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Recommended Citation

Voice Media Ventures, "Vol.46 n.35 March 21st 2019" (2019). *Black Voice News*. 911.
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VOICE

West Valley Water District

WVWD

● A Never-Ending Story of ● Corruption and Malfeasance

Inside: Newsom and Hestrin Disagree on Death Penalty
Moratorium Executive Order

West Valley
Water Distr

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BLOOMINGTON

Bloomington Municipal Advisory Council Meetings at Ayala Park
18313 Valley Boulevard
Bloomington, CA 92316

CORONA

Shades of Afrika
114 E. 6th St.
Corona, CA 92879

FONTANA

City Hall of Fontana
8353 Sierra Avenue
Fontana, CA 92335

Kaiser Permanente Hospital
9961 Sierra Avenue
Fontana, CA 92335

MORENO VALLEY

Cross Word Christian Fellowship
21401 Box Springs Rd.
Moreno Valley, CA 92557

Moreno Valley Community Center
13911 Perris Blvd.
Moreno Valley, CA 92553

Moreno Valley USD
25634 Alessandro Blvd.
Moreno Valley, CA 92553

REDLANDS

LifeWay Christian Stores
9940 Alabama Avenue
Redlands, CA 92374

RIALTO

Rialto City Hall
150 S. Palm
Rialto, CA 92376

Treehouse Dental Group
1725 N. Riverside Avenue
Rialto, CA 92376

Westside Pit Bar "B" Que
519 W Foothill Blvd
Rialto, CA 92376
(909) 440-5783

Premier Barber Shop
550 W Foothill Blvd
Rialto, CA 92376
310-817-9863

Holiday Barber Shop
891 N Pepper Ave
Rialto, CA 92376
909 820-1175

Hair Biz Salon
139 W Foothill Blvd
Rialto, CA 92376
909-875-1581

West Valley Water District
855 W. Baseline Rd.
Rialto, CA 92376

RIVERSIDE

Brown Publishing Co
1201 University Ave Ste. 210
Riverside, CA 92507

Fair Housing Council of
Riverside County, Inc.
3933 Mission Inn Avenue
Riverside, CA 92501

Kansas Avenue SDA Church
4491 Kansas Avenue
Riverside, CA 92507

Light of the World Church of God in Christ
5595 Molino Way
Riverside, CA 92509

New Beginnings Christian
Fellowship
5970 Limonite Avenue
Riverside, CA 92509

Riverside City Hall
3900 Main Street
Riverside, CA 92501

Riverside County Black Chamber of Commerce
2060 Chicago Ave Suite A-13
Riverside, CA 92507

SAN BERNARDINO

American Legion 710
2181 W. Highland Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92407

Black Voice Foundation
1590 N. Waterman Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92404

Boys & Girls Club
1180 W. 9th Street
San Bernardino, CA 92411

Cathedral of Praise
3030 Del Rosa Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92404

Dorothy Inghram Library
1505 W. Highland Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92411

Delmann Heights
Community Center
2969 Flores Street
San Bernardino, CA 92407

Ecclesia Christian Fellowship
1314 Date Street
San Bernardino, CA 92404

Feldheym Library
555 W. 6th Street
San Bernardino, CA 92410

San Bernardino USD
1525 W. Highland Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92411

San Bernardino City Hall
300 N. D Street
San Bernardino, CA 92418

San Bernardino County
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415

SB County
Superintendent of Schools
601 N. E Street
San Bernardino, CA 92410

San Bernardino USD
777 N. F Street
San Bernardino, CA 92410

St. Paul AME Church
1355 W. 21st St
San Bernardino, CA 92411
909.887.1718

EDUCATE | ENGAGE | INFORM

VOICE

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ESTABLISHED 1972

Voice Media Ventures
Post Office Box 912
Riverside, California 92502
(951) 682-6070

Published every Thursday and distributed throughout the Inland Empire Adjudicated, a legal newspaper of general circulation on July 8, 1974 Case # 108890 by the Superior Court of Riverside County. Stories published do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publishers. Member of: National Newspaper Publishers Association, California Black Media and California News Publishers Association

KEEPING IT REAL

Let This Be the Beginning

I count myself among the millions who are fed up with this nation's inability to come to grips with the insane level of gun violence that steals lives, injures bodies and breaks hearts.

As the body count has risen over the years, somewhere along the way I lost my tolerance for those who cling to the Second Amendment above reason or the unnecessary loss of life.

This issue is further complicated by the control gun lobbyists with their fists full of dollars, have on our elected officials—particularly members of the Republican Party, although many Democrats are not exempt from peddling the political influence gun lobbyists' money can buy.

Almost lost among the many news events at the local, state and federal levels last week, was an historic ruling by the Connecticut Supreme Court related to the issue of gun manufacturers. The case

involved the gun manufacturer Remington, who was sued over how it marketed the rifle used in the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting that left 20 young children and six adults dead.

In its decision, by a slim three to four margin the court reinstated the wrongful death lawsuit thereby overturning a lower court ruling that had thrown the case out. The lower court judge had ruled the lawsuit was prohibited by a 2005 Bush era law, the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (its title would almost be laughable if the reality of the law wasn't so despicable) made it nearly impossible to sue gun manufacturers. As a result, lawsuits in several states against gun manufacturers like Remington are continuously dismissed by the nation's courts.

