

CADDO PARISH COMMISSION ADOPTS 2018 BUDGET

The Caddo Parish Commission officially adopted the Parish of Caddo's 2018 Annual Operating and Capital Improvement Budget at the Commission's 2018 budget meeting on December 5.

The \$76,520,621 operating budget addresses the Parish's most urgent operational needs, capital improvement initiatives, support of Parish agencies, economic development and social programs.

budget represents one of the most important policy documents that the Commission will enact during the course of a year," said Steven Jackson, Commission President. budget reflects the resources, strategies and goals of the Parish in the delivery of public services to our citizens and is indicative of the Commission's financial discipline to ensure that funds are

"The annual Parish

(Please See BUDGET, Pg. 4)

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TEN PAGES, ONE SECTION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2017

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Central Colored High Alumni to Celebrate 100th Year Anniversary

Professor Robert Elmer Brown opened the doors to Central Colored High School in 1917. At the time, it was the first and only high school for African American children living in Shreveport and surrounding cities and towns. Alumni, family members,

and friends will gather in the Central Colored High School Archive (the library of Old Central Elementary School) on Saturday, December 16 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to celebrate the 100th Year history of the school.

At the time the school was named, there was the Shreveport Central High School, which was white, and thus the designation of Central "Colored" High School.

Tributes will be paid to Professors Robert Elmer Brown, first principal, and Raleigh Brown, the last principal, and to Clifton



Davis, who gave administrative leadership to tenth grade students at what was

Milam Street Trade School. All classes will be hon-

with special honors going to the Central High School of 1943 for holding reunions that brought members of all classes together, leading to the formation of the Na-

tional Centralites. Dr. Richard Gant Stewart of Shreveport is the last living founder of the organization.

Due to efforts of the National Centralites, Central Colored High School is included in the National Registry of Historical Places.

This inclusion in the reg-

Central are still a part of the educational program of Caddo Parish Schools.

The National Centralites held its last reunion in 2013 and has transitioned from holding reunions to development of the National Central Colored High School Archives. The vision for the archives is for young people, and the communityat-large, to visit and capture the history of local education in the African American community.

Always advocating for education, the National Centralites, which began a scholarship fund in the early 1970s, has awarded approximately \$400,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors of Booker T. Washington High School.

The Central Colored High School Graduating Class of 1947 will be honored as the last class to receive 11 years of schooling. This class

istry is why the buildings at (Please See CENTRAL, Pg. 4)

ored during the celebration Teaches proactive measures to combat crime and violence

De-escalation Workshop Targets Local Youth

Story and Photo

by Ronald Collins Jr.

Based upon years of accredited research, The National Juvenile Network has developed advocacy groups around the country touting the fact that brain development takes place in stages and is not fully complete in adolescence. They have concluded that the frontal lobe, the part of the brain that regulates decision making, planning, judgment, expression of emotions and impulse control, may not be fully mature until an individual reaches their mid twenties. These findings have aided in the network's attempts to explain why so many teens across the country are making poor decisions in relation to criminal activity.

As concerned parents and other community members attempt to draw a correlation between poor impulse control and rising levels of criminal activity exhibited by facets of the youth population in the Northwest Louisiana region, a local organization is attempting a different approach.

The Urban Support Agency, a non-profit after school tutoring program that focuses on test preparation and cultural enrichment activities, recently held a workshop focused on presenting practical de-escalation techniques to area

The Shreveport Sun was able to casually observe the

Price: 750



recent de-escalation workshop held at Union Mission Baptist Church. Approximately 65 youth participants participated in the five-hour event. Urban Support Agency organizers made a special effort to involve both young men and women from various parts of the city. Presenters utilized discussion groups and hands on exercises to explore a number of complex issues. The youth participants appeared to feel comfortable opening up to the Urban Support Agency staff. Both individual social interactions and components of operating in a group dynamic were explored.

