

The Gravy Infusion

News, activities, and doings from the Loyal Jones Appalachian Center



Martin Delany



Matthew T. Whittico



Robert L. Vann



Alexis Johnson

Main Sharing

Appalachian Black Journalists, 1843-2020

Last week Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette* reporter Alexis Johnson was banned from covering George Floyd's protests in the paper due to a [tweet](#) on her personal account which the paper claimed to show bias. In response to her removal, people across the United States started showing support for Alexis and protesting on Twitter.

In one [interview](#) Alexis said, "Black journalists have been covering these stories since the beginning of time." Abolitionist and journalist [Martin Delany](#), published the first African American newspaper west of the Allegheny Mountains, [The Mystery](#) in 1843 in Pittsburgh. He then went on to collaborate with Fredrick Douglas on the [North Star](#) out of Rochester, New York.

In West Virginia during 1904, the [McDowell Times](#) was the leading African-American newspaper in the state. Creator and Editor [M. T. Whittico](#) was the driving force behind this newspaper and he kept it flourishing until his death in 1939.

In 1907 [Robert L. Van](#) joined forces with the [Pittsburgh Courier](#) helping it become a force for social change for blacks in America. It was the most influential African American newspaper in the country.

Without journalists like Delaney, Whittico, Vann, and Johnson, our country would lack the crucial perspective of African Americans in America. Because of their courage and perseverance we are able to see history through a more accurate lens.

We here at the Loyal Jones Appalachian Center stand with Alexis Johnson and other journalists of color who face the threat of being silenced. Their stories must be heard.

"Black journalists have been covering these stories since the beginning of time. Racism is in the fabric of our country."

~Alexis Johnson

Pittsburgh Journalist



LJAC Social Media Presence



Ever since the COVID-19 outbreak our staff has worked diligently to increase our presence online and our followers are growing exponentially as a result.

Our recent [post on the protests in Appalachia](#) is approaching 600 shares and people are beginning to notice our page and follow us which is exciting! Be sure to read the comment too.

We make posts daily and encourage you to follow us as well by clicking [here](#).

Practice Self-care and Go Outside



Photo by Heather Dent

There is a lot going on in the world right now, and it is more important than ever to take care of your own mental, emotional and physical health. What better way to do this than to spend time outside in nature. Appalachia has no shortage of absolutely stunning outdoor destinations, but today we would like to share some of our favorites here in Eastern Kentucky that are not closed during this time.

[Anglin Falls](#) (Rockcastle)

[Natural Bridge](#) (Powell)

[Big South Fork](#) (McCreary)

[Pilot Knob](#) (Powell)

[Cumberland Falls](#) (McCreary)

[Pinnacles](#) (Madison)

[Lilly Mountain](#) (Estill)

[Raven Run](#) (Fayette)

[Maywoods with EKU](#) (Madison)

Must register before hiking

You can learn more about Kentucky's many nature preserves, wild rivers, and heritage lands by visiting the *Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet's* [Website](#) .