To bypass the limits of the Bush era law, the plaintiffs in this case carved out and argued a narrow path related to how Remington had

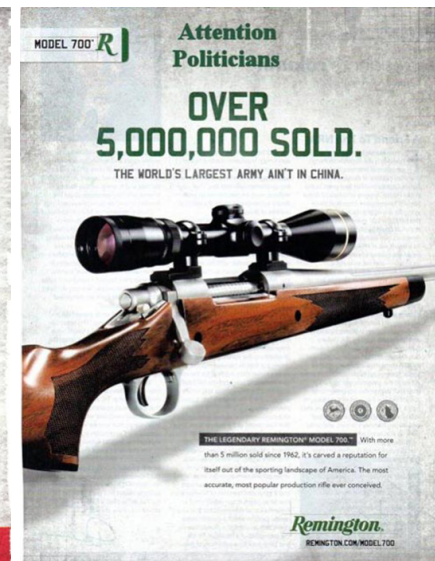
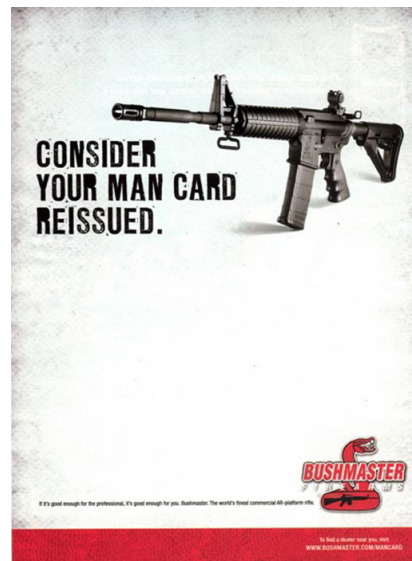
advertised the AR-15 rifle used in the Newton massacre (and many others), with a focus on young people—including those with mental illness. It is very possible this ruling will help change the discourse regarding common sense gun legislation.

Now that the lawsuit can proceed, the plaintiffs are entitled to the disclosure of Remington's corporate documents related to its marketing strategy. Gun manufacturers and Second Amendment advocates are appalled over what such disclosure may reveal.

The disclosures in this case may well put the gun industry in the same kind of untenable position as the tobacco industry found itself in when it became awash in the "antiseptic of sunshine." A look at some of Remington's advertising tells a clear story about who the company targeted for its products.

For years, surviving family members and injured victims of gun violence have had little recourse against the gun industry—at long last, maybe the tables are about to turn. If gun manufacturers are eventually held to the same level of accountability as the tobacco industry, I for one, will celebrate.

If this comes to pass, I will be the first to advocate that society should not stop with those who build and market such weapons. Let this be the beginning of a new era of corporate/industrial accountability. After all, as Mitt Romney once told us, "Corporations are people, my friend." If that's so, then they should not have privileges the average citizen does not



continued on page 17



County Claims to Care About Poverty While Failing to Pay Workers a Living Wage

San Bernardino – Raising their voices for a living wage, caregivers of the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program represented by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) 2015, rallied outside the Board of Supervisors meeting last week.

For more than a year the county’s 26,000 IHSS caregivers have raised their voices for the right to earn a wage conducive to lifting them out of poverty. Yet, despite their pleas, earlier this month the board once again failed to offer them a pay increase.

These individuals care for the county’s seniors and those with disabilities. In a recent Op Ed, SEIU Local 2015 Regional Vice President Enrique Camacho called out county officials for the irony of their claims of “addressing poverty” while at the same time they refuse “to lift the workers who they negotiate with out of poverty.”

\$10 Million in State Funding Will Help Serve the Homeless in Riverside County

Riverside

For the first time according to officials, just over \$10 million dollars in state funding has been awarded to agencies and cities that help the homeless individuals and families in Riverside County.

Funding requirements stipulated by the state requires the county to use the existing Continuum of Care structure created by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to manage federal grants for homeless programs.

On March 4, the Riverside County Continuum of Care Board of Governance issued final awards for 18 different projects county-wide, including homeless housing projects, rental assistance, shelter repairs and youth outreach.

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Automatic Property Tax Refunds Approved

San Bernardino

SB 1246, the Property Tax Claims for Refund measure that went into effect in January, authorized counties to issue a refund to a property owner without the owner having to process a claim for the refund was adopted by resolution during the Board of Supervisors' meeting last Tuesday.

The board took this action because counties were required to adopt a resolution or ordinance approving the tax refund provision, which is codified in California Revenue and Taxation Code, before it could be implemented locally.

Property tax refunds are typically triggered when a county assessor changes the assessed value on properties to match their market values. The county auditor determines if the change requires the issuance of refunds or if the owners owe more in taxes.

Most San Bernardino County property owners will no longer have to fill out forms to get their property tax refunds provided both of the following conditions are met: (1) There has been no transfer of the property during or since the fiscal year for which the taxes subject to refund

were levied, and (2) The amount of the refund is less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

"The County knows which property owners are due a refund and how much they are owed, so why should they have to fill out a form to let the County know they want their money back?" asked Second District Supervisor Janice Rutherford rhetorically, who suggested the Board adopt SB 1246.

Historically, when a refund was warranted and the auditor sent the property owner a claim form to fill out and return in order to get it, if it is not claimed within four years, California law authorizes county supervisors to move the unclaimed money into their general funds.

This usually results in windfalls for counties. As an example, last December, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors approved transferring \$9 million in unclaimed property tax refunds to its General Fund.

"By opting into this legislation, Rutherford stressed, "we're getting rid of that extra paperwork and sending the refund directly to taxpayers."

NEWS IN BRIEF

County Seeks Community Members for Building and Safety Appeals Board

San Bernardino - San Bernardino County Board of Supervisor Chairman Curt Hagman announced the county is seeking individuals to serve on the Building and Safety Appeals Board, a technical review panel charged with considering matters in which property owners and builders believe the county has incorrectly applied the Building Code during plan review, construction, or to an existing building resulting in that building being declared substandard or unsafe.

Applicants should be familiar with construction and the California Building Code and have the knowledge, experience and training necessary to review and reach decisions on matters pertaining to construction including applicable codes, regulations and ordinances.

Those appointed will serve four-year terms. In addition, two members of this board will also serve on the County Physically Disabled Access Appeals Board that considers county decisions pertaining to disabled access.

Applications are available online at <http://cms.sbcounty.gov/cob/Forms/BCCApplication.aspx> or in person at the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, 385 No Arrowhead Ave., Second Floor, San Bernardino. "The mission of this board is important, and I encourage anyone who feels they are qualified and who is interested in serving their community to apply," Hagman stated.