"Often times in terms of conflict it's not about who is right but rather what is right," said Urban Support Agency Executive Director Billy Wayne. "We are trying to show young people that in a given situation it may not be best to concentrate on you being right. Rather we want them to concentrate on what is right. As

they do, we want them to

use some of the techniques



with youth participants.

and solutions that are currently being presented to help them understand the distinction and help remedy a lot of situations. We want them to understand that violent tendencies are not going to serve them in the long run. Violence is a real concern in our communities now, and we feel that being proactive can benefit the community overall. We have seen what happens time and time again when the community simply re-

acts to a bad situation after

it has already occurred." "Because of the popularity of social media our kids today experience a wide range of choices, and often times they do not put a lot of thought into the consequences of those choices," Mr. Wayne continued. "So we are also attempting to make them more conscious about the consequences so that hopefully they can settle their issues peacefully. We want them to be fully aware that with violent

thinking you can become

Trump Attends Opening of Civil Rights Museum Despite His Own Racial Insensitivities



Assassinated civil rights icon Medgar Evers, a field secretary with the NAACP, was a large focus of President Trump's speech as his brother Charles Evers and widow Myrlie Evers sat in the audience at the opening of the museum.

(TriceEdneyWire.com) -President Donald Trump was the lead person spreading the lie that President Barack Obama, America's first Black president, was not born in the U. S.

President Trump also equated Ku Klux Klan members and Neo-Nazis to people protesting the evils of racism during the deadly White supremacist marches in Charlottesville, Va. last August.

Repeatedly, in front of the nation, he has flagrantly displayed racial insensitivities; even with his most recent support of Senate Candidate Roy Moore in Alabama, not only an aclast great during slavery.

cused pedophile, but a man who has said America was Since his inauguration, Trump and his appointee Attorney General Jeff Sessions have carefully demol-

ished important policies put

in place during the Obama

administration for the pur-

pose of preventing police brutality and other issues of racial inequality in the criminal justice system.

In addition, President Trump has claimed massive voter fraud in America, a claim that experts say is patently false.

These are just a handful of the reasons that civil rights leaders opposed the president's attendance at the December 10 opening of the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum. They argue that the museum is like hallowed ground that celebrates those who risked their lives to fight against everything that Trump appears to embrace -- despite his words to the contrary.

"President Trump's presence at the opening of the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum is not a show of respect. It's merely a photo op," says Derrick Johnson, president/CEO of the NAACP. "I live in Mississippi and its civil rights

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AND ARTICLES. "Princes shall come out of Egypt; Ethiopia shall soon stretch forth her

hands unto God." Psalms 68:31. When Will There Be Zero

Tolerance for Racism? by Julianne Malveaux

Trice Edney Wire

Congressman John Conyers was the first politician to leave his job after the "Me Too" hash tag galvanized women to speak up about sexual misconduct, harassment and more. Too bad that impetus did not float up to the top, when an avowed grabber of women's genitals was elected to lead this country. Too bad, too, that the many members of Congress who have paid accusers out of a taxpayer-funded slush fund have not been unmasked. We know some of the Texas Congressman Blake Farenthold (R) arranged

to have his former communications director paid \$84,000 (a fraction of the \$27,000 Conyers is said to have paid). He has not resigned, nor have Congressional Republicans, including leader Paul Ryan (R-WI), called for his resignation. He says he will pay the money back. Right. As a woman I am cheered by the #MeToo move-

ment, although I am also chagrined by the myopia of harassment/rape/more. In 1944, Recy Taylor was viciously raped by seven

white men who never paid a price. Our civil rights icon, Rosa Parks, was an NAACP investigator in this case, as chronicled by Danielle McGuire in her book, "At The Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape, and Resistance" (Vintage, 2010). And the first case in which the Supreme Court ruled that sexual harassment was a violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act was brought by an African American woman, Michelle Vinson, in the case Meritor Savings Bank v. Vinson The high profile white women who are talking about

to acknowledge the many ways that African American women have been systematically abused, and systematically ignored (and sometimes conspired against) by their white "sisters." Perhaps I quibble, but this overwhelming stand against sexual misconduct (and more – if getting nude

workplace sexual harassment and assault really need

in front of your staff is not misconduct, nor is forcible kissing, nor is grabbing by the you know what) makes me wonder when there will be a similar groundswell against racism and racial harassment in the workplace. Numerous cases of nooses being displayed in work-

places have been reported in the last decade, so many that a law journal published an article titled, "Does One Noose in the Workplace Constitute a Hostile Work Environment? If Not, How Many?" One isolated incident is not enough, the article opines. What about one unwanted kiss, one abusive grope? Why do nooses get to be seen as "jokes," while unwanted kissing is seen as an occurrence of zero tolerance?

