attended the Anti-Slavery Sewing Society event. The speech endures as one of the most articulate expressions of what it means to be excluded from the republican experiment that resulted in the democracy of the United States.

“Frederick Douglass believed as a human being that all of us, regardless of our race, gender, religion and sexual orientation, were born to live free and equal. (He) believed as an American that the US Constitution and Declaration of Independence were conceived to elevate every citizen of this great country. As an individual he believed reconciliation and forgiveness made us better.”

Nettie Washington Douglass
Founder & Chairwoman
Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives
(at the unveiling of the Frederick Douglass statue at Emancipation Hall, US Capitol)
still be heard -- if you want to be. LGBT Americans have African-Americans to thank for that.

However, African-Americans now must contend with a battle that seemed to already have been won.

Changing the Landscape

Without a doubt, the ruling by SCOTUS was a shocking blow, and it’s not difficult to understand why. The SCOTUS decision will allow at least nine states to amend their election laws without seeking federal approval.

One of the central questions raised in this case was whether minorities were still confronted with challenges and voting discrimination.

Pardon us if we must point to last year’s debacle, where voting districts with heavy concentrations of African-American and Latino voters were overwhelmed with early and high turnouts because of conservative attempts to suppress the vote in the presidential election. Pardon us if we point out that if these protections are no longer necessary because they now work, perhaps we need to retain them to ensure they continue to protect the “minority” vote.

It’s ironic -- or maybe not -- to note that the states in question are mostly in the South, which has been a hot bed for discrimination against African-Americans.

How Congress can have any impact on these states’ future decisions remains to be seen, but heavy political influence will be necessary for any opportunity to keep the playing field even for African-Americans and other groups that find themselves in the minority.

Paving the Way for Others

Upon analyzing at the core what the SCOTUS decision on the Voting Rights Act meant, philosophically and literally, we recalled another race-related article The VOICE published in April. We recalled an article that included an interview with the California Latino Legislative Caucus. Within the interview, the caucus credited and compared their issues with immigration reform to the Civil Rights era, where Blacks were at the forefront.

On countless occasions, the gay community has framed their arguments for marriage equality within the narrative of the African-American struggle during the civil rights era -- we heard this with Prop. 8 here in California and we witnessed it time and time again on the national stage. For better or for worse, there is much truth to the argument. While it would be a stretch to consider today’s institutional discrimination to LGBT citizens with the irreprehensible and violent forms of discrimination endured by African-Americans, the LGBT community had a valid argument.

The gay community’s win does not translate into a competition between two minority groups, but is a solid reminder that the African-American mission of equal rights is still moving America forward. And it is clear that President Obama and the congressional houses must move forward with a plan to restore every group’s faith in our government’s commitment to ensure that all voters are treated equally and fairly.
San Bernardino Valley Chapter Links, Inc. Breakfast Ball/ Scholarship

The San Bernardino Valley Chapter of Links, Inc recently held their 35th annual Breakfast Ball at the Ontario Airport Doubletree Hotel. Over 400 people were present to honor 12 graduates from high schools throughout the Inland Empire and two college graduates who will be attending law school. Attendees came from throughout the community and included elected officials, educators and local service organizations.

In addition to honoring graduates, community service awards were given to Charles Bibbs, artist and philanthropist; Wilmer Amina Carter, former Assembly member; and Eliza Daniely-Woofolk, Chief Executive Officer for Alternatives to Domestic Violence. These recipients were recognized for their commitment to empowering youth and women. Money for scholarships was raised by individual members of the chapter and also the contributions of Drs. Herb and Cheryl Fisher, The Community Foundation Endowment, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Supervisor James Ramos, Estelle and Kennedy, APLC, Dr. Harold Cebrun, Mrs. Marc Steinorth, Community Convalescent Center, Wilmer Amina Carter Foundation, Darren Collison, and Jason & Shannon O’Brien.