College Cheating Scandal Puts Affirmative Action in the Spotlight

The college admissions scandal is a blatant reminder of what many of us have long believed: That the process is deeply flawed and can be gamed by those with wealth and influence. Whenever people say affirmative action admissions policies give Black people (and by extension other people of color) an unfair advantage, I always have to remind them that the deck is stacked against us in the first place. White privilege, systemic and institutionalized racism and nepotism are some of the biggest advantages that white students have when applying for college.

It is not affirmative action that threatens the fairness in the college admissions process, its supporters say, but rather the advantages of the rich and powerful.

Fifty people -- from Hollywood stars and top industry CEOs to college coaches and standardized test administrators -- are accused of participating in a scheme to cheat on admissions tests and to get students into leading institutions as athletes regardless of their abilities, prosecutors revealed last Tuesday in a federal indictment.

The scandal has spurred widespread debate

about why factors such as donations, athletics and legacy status are baked into the admissions process, which has traditionally benefitted wealthy families. Yet affirmative action, which is intended to help underrepresented minorities, gets intense scrutiny and legal challenges.

Affirmative action was developed in the 1960s to address racial inequality and racial exclusion in American society. Colleges and universities wanted to be seen as forward-thinking on issues of race.

Then, in the late 1970s, affirmative action went to the United States Supreme Court. There, the only justification accepted, by Justice Powell, was the compelling state interest in a diverse student body in which everyone benefits from a range of perspectives in the classroom.

Today, when colleges talk about affirmative action, they rarely mention the issue of inequality, or even of a diverse leadership. Instead, they focus on the need for a diverse student body in which everyone benefits from a range of perspectives in the classroom.

None of these changes would have happened without affirmative action. States that have banned affirmative action can show us that.

California, for example, banned affirmative action in the late 1990s, and at the University of California, Berkeley, the percentage of Black undergraduates has fallen from 6 percent in 1980 to only 3 percent in 2018.

Decades of research shows Black students who probably benefited from affirmative action -- because their achievement data is lower than the average student at their colleges -- do better in the long-run than their peers who went to lower-status universities and probably did not benefit from affirmative action. The ones who benefited are more likely to graduate college and to earn professional degrees, and they have higher incomes.

So affirmative action acts as an engine for social mobility for its direct beneficiaries. This in turn leads to a more diverse leadership, which you can see steadily growing in the United States. Research in higher education shows that whites and those from a higher economic background also benefit. These students have more positive racial attitudes toward racial minorities, they report greater cognitive capacities. They even seem to participate more civically when they leave college.

classifieds & public notices

NAME CHANGE

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

CASE NUMBER RIC 1824804

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: EDWIN EDUARDO MARTINEZ filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: EDWIN EDUARDO MARTINEZ to: ADAN ORTEGA. The Court Orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. Notice of Hearing: Date: 04/24/2019 Time: 1:00pm, Dept. C2. The address of the court is: Riverside Superior Court Corona Branch, 505 S. Buena Vista Avenue, Rm. 201, Corona, CA 92882. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the

following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Black Voice News, 1201 University Avenue, Suite 210, Riverside, CA 92507

Date: NOV 19, 2018

Craig G. Riemer, Judge of the Superior Court

p. 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28/2019

AMENDED ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

CASE NUMBER MVC 1900074

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: ELIZJAI QUANTE MOORE filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: ELIZJAI QUANTE MOORE to: ELIZJAI QUANTE COOLEY. The Court Orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. Notice of Hearing: Date: 04/11/2019 Time: 1:00pm, Dept. MV2. The

address of the court is: Riverside Superior Court Moreno Valley Branch, 13800 Heacock Street #D201, Moreno Valley, CA 92553. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Black Voice News, 1201 University Avenue, Suite 210, Riverside, CA 92507

Date: FEB 6, 2019

Craig G. Riemer, Judge of the Superior Court

p. 3/14, 3/21, 3/28, 4/4/2019

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

CASE NUMBER MVC 1903057

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: EDWARD CULICCI filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: EDWARD CULICCI to: EDWARD ANGIULO COLUCCI. The Court Orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled

to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. Notice of Hearing: Date: 04/18/2019 Time: 1:00pm, Dept. MV2. The address of the court is: Riverside Superior Court Moreno Valley Branch, 13800 Heacock Street #D201, Moreno Valley, CA 92553. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Black Voice News, 1201 University Avenue, Suite 210, Riverside, CA 92507

Date: MARCH 5, 2019

Craig G. Riemer, Judge of the Superior Court

p. 3/14, 3/21, 3/28, 4/4/2019

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

CASE NUMBER HEC 1900354

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: MCKENZIE RAE TAYLOR filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: AUDREY ANN TAYLOR to: PRUDENCE AARYN-ANN TAYLOR. The Court Orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why

the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. Notice of Hearing: Date: 04/11/2019 Time: 1:30pm, Dept. H1. The address of the court is: Riverside Superior Court, County of Riverside, 880 N. State Street, Hemet, CA 92543. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Black Voice News, 1201 University Avenue, Suite 210, Riverside, CA 92507

Date: Feb 21, 2019

Samra Furbush, Judge of the Superior Court

p. 3/14, 3/21, 3/28, 4/4/2019

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

CASE NUMBER RIC 1824804

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: EDWIN EDUARDO MARTINEZ filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as

follows: EDWIN EDUARDO MARTINEZ to: ADAN ORTEGA. The Court Orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. Notice of Hearing: Date: 04/24/2019 Time: 1:00pm, Dept. C2. The address of the court is: Riverside Superior Court Corona Branch, 505 S. Buena Vista Avenue, Rm. 201, Corona, CA 92882. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Black Voice News, 1201 University Avenue, Suite 210, Riverside, CA 92507

Date: NOV 19, 2018

Craig G. Riemer, Judge of the Superior Court

p. 3/14, 3/21, 3/28, 4/4/2019

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE

Newsom and Hestrin Disagree on Death Penalty Moratorium Executive Order

Riverside

On Friday, Riverside County District Attorney Mike Hestrin reacted to Governor Gavin Newsom's recent decision to place a moratorium on the death penalty in California.