I'm not ever, ever, ever going to excuse sexual per-

fidy (and more) in the workplace, but I do wonder why we can wink, nod, and grin about racial workplace misbehavior while we stand our ground about gender. I wonder why so many say "just kidding" or "didn't know" when they are racially insensitive, and nobody calls it, but they are willing to call it on gender. If you look at the Senate and the House of Representatives, the paucity of people of color as senior staff is amazing, as documented by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. Surely, there is no shortage of highly qualified African Americans and Latinos who could work for Congress. Why aren't members of Congress calling each other on their racial

Perhaps racism and racial harassment are a little to employment matters regarding race.

available for current and fu-

ture Parish needs," said

The 2018 budget is bal-

anced, with revenues and

fund balance expenditures

meeting total 2018 expendi-

tures. While the 2018

budget represents a sustain-

able plan that positions the

Parish to complete priori-

ties, the Parish is mindful of

the potentially changing

conditions locally and na-

* "Raise the Age," the

state law that mandates 17

year olds be processed and

housed by the juvenile jus-

continues to hold class re-

unions and award scholar-

The Class of 1949 will be

honored for being the first

class to receive 12 years of

schooling, and for being the

last class to attend Central

Colored High School before

tice system;

ships.

its closing.

tionally. These include:

Jackson.

(Cont. From Page One)

BUDGET

* Estimated \$3.5 million dollar deficit in the Juvenile Justice budget;

* Increased operational expenses at the Caddo Correctional Center (CCC);

opment initiatives; * Completion and execution of a Caddo Parish I-49

* Local economic devel-

North Corridor Master Plan. "We are confident that the 2018 budget is a conserva-

tive one, one that preserves funding for the essential services upon which our citizens rely," said Woodrow Wilson, Jr., Parish Administrator and CEO. "We recommitted

continuing to exercise

sound fiscal management across all department budgets to ensure we can respond to changing services demands and effectively utilize our existing resources," said Wilson. In addition, the Caddo Parish Commission is re-

porting a record savings in Commissioner travel in 2017. Travel expenditures for the Commission totaled \$18,432.49 for 2017, down nearly \$23,000 from 2016

and \$50,000 since 2009. "This year marks the lowest amount of Commisover 16 years," said Commission President Steven Jackson. "It is a direct response to the desire of our Parish's citizens to reform the Commission's travel policy," said Jackson. In 2016, the Commission

sioner travel expenditures in

voted to eliminate the previous \$15,000 travel allowance for each Commissioner in lieu of covered travel for only the Police Jury Association of Louisiana (PJAL) and National Association of Coun-(NaCo) annual conferences.

CENTRAL

(Cont. From Page One) published the book, "The

Members of the Parris Family, who have been instrumental in recording the history of the school, will also be honored. Ms. Haroldine Parris, Class of 1943, will share how she, her sister Gwendolyn Parris Swinton, and her mother Alesha Shelly Parris, wrote and

High School." Special guests for the celebration will include past principals of Central Elementary School and family members of deceased prin-Nerissa Teague Willis, a

History of Central Colored

1943," in an effort to strengthen the link between Central Colored High School and Booker T. Washington High School.

1955 graduate of Booker T.

Washington High School,

has served as President of

the National Centralites

"Dedicated to the Class of

YOUTH (Cont. From Page One)

far as to spread the informa-

for a significant portion of your life." "We don't just do these

hurt or possibly go to jail

types of events on a singular basis. But as our program coordinators and presenters do follow-ups we will be actively reinforcing our fundamental objectives for some time with these kids," Mr. Wayne said regarding the long-term objectives they have for the program. "Even in the short term you would be surprised how these young people are absorbing what is being presented to them and going so tion to their peers and "Some of the adults par-

ticipating this morning were previously a part of this program back in their teenage years. They have seen the value of reaching out to the next generation and are now serving as mentors and other important roles. Mentorship and community involvement are vital to the success of this and other efforts to steer our kids onto the right road in life. On the other side of the coin we cannot afford to sit back and say that if mom is not doing it then no one should ... in such instances we are trying to be that bridge." Tyronne King, a parent of

one of the youth participants, said children cannot afford to be ignorant with regards to understanding how to deal with highly emotionally situations in this day and age. "Some people are never taught about dealing with conflicts properly, so when they get caught up in a given circumstance they don't know what to do. That can lead to vital mistakes that can lead to harm to themselves or others." King noted that parents can benefit from being exposed to the information being presented as

Shelia Parson, had both a daughter and a son involved in the program. "It is so easy for our kids to be caught up in the wrong things, and I feel like this program is helping them to discern for themselves what is right and what is wrong. They are also challenged to realize that despite the situation they are in control of how they respond to it."