4th Annual National Innovative Communities Conference

The 4th Annual National Innovative Communities two day conference with more than 30 public agencies and non-profit organizations from Minnesota, Las Vegas, Los Angeles and Inland Southern California, was recently held along with a special youth conference with a common focus: public health and public policy issues. 1 - Asia Williamson, MSW, Chairperson, 4th Annual National Innovative Communities Conference. 2 - Keynote Speaker, Eric Walsh, MD, MPH, Public Health Director, City of Pasadena, put it all together in addressing “Collateral Damage, Responding to a Community in Crisis.” 3 - Public health professionals believe that it is possible to reduce, prevent, treat, and perhaps reverse the behavioral risk factors that contribute to current stress levels. In California, this is being approached at the state, county and city levels. The PIC Conference presentations included an example from Loma Linda and a panel that addressed organizing efforts to build healthy communities in different cities from different perspectives. Panelists: Kara Hunter, Eleanor Torres, Alex Avila, Cynthia Luna, Evette DeLuna, Mary Price, and Alex Fajardo. 4 - Dr Walsh and leading planners/participants in the Partners For Innovative Communities (PIC) Conference: Timmy Jeng, Evette De Luca, Asia Williamson, Dr. Walsh, Shirley Simmons, Eleanor Torres, and Diana Fox. Photos by John Coleman
Redlands Theatre Festival Opens Its 41st Anniversary
Summer Repertory Season in Prospect Park

Redlands Theatre has always been a shared vision between playwright and director, between director and actor, and between actor and audience.

Now multiply that shared vision by five and you have the ongoing success of the Redlands Theatre Festival, which showcases five productions in repertory this summer, under the stars in Prospect Park in Redlands.

Now in its 41st anniversary season, the 70-plus member repertory company kicks off its annual celebration July 12 with shows that promise to deliver high spirits, smiles galore and more than a few surprises, said festival founder and producing director Cliff Cabanilla.

This year's season again celebrates the old and the new, as well as the tried and true, with five shows including Oscar Wilde’s comedy “The Importance of Being Earnest,” the musical comedy “The Andrews Brothers,” the Tony Award-winning musical “Hairspray,” the comedy “Dividing the Estate” and the international hit “Love, Loss, and What I Wore.”

“Doing true repertory theatre requires a different side of the artistic temperament,” said Cabanilla.

Nowhere else but in repertory can audiences see five different shows with alternating cast members, many of whom appear in several of the plays, he said. And when some actors are not on stage, they can be found working in other areas of the festival, including technical crew and as musicians. Some actors even drive the tram that delivers audience members to the theater.

“The repertory process is fun and exciting for artists and audiences alike,” he said.

What began in 1972 as a modest summer theatre program at Crafton Hills College in Yucaipa has grown into a theatrical institution in the Inland Empire and in Southern California itself.

During the past four decades the Redlands Theatre Festival has produced more than 200 plays and musicals, staged more than 1,600 performances, featured more than 300 company members on and off stage, and entertained more than 500,000 audience members.

Community has always been a major aspect of the annual festival, Cabanilla said, with company members coming from throughout the Inland Empire, including Redlands, San Bernardino, Fontana, Rialto, Hesperia, Beaumont, Highland, Crestline, Running Springs and Riverside.

The festival has also expanded into the academic community as well, he said, with partnerships formed with San Bernardino Valley College and California State University, San Bernardino, as well as Crafton Hills College.

Actors who attend these colleges and universities, as well as directors and technical staff, in addition to shared equipment, are also helping to make the festival even more of a shared community enterprise.

“All the institutions share in the vision of creating challenging and artistic venues for students, and providing opportunities in developing their art and sharing the results with the community.”

The festival started as a community celebration, Cabanilla said, and it has continued to be a celebration every summer, where actors and audiences alike come together in a shared human experience and connect in ways that are magical.

Opening this year’s festival on July 12 is “Dividing the Estate,” playwright Horton Foote’s poignant comedy about a Texas family that must prepare for an uncertain financial future. The show, which runs for seven performances, is directed by Ron Adams of Highland.

All performances are at 8:30 p.m. in Avice Meeker Sewall Theater, Prospect Park, Cajon Street and Highland Avenue, Redlands.

Single tickets are available in advance or at the door (space permitting) for $20. Student tickets may be purchased 15 minutes before curtain with a valid I.D. for $16. Season tickets are available for $80 for all five shows (pay for four and get one free). Group tickets also are available at a discounted rate.

Tickets are available at the Redlands Theatre Box Office at Prospect Park or by calling (909) 792-0562. Ticket information is also available at www.rftseason.com. Special deals and offers are available on the Redlands Theatre Festival’s Facebook page.

Theatergoers may park on Cajon Street and take the free tram ride to and from the theater. Picnicking is allowed on the festival grounds prior to each show.
NOTICE OF SALE OF VEHICLE
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 709 of the Code of Civil Procedure of the State of California, the undersigned will sell the following motor vehicle at public sale on [insert date and time] at [insert location].

The following fictitious business name has been abandoned by the following person(s):

[Detailed information about the fictitious business name, registrant, and abandonment date is provided here.]

I certify that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true, information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)

[Signed]

[Name of person filing the notice]

[Date]

[County Clerk]

[Date]

[County Clerk]

[County, State]

[County Clerk]
You may want to call an attorney right away.