Since the death penalty was reinstated in California in 1978, nearly 1,000 people have been sentenced to death and 13 individuals executed. Riverside and Los Angeles counties hold the dubious distinction of having sentenced more people to death than any other counties in the state or the nation.

Although California is home to some of the top death sentencing counties in the United States and at least seven counties issued death sentences in 2017, Riverside County alone issued five that year, more than any other in the state or nation.

Hestrin is a vocal supporter of the death penalty and was an avid supporter of a proposition approved by voters in 2016 calling for death sentences to be accelerated. On Friday, Hestrin did not hold back his sentiments regarding the governor's action.

"On Wednesday, Governor Gavin Newsom imposed a 'moratorium' on the death penalty in California and issued a blanket death penalty 'reprieve' for eligible inmates based on his own personal beliefs about the death penalty," he began.

"If this decision had been made by the people through their representatives or the initiative process, I would have no problem with it. However, this 'reprieve' has subverted the expressed will of the people, disregarded the Supreme Court's binding decisions, ignored constitutional constraints on his power and inflicted lasting damage to the rule of law."



Riverside County DA Mike Hestrin

Despite Hestrin's proclamation, Tuesday afternoon, Newsom spoke more about the impetus for his decision last week. "I did not come to this lightly. I did not come to this over the course of a few weeks," he stressed and continued. "It's been a very strongly held point of view that I have had for over four decades."

Newsom wished to remind constituents that as a statewide official he had publicly opposed two ballot initiatives to stop the death penalty in previous years. "I was the only statewide official that publicly opposed the death penalty on two occasions. I've been very clear in my opposition," he

continued on page 17

InnROADs—Delivering "Care" to Those in Need

San Bernardino

In late February, the San Bernardino Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) presented the Innovative Remote Onsite Assistance Delivery (InnROADs) program to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission.

This week DBH announced it has received approval from the Commission to implement the InnROADs program.

The five-year, time-limited, learning project is a multi-agency, multidisciplinary approach to engage individuals experiencing homelessness and mental illness in rural areas of San Bernardino County. The project is a collaborative effort among four county departments including Behavioral Health, Aging and Adult Services,

Public Health and the Sheriff's Department.

"We are pleased to bring such an innovative project to San Bernardino County that addresses persons who are homeless, have a serious mental illness/addiction and are living in our rural and remote areas," said County Behavioral Health Director Veronica Kelley.

The InnROADs project, funded through Proposition 63, the Innovation Component of the Mental Health Services Act, hopes to build trust, help support and care for communities and eventually link them into the appropriate system of care.

According to Kelly, the funding will enable a multidisciplinary team to go into rural and frontier areas via five off-road mobile teams, to

treat in place and assist moving the homeless population into permanent supportive housing with a focus on treating their mental illness and/or addiction.

Possible treatment could include counseling, medication and basic physical health screenings. Through this project, services will "go to" the individuals in need no matter where they are located within San Bernardino County.

"We have taken the lead from our stakeholders and are very excited to bring this project to life for our community," said Office of Innovation Program Manager Karen Cervantes. "This is a great opportunity to learn and improve the way we provide care."

To Speak or Not To Speak—Understanding Why People Stutter

Mohamed Jawara
Contributor

Communicating with others with ease is something that is sometimes taken for granted. However, for approximately three million Americans who stutter, speaking is a daunting and sometimes anxiety provoking activity.

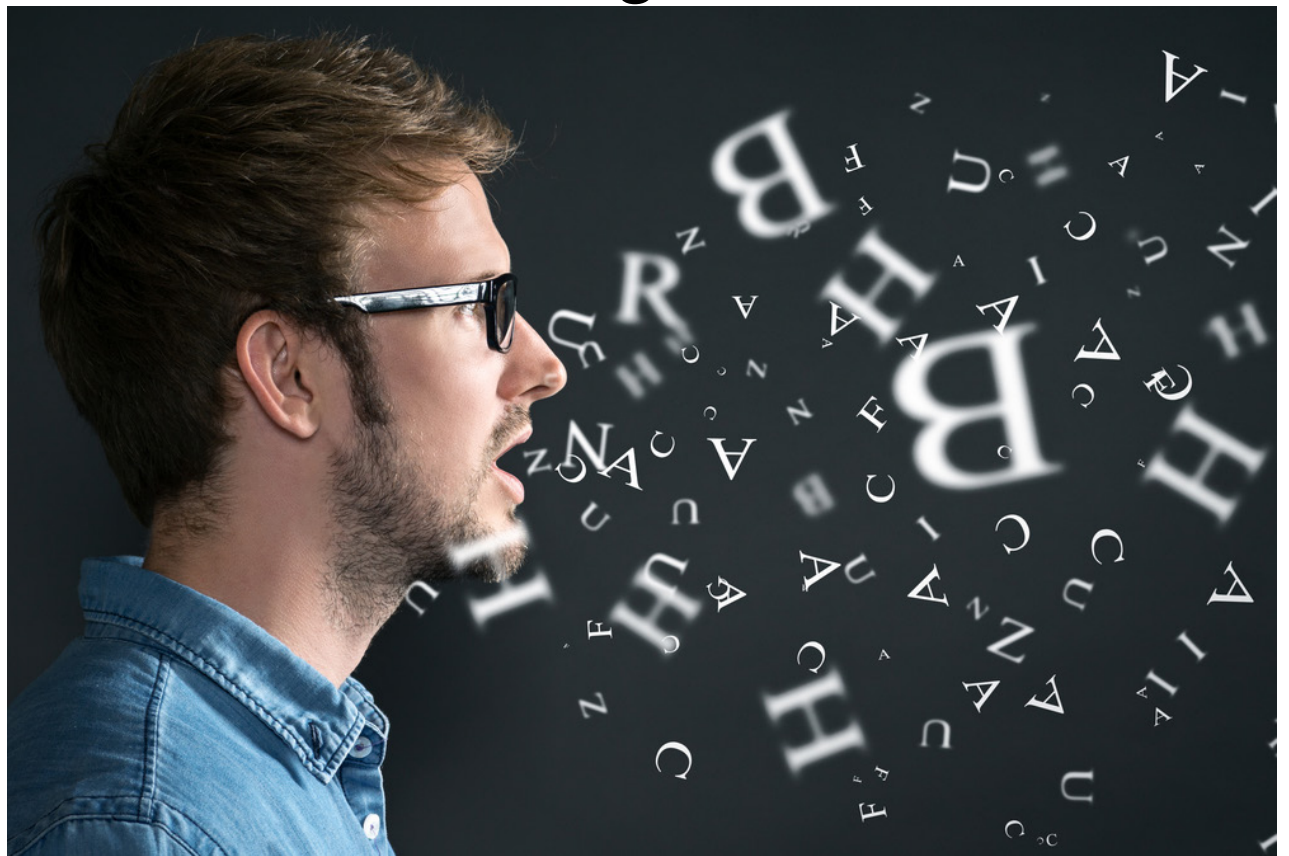
Stuttering, also known as Childhood Onset Fluency Disorder, is characterized by hesitations or repetition of sounds which can be an impediment to an individual's speech.