MUSEUM (Cont. From Page One)

sippi to be a better place. the image of our Lord."

leaders are my mentors, sheroes, and heroes. I cannot sit silently alongside a man who has used the power of his office to turn back the clock on hard-won Johnson and civil rights

leaders, Congressmen John Lewis (D-Ga.) and Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.), among others actually boycotted the official opening ceremony in order to call attention to Trump's wrongs. Lewis and Thompson said they skipped the event after "careful consideration and conversations with church leaders, elected officials, civil rights activists," and the citizens in their congressional districts.

"President Trump's attendance and his hurtful policies are an insult to the people portrayed in this civil rights museum," Lewis and Thompson said in a joint statement. "The struggles represented in this museum exemplify the truth of what really happened in Mississippi. President Trump's disparaging comments about women, the disabled, immigrants, and National Football League players disrespect the efforts of Fannie Lou Hamer, Aaron Henry, Medgar Evers, Robert Clark, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner, and

countless others who have

given their all for Missis-

After President Trump departs, we encourage all Mississippians and Americans to visit this historic civil rights museum." Still, Trump, at the invita

tion of Georgia's Republican Gov. Nathan Deal, opening. attended the There, he appeared to only mouth a written speech expressing admiration and respect for those honored in the museum. "The Civil Rights Museum records the oppres-

sion, cruelty and injustice inflicted on the African-American community, the fight to end slavery, to break down Jim Crow, to end segregation, to gain the right to vote, and to achieve the sacred birthright of equality here," he said to applause. "And that's big stuff. That's big stuff. Those are very big phrases. Very big words." He continued, "Here, we

memorialize the brave men and women who struggled to sacrifice, and sacrificed so much so that others might live in freedom. Among those we honor are the Christian pastors who started the Civil Rights movement in their own churches preaching, like Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. -- a man that we have studied and watched, and admired for my entire

life -- that we're all made in

Trump acknowledged NAACP former chair Myrlie Evers-Williams and Charles Evers in the audience as he especially fo-

cused on Medgar Evers, a civil rights worker and NAACP field secretary who was assassinated in his Jackson, Mississippi driveway on June 12, 1963. "Martyrs like Sergeant Medgar Wiley Evers whose brother I just met at the plane," he said, encourag-

ing Charles Evers to stand. "Medgar joined the U.S. Army in 1943, when he was 17 years old. He fought in Normandy in the Second World War. And when he came back home to Mississippi, he kept fighting for the same rights and freedom that he had defended in the war. Mr. Evers became a civil rights leader in his community. He helped fellow African Americans register to vote, organize boycotts, and investigated grave injustices against very innocent people. Trump continued, "For

his courageous leadership in the Civil Rights movement, Mr. Evers was assassinated by a member of the KKK in the driveway of his own home. We are deeply privileged to be joined today by his incredible widow - somebody that's loved throughout large sections of our country - be-

yond this area. So I just want to say hello to Myrlie. Myrlie. Where is Myrlie? How are you, Myrlie? Thank you so much. Highly

respected." Concluding, Trump called Evers an "American Hero," a sergeant in the U.S. Army who was "laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. In Arlington, he lies beside men and women of all races, backgrounds, and walks of life who have served and sacrificed for

Despite President Trump's claim that Americans should "strive to be worthy" of the sacrifices of the civil rights heroes and that "we pray for inspiration from their example," there are those who still recognize that his actions and the actions of his administration opposite from his

our country."

"President Trump's statements and policies regarding the protection and enforcement of civil rights have been abysmal," says Reps. Lewis and Thompson. "He has created a commission to reinforce voter suppression, refused to denounce white supremacists, and has generally created a racially hostile climate in this nation. His attendance is an affront to the veterans of the civil rights move-

more complicated than sexism and sexual harassment. Half of the population, after all, is female, and while women's rise up the hierarchy in corporate America, politics, the media, and entertainment is slow, it has been steady enough that powerful women are now able to call men out on their misbehavior, with women demanding resignations of (some) misbehaving men. Too few white men and women, at the same time, have been willing to apply the same "zero tolerance"

There should never be another noose laid on a Black employee's desk or displayed in a workplace. There should never be another intimidating Confederate flag flying in a Black person's face. There should never be another opportunity for an employee (or fellow student, or faculty member) to talk about picking cotton. There should never be another blackface performance, anywhere. And there should never be another person who talks about zero tolerance around workplace sexism to accept any whisper of workplace racism.