If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be seized without further warning.

There are other legal requirements. If you do not attend an attorney right away, you do not know what may happen.

You cannot afford an attorney or file by default, and you cannot contest your eviction by a writ of possession.

AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.

Tiene 30 días de calendario después de que le entregan esta Citación y Petición para presentar una respuesta por escrito en el caso. La corte no aceptará una respuesta por escrito que tiene lugar en formato legal si se expresa en español o en inglés.

Si no puede obtener la ayuda que necesita en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes del Condado de Riverside (www.rivcourts.ca.gov) o en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado personalmente, la corte puede necesitar que usted pague el costo de transcripción. Si no puede pagar la cuenta de transcripción, siempre debe presentar la corte una solicitud de exoneración de pago de cuotas. Si presenta una petición de transcripción, puede perdern el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Le informamos.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after these summons and legal papers are served upon you to file a written response in this court and have a copy served on the party who filed the citation. If you do not file your response by the third day, you may be declared in default, and your wages, money, and property may be seized without further warning.

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NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF LEROY JAN FRYKE, aka LE ROY J. FRYKE, aka LEROY FRYKE
Case Number RIC 1300483
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of LEROY JAN FRYKE, aka LE ROY J. FRYKE, aka LEROY FRYKE: A Petition for Probate has been filed in the Superior Court of California, County of: RIVERSIDE. The Petition is a Request that GAYLE FRYKE be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking any very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date: 7/29/13 Time: 8:30 A.M. Dept. B, 4050 Main Street, Riverside, Riverside. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file a claim with the court by the set date for filing a claim. This will expire before four months from the hearing date. If you do not file the required claim, your claim may not be paid. If you are a person interested in the estate and who is not owed any money by the decedent, you should file with the court a Request for Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate. This will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. The form will allow you to tell the court that you can use your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. (Any case will have a statutory lien for legal fees on the probate estate, so if you cannot afford legal fees, you may lose your case.) You may not lose the case by incumplimiento and the court may quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas adversancia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado un abogado, puede llamar a un abogado es posible que cumplan con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin finales de lucro. Puede encontrar estas organizaciones sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California legal Services (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.suecoro.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales, AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos retenidos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperacion de $10,000 o mas de venter recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesion de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desear el caso. El nombre y las direcciones del caso se: SUPERIOR COURT OF RIVERSIDE, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, 4175 MAIN STREET, RIVERSIDE, CA 92503. The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff’s attorney is: CATALINA MENDEZ, 3125 SHADY OAK LANE, RIVERSIDE, CA 92503. Date: FEB 25, 2013 Notice to the person served: You are served as an individual at the address above: p. 747, 711, 718, 2013
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William Walker, Sr. Vice President of Programs, S.H.A.R.E. Inland Empire

Founded in 1988, S.H.A.R.E. Inland Empire is a re-entry life skills program that assists people in integrating back into the community after incarceration. Their goal: To assist individuals in becoming self-sufficient, and to create jobs in the Inland Empire and particularly San Bernardino. They fund the business by selling furniture and cars to church organizations, non-profit organizations and small businesses in the Inland Empire.

Who they are:
Our belief in ‘Service Above Self’, links directly to and holds strong to our intentions: to bring (S)ocial (H)azard (A)wareness (R)esearch and (E)ducation. We are a very dedicated organization with a legitimate commitment to families and individuals, serving as their resource for food, education, as well as a steady support system to bring balance to their lives.

What they envision:
We envision going global. We see the organization having many thrift stores to help people all over the world, because that is our sole mission: To create jobs.

Who they help:
We are open to anyone who wants to make a change. We like to help anyone who needs to adjust, whether a man or woman. Probation sends the clients, and they go through our re-entry program. Many may not have known that re-entry people are not used to the regular things we use everyday. We get them back to basics, as simple as watching television or using a cell phone. Some of our clients want to get back with their family after doing their time. We also help with counseling them.

S.H.A.R.E. Inland Empire offers a diverse range of services, which include and are not limited to job training and placement. They take pride in providing exceptional service and offering only their best efforts to the community and those in need. No matter the volume of requests, they strive to meet them all with expert advice, individualized attention, and innovative solutions.

They consistently seek out ways to improve their community services and upgrade their programs.

Contact: www.shareinlandempire.org, by telephone: (909) 890-0999, or walk in, hours of operation are Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. The address is: 777 South Allen Street, Suite#A, San Bernardino.

S.H.A.R.E 1st Annual Charity Golf Tournament

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