Stuttering can start later in life, but such onsets are rare. Usually, individuals that stutter start to see signs of the condition in childhood between the ages of three and five years.

Dr. Gerald Maguire, M.D., professor and chair of Psychiatry in Neuroscience at the University of California, Riverside School of Medicine, a person who stutters himself, and chair of the National Stuttering Association said, "Stuttering usually begins around the time of speech onset with hesitations of speech, or prolongation of speech or repetition of speech or pauses within the speech." Furthermore, Dr. Maguire elaborated, as a result of the signs associated with stuttering, individuals that stutter may begin to develop avoidances around certain words or situations about their speech.

Recently, there has been a great deal of research conducted to understand the factors that might contribute to stuttering. In a UCR Health Article, Maguire stated that "Until fairly recent years, stuttering was thought to be mostly a problem of the mouth or throat. However, new research that was conducted at the University of California Riverside School of Medicine, has revealed that stuttering is a disorder related to an abnormal brain activity and may be amenable to medical treatments. Other factors that might play a role in stuttering may be genetics and epigenetic qualities."

Currently, there aren't any medicines or treatments that are FDA approved for stuttering. However, research being conducted at the UCR School of Medicine is honing-in on promising pharmacologic agents to treat the disorder. According to Maguire, other treatment options



being researched to treat stuttering are electric and magnetic stimulations of the brain.

Although there aren't any FDA approved medications for stuttering yet, speech therapy can be utilized to treat the disorder, especially early on in childhood. According to Maguire, "It is key to get children who stutter to be assessed and treated in speech therapy with a licensed speech language pathologist that specializes in fluency." When started at an early age, speech therapy has proven to be beneficial in treating the disorder.

Since stuttering can lead to avoidances and is associated with social anxiety, psychotherapy may also be of benefit to individuals experiencing these co-existing symptoms.

There are a variety of misconceptions and stigmas about individuals that stutter. Maguire stated that stuttering has mistakenly been viewed as primarily an anxiety disorder and people who stutter have often been given the inappropriate advice to just "relax" or "slow down."

In addition, discrimination still exists in

occupational settings, academic settings, and even in the military where people who stutter are not considered as capable as others because of their stuttered speech.

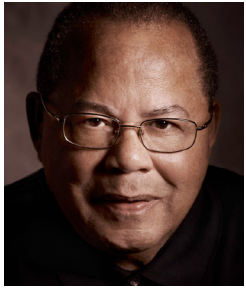
Maguire stated there is so much more to communication than fluent speech. Stuttering is not a new disorder as it has existed throughout history across different cultures and ethnicities.

Help and support is available to those who stutter and their loved ones. If you or someone you know stutters, there are numerous resources available. A great place to start is the National Stuttering Association at www.westutter.org.

If you have questions or feedback, please feel free to email chc@medsch.ucr.edu.

Mohamed Jawara is a University of California Riverside alumnus with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and Law & Society. He currently works at the UCR School of Medicine's Center for Healthy Communities and contributes health content for the I.E. Voice Newspaper. Mr. Jawara intends to pursue graduate studies in the field of Public Health and other health related fields in the coming year.

Local Leaders Tour Hydro Electric Generation Plant



Hardy Brown, Sr.

Contributor

Photo by Benoit Maphettes

West Valley Water District Ratepayers Association President Don Griggs in coordination with Stan Futch, President of Westside Action Group and Clarence Mansell Jr., General Manager of West Valley Water District, led a delegation of community leaders on an educational tour of the district's Hydro Electric Generation Plant in January.

In 1993, WVWD partnered with the City of Rialto and built a treatment facility for the water flowing from Lytle Creek. Over the years, what became the Oliver P. Roemer Water Filtration Facility, was expanded twice, increasing the amount of water available for WVWD customers.

On a personal note, Oliver P. Roemer was manager of the Eastern Division of Southern California Edison Company where Don and I worked back in the sixties—I was the first Black meter reader in Edison history and Don became the first Black to manage a district office—Roemer helped both of us fight against discrimination at Edison.

Roemer was also the one who got me involved with Boy Scouting and I recruited Don and other minorities to join with me in volunteering with the scouting program in our community.

The tour of the Hydro Electric Generation Plant was an idea that grew from ratepayers' concerns related to many decisions by the WVWD Board of Directors during the past year and issues in the news about other water districts in the nation—including here in California.

“When I approached the newly appointed WVWD General Manager Clarence Mansell, he jumped at the idea to showcase the hard work of so many dedicated employees that usually go unnoticed in the district,” Don said.

During the tour, leaders learned that in 2016 WVWD opened the nation's first perchlorate treatment facility to bring clean water directly to ratepayers using natural, bioremediation technology. Understanding the technology is challenging but as Don shared, the tour provided a giant step toward understanding the process our drinking water goes through on its way to the consumer.

WVWD's second perchlorate treatment facility was completed in 2017. In 2019 and beyond, WVWD looks forward to the opening of its first hydroelectric generation plant and increased housing developments in their service area. The WVWD serves over 80,000 residents in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.



WVWD!

A Never-Ending Story of Corruption and Malfeasance

S.E. Williams
Contributor

If the past is truly prologue as the adage foretells, then West Valley Water District ratepayers may soon be on the hook for another civil settlement.

Over the last couple of years, the water agency has paid thousands of dollars in civil settlements and lawyer fees purportedly as the result of weak leadership and poor personnel-related decisions.

Unfortunately, what some have described as the wanton pillaging of ratepayer dollars appears not to be over yet.

In mid-February, former West Valley Water District (WVWD) interim General Manager Matthew Litchfield, filed a complaint against WVWD et al with the Civil Division of the Superior Court of San Bernardino.

The complaint was filed, as Litchfield declared in court documents, because he was, “harassed, given a poor evaluation, threatened with termination, stripped of all authority and constructively terminated.”

All of this was allegedly triggered by his steadfastness in opposing the alleged misuse of water (public) agency funds and various violations of the California Water Code as it relates to the authority of the WVWD Board of Directors/General Manager, and finally, for disclosing information about working conditions at the agency.

Litchfield cited several examples of the alleged misuse that began when he assumed the role of Interim General Manager for the agency in July 2016 and former Board President Dr. Clifford Young purportedly gave him a “hit list” of employees he wanted Litchfield to fire.

Litchfield claims when he protested to C. Young that employees could not simply be fired based on his wishes and that terminations must occur in accordance with WVWD policies and due process principles.

This issue may eventually become an even bigger problem for Young. In a separate civil case involving a different employee, Young purportedly

lied when asked about the “hit list.” He claimed it was Litchfield who prepared the list.

In response, Litchfield declared he informed the WVWD attorney that if called upon to testify he would, “Truthfully testify under oath that it was Dr. Young who gave him the hit list.”



Former Board President Dr. Clifford Young Sr.

In a different scenario, Young attempted to pressure Litchfield into hiring one of Young’s friends and political supporters, Robert Christman, for the position of Chief Financial Officer even though Christman was not the most qualified candidate. Litchfield claims Young made it clear to him there was a price to be paid for not hiring him. When Litchfield refused, Dr. Young made it clear to him that he would pay a price for not hiring his buddy. This was not the only alleged threat.

In March 2017, Litchfield said he received a “profanity laced phone call” from Young who was upset that he had failed to reschedule a board meeting Young wanted moved to a different date. Litchfield said he did not reschedule the March 17, 2017 meeting because most board members wanted it to remain on the calendar as scheduled.

In response, Young told Litchfield, “you’ve gotten yourself in between all this now!” He added, “...now you are going to get cut!”

Litchfield was threatened again later that same month, this time by WVWD legal counsel, Robert Tafoya. Tafoya was upset that Litchfield had placed an evaluation of his law firm, Tafoya & Garcia, on the April 6th Board agenda for review/discussion. Tafoya claimed Litchfield was not authorized to make such decisions. Tafoya’s verbal critique did not end discussions on this issue.

That same day, Young came to Litchfield’s office unannounced and declared, “[he] would be lashing out,” at Litchfield over the process used for setting the April 6, 2017 agenda.

Subsequently, Litchfield received an email from Young which stated

in part that if he proceeded with the evaluation of the Tafoya & Garcia law firm, he [Litchfield] would be performing an act of insubordination. The agenda however, remained unchanged at the behest of the board's majority.

In another purported incident, Young threatened to retaliate against Litchfield for pursuing reimbursement on behalf of WVWD for printer supplies Young had purchased for his personal use at the expense of the water district. Young never reimbursed WVWD for the expense.

To many critics, Young's penchant for bullying seems unlimited. In another example cited, Young attempted to bully Litchfield into rehiring a political supporter and neighbor who had been released from probationary employment with WVWD for poor performance. When another director challenged Young for giving Litchfield such a reaming about the issue, Young retorted, "He deserves more than a reaming!" Litchfield held firm and refused to reinstate the employee.

By late November 2017, Litchfield had apparently experienced enough. He penned a letter to the WVWD's General Counsel Michael Davis. In it, he protested and expressed his opposition to what he described as "the unlawful conduct of the District and its employees." The following week he provided the counsel with declarations and supporting documentation from other WVWD employees detailing incidents of alleged financial misfeasance by C. Young.

Davis, in turn, forwarded the information to the board of directors and at the same time, advised them that Litchfield was entitled to Whistle Blower Protection under Article 9 of the District's Code of Ethics/Board Conduct Policies and all other applicable laws.

In response, the WVWD hired an attorney—and in clear violation of the California Rules of Professional Conduct—the attorney and WVWD supposedly tried to force Litchfield to be interviewed by the attorney without his own lawyer present even though they were aware he was being represented by counsel. Litchfield's attorney protested what he claimed was the unethical conduct of the WVWD and its lawyer.

Last February, Litchfield did sit down for an interview with an attorney WVWD hired to act as an independent investigator.

Litchfield claimed he was repeatedly threatened by Young from July 12, 2017 to December 11, 2018. He claimed Young made it known to him and others that he wanted to build a case to fire Litchfield. One of the ways he sought to facilitate this was by partnering with board member Greg Young to give Litchfield poor performance ratings on his evaluations.

For more than a year, between October 2017 and December 11, 2017, Litchfield said he was the target of C. Young's "many violent, profanity-

laced outbursts' because of his [Litchfield's] opposition to what he described as unlawful conduct.

According to Litchfield, his time with WVWD took a further turn for the worse beginning December 11, 2017, when he was relieved of all his duties, barred from coming to the district office, instructed to surrender all WVWD property in his possession, and was prohibited from contacting any WVWD employees.

During his time in the "wilderness," Litchfield was replaced as General Manager, he was never given any feedback about what was discovered in what he called the "sham" investigation, and apparently, there was never any action taken by the WVWD over the information provided by him and others regarding the malfeasance of WVWD and C. Young.

After being forced into "professional exile" for nearly four months, Litchfield acknowledged he was left with few alternatives—he chose to resign effective April 11, 2018.

Litchfield was not the only one caught in the WVWD crosshairs on December 11, 2017. That day and again on Tuesday, December 12, by a four to one vote, the WVWD Board of Directors also suspended or placed on administrative leave Assistant General Manager Greg Gage, Human Resources Manager Karen Logue and Board Secretary, Shanae Smith.

In addition, Chief Financial Officer Marie Ricci was terminated. Several of these individuals have since, successfully settled lawsuits against WVWD at the ratepayers' expense.

Also, although Litchfield refused to hire Robert Christman as Chief Financial Officer at C. Young's demand, with Litchfield out of the way, Christman was hired. Interestingly, and in what some might consider a perverse twist

of fate, he was hired to fill Litchfield's job as interim general manager. Christman's career with WVWD was short-lived. Last July, ratepayers learned Christman too was professionally exiled and eventually resigned—he reportedly decided on his own to retire.

What many consider is most unnerving about this whole scenario is when C. Young was first selected to serve on the WVWD Board of Directors in 2004, he replaced disgraced former supervisor Jerry Eaves who was accused and pled guilty to corruption-related charges.

The IE Voice made several requests for comment from the WVWD regarding the Litchfield charges, but the agency failed to respond.

A trial setting conference regarding Litchfield's civil case is scheduled for Tuesday, August 13.

“When you see corruption, when you see injustice, you speak up. You don't just shut up and say it's none of my business.”
- Manal al-Sharif

Inland Empire Democratic Socialists of America to Host First Free Brake Light Replacement Clinic

Andrea M. Baldrias
Contributor

On Saturday, March 23rd, the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) will hold a free Brake Light Replacement Clinic.

The DSA is the largest socialist organization in the United States. They believe that working people should run both the economy and society democratically to meet human needs, not to make profits for a few. Through campus and community-based chapters, DSA members use a variety of tactics, from legislative to direct action, to fight for reforms that empower working people.

The event will be led by volunteers from the IE DSA, and welcomes open participation from all parties involved. The clinic aims to replace broken brake lights for residents of the Inland Empire free of charge. The driving reason behind the public service is to benefit the community by preventing unnecessary police stops, expensive tickets and fines, and possible court appearance.

According to the IE DSA, “Incidents over the past decade, such as the police shooting of Philando Castile, have demonstrated the often, deadly consequences of escalation resulting from minor and routine stops by law enforcement. By reducing the overall number of such encounters, the Inland Empire DSA hopes to contribute positively and in a material way toward remediation of a national controversy over law enforcement impacts on vulnerable populations, and as a small step toward its vision of a more just, humane, and free society.”

This is the first time the Inland Empire DSA has hosted this event. Nationally, the DSA has held similar clinics around locally-driven mutual aid, with the Los Angeles and New Orleans chapters having previously been successful with providing these community services. The IE DSA hopes to make this a recurring community service, as their fellow chapters have.

Events like this bring attention to the importance of mutual aid and community building. By honing-in on a service as simple as auto repair, the organization is helping to set the

tone for what the possibility of a socialist society could look like right here in the Inland Empire.

By implementing this program, they are not only helping residents evade possible fines, even the possibility of a fatal outcome from simple traffic stops that people of color, specifically Black folks, are most susceptible to.

The event will be held on Saturday, March 23rd from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 195 N Arrowhead Avenue, San Bernardino, CA. For more information on the Brake Light Replacement Service or to stay in the loop about future

events, visit www.iedsa.org or their Facebook page, “Inland Empire Democratic Socialist Association.”

Andrea Baldrias graduated in 2018 from the University of California Santa Cruz with a B.A. in Sociology. Currently, she is a staff writer and podcast co-host for Black Voice News, project coordinator consultant for the establishment of the Black Worker Center in the Riverside and San Bernardino counties, community organizer and DJ. Her passions and interests lie in accessible practices, conversations and strides toward the liberation of all colonized peoples from everywhere.

IN THE NEWS

Movement Toward Solving California's Housing Crisis

San Bernardino

In the January 2019-20 state budget, Governor Gavin Newsom included various proposals aimed at improving the affordability of housing in the state. Positive movement in this regard is good news for the inland region as it is elsewhere in the state.

Housing in California has long been more expensive than most of the rest of the country and while many factors play a role in driving up the state's housing costs, the most important is the significant shortage of housing.

According to the San Bernardino County Department of Legislative Affairs until recently, the Governor's proposals have been largely conceptual, with little details. However, all of that changed last week when the state Department of Finance released draft trailer bill language on Housing Planning and Production Grants. The draft provides additional details on some of the Governor's housing proposals.

In the draft, the Local Government Planning Support Grants program would be established for the purpose of providing regions and jurisdictions with one-time funding, including grants for planning activities to enable jurisdictions to meet

new short-term housing goals and grants to reward those jurisdictions that meet certain milestones.

The draft also calls for the identification of short-term statewide goals for new housing production across all regions and jurisdictions. The targets would be based on the sum of three years of a county's current annualized regional housing needs allocation to be achieved in calendar years 2020 and 2021.

In addition, and upon appropriation by the legislature, the state would allocate \$250 million dollars to regions and jurisdictions for technical assistance and staffing to develop plans and implement housing-related activities to help attain short-term housing goals.

The draft also calls for the establishment of a Production and Process Improvement Rewards Program which requires a \$500 million dollars appropriation by the legislature for allocation to regions/counties that demonstrate progress towards increased housing production.

Finally, the measure requires award determinations be made and notices of grant funding availability be issued no later than August 15, 2019.

Newsom, Hestrin Disagree, continued from page 7

declared.

Based on his history in relation to this issue Newsom expressed his belief people who followed him over the decades should not be too surprised by his executive order, though they may have been surprised by its timing, he admitted—the governor’s been in office just a couple of months.

Hestrin saw it quite differently. He claimed the governor had abused his power and accused him of having opened fresh wounds for murder victims’ families. The governor’s actions only serve “to further delay, if not outright deny, just and deserving punishments for society’s very worst of the worst,” he suggested.

Hestrin challenged, “Where is the reprieve for 15-year-old Susan Jordan, who was attacked, raped, and strangled while walking to school, by previously convicted rapist Albert Brown?”

Or,” he added, “what about Don and Kathy Davis and their two children, 7-year-old Michelle and 2-year-old Melissa, three of whom were murdered by Ronald Deere in 1982 because Kathy’s sister broke-up with Deere?”

According to Hestrin, these are two of the dozens of depraved murderers whose convictions had been upheld by the courts and were poised for execution before Wednesday’s announcement.

“These families have been denied justice for far too long, and justice delayed is justice denied,” Hestrin concluded.

In fairness, Newsom has expressed his compassion for victims and their families and acknowledged there are strong sentiments on both sides of the issue even among surviving families.

He spoke about 68-year-old Vicente Benavides, who after spending nearly 25 years on death row was released from prison on April 19, 2018. He was convicted and sentenced to death for the sexual assault and murder of a 21-month-old toddler. The Supreme Court overturned his conviction based on false medical testimony introduced at trial. The court concluded the victim had never been sexually assaulted and may actually have died from being hit by a car.

The governor further expressed concern over racial disparities in the criminal justice system

and remarked that no innocent person should be put to death. Nationally, there have been 164 exonerations in 28 different states, Newsom highlighted—of the 164 exonerations, 84 were Black and 15 were Latino. This is another example of the disparate application of justice.

“I respect different points of view,” Newsom said again. “I just unfortunately, have to make the ultimate judgement [when someone is sentenced to death] and I have to individually sign off on their executions,” he lamented. “I cannot in good conscience do that.” Newsom noted how we teach people that it is wrong to kill and yet we have the right to put someone to a premeditated death via the death penalty.

“I want to abolish the death penalty in the United States,” Newsom declared. He further explained how he wants to hold people accountable for their crimes, yet he also believes in rehabilitation. “I do believe above all else in justice, social justice, economic justice and racial justice and those final three points go deep as to why I did what I did.”

Newsom was asked what kind of outreach/networking he and his team are doing with district attorneys like Hestrin and others [who continue to support the death penalty], to help mitigate their application of this ultimate form of punishment in their counties? “Leading up to the executive order, my office began a conversation with district attorneys across the state about the death penalty and will continue these conversations in the coming months,” he said.



\$10 Million Funding, continued from page 5

“This new investment from the state is very exciting,” said Natalie Komuro, Riverside County’s Deputy County Executive Officer – Homelessness Solutions. “It gives us the opportunity to accelerate the response to homelessness, particularly in areas that have historically had no homeless programs.

The funds come from the state’s Homeless Emergency and Aid Program (HEAP) (\$9,302,215) and California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH) (\$727,119). There were 42 proposals received and 36 proposals met baseline criteria for funding.

Included among a few examples of how the funding will be used is the \$588,497 that will help Martha’s Village and Kitchen in Indio provide recuperative care and employment services; \$370,900 will help Coachella Valley Rescue Mission in Indio expand its shelter by 50 beds; \$489,590 will allow Operation Safe House in Riverside to expand youth outreach and repair the roof on its emergency youth shelter; and \$1,796,411 will allow the Social Work Action Group to acquire and rehab 18 housing units in Perris.

The funds are scheduled to be distributed in the spring. Learn more about the funding allocations at <http://dpss.co.riverside.ca.us/files/pdf/homeless/heap/heap-and-cesh-award-approved-by-bog-3-4-19-final.pdf>.

Keeping It Real, continued from page 3

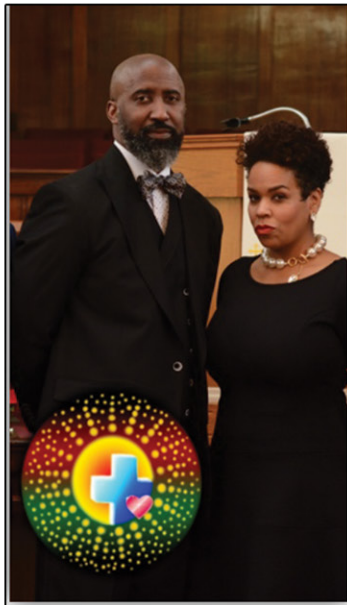
enjoy—like being exempt from civil lawsuits. Also, just like the gun manufacturers, there are other industries that must be “exposed to the light.”

I say, what about the coal industry and its impact on the environment and public health, or Big Pharma and the opioids it pushed to unsuspecting consumers, or food manufacturers and the health concerns of GMO and pesticides, or the oil companies not only for their impact in regards to environmental issues and public health but also about how in some instances, fracking has polluted precious underground aquifers, and the list goes on.

Although Remington is certain to fight this decision by pursuing it to the US Supreme Court, it is very possible this may be the beginning of a new front in the fight to hold the gun industry accountable for the madness it has unleashed.

Of course, this is just my opinion. I’m keeping it real.

S.E. Williams
Editor



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