

**THE
BLACK LENSTM**
NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

LORENZO HAYES: WHAT HAPPENED?

Father of Seven Dies in Spokane Police Custody

Just before 6am on Wednesday, May 13, officers from the Spokane Police Department responded to a report of "domestic violence." Determining that there had been a no contact order in place, Lorenzo Hayes, father of seven, was taken into custody for violation of that order.

While in route to the jail to be booked for "unlawful possession of a firearm, and felony violation of a domestic violence no contact order", according to the police report, Mr. Hayes became "uncooperative" and "appeared to be high".

Jail staff were notified to "prepare for an uncooperative male". They met the patrol car and escorted Mr. Hayes, still handcuffed in the booking area. The report continues, "because he continued to be uncooperative, jail staff prepared to place him in a restraint chair to keep



him from hurting himself or others. During that process he had a medical emergency."

Lorenzo Hayes died on May 13.

There is an ongoing investigation into the cause of the death which is being conducted by the Washington State Patrol, and it is expected

to take six to eight week before final results can be released. Hopefully the investigation will produce clear answers for the Hayes family and the Spokane community as to what happened in the Spokane County Jail on the morning of May 13.

But in the mean time, what has been

noticeably absent from the media coverage of the death of Lorenzo Hayes is the fact that he was a man with a family that loved him very much, and most importantly, he was the father of seven children, who as father's day approaches, no longer have a dad to celebrate it with.

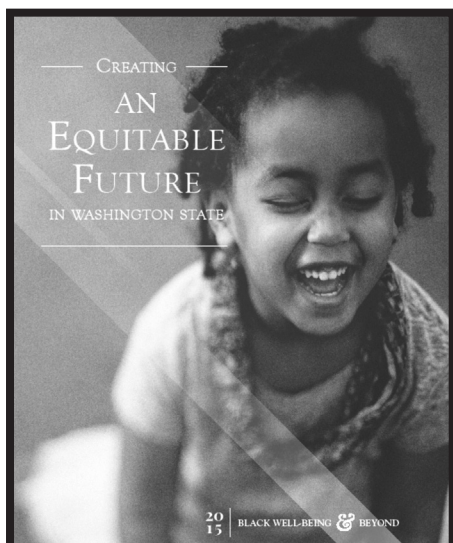
Rachel Dolezal, President of the Spokane Branch of the NAACP noted the immediate rush to question the character of Lorenzo Hayes upon his death. "There is a similar pattern that we have seen over and over again, with the death of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Walter Scott, Freddie Gray, and others, the first thing that happens is that the Black male is criminalized, they are implicated in their own death, and there is a loss of humanity both for that individual, and for an entire population of people."

Continued on Page 13

THE STATE OF BLACK WASHINGTON (PT. 2)

Presented by the Washington State Commission on African American Affairs, African American Leadership Forum and Centerstone

ECONOMIC SECURITY: EMPLOYMENT AND OPPORTUNITIES



On March 30, 2015, the results of the study "Creating an Equitable Future for Black Washingtonians." Over the next several months, The Black Lens will address each one of the focus areas of the report. This month the focus is on:

Economic Security

"The premise of the American Dream—that if you work hard you can get ahead—has long defined the social contract between the United States and its people. The ability of families and individuals to meet basic needs and save money for

the future is a precondition to long-term economic security and underpins every domain of well-being.

When a critical mass of people is able to get ahead, the benefits ripple throughout communities, businesses, and the economy at large."

Disproportionally high rates of unemployment. In the midst of the "Great Recession" that impacted Washington State, along with the rest of the country, the unemployment rate for Black Washingtonians

"rose to a staggering 21 percent in 2010, and remained at 14 percent at the end of 2013, compared to an average rate for the state of 7 percent."

A low-wage job market with racial discrimination. The lack of employment opportunities for Black people is compounded by the low quality of the jobs available, despite Washington having the largest share of "high-wage, high-skill, science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) jobs in the nation," the majority of available

jobs (for Blacks) skews toward those that pay lower wages. Even Blacks with college degrees in Washington have much higher rates of unemployment, and are more likely to be underemployed in most occupations, "strongly suggesting that racial discrimination persists in the labor market." Compared to Washingtonians in general, Blacks are less likely to have a job that meets basic needs.

The full report is available online at: http://center-stone.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/SOBW_report_r701_Final_032515_LowRes_spreads.pdf

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ON MY MIND

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR



by Sandra Williams

I Am Here

Twenty years ago, while speaking on a panel in a Los Angeles High School, I came across a Black teenager. She was an intelligent and articulate young woman, who disclosed that she had just been thrown out of her home because her mom had walked in on her holding hands with her girlfriend. When she was asked if she was gay, she told her mother the truth, and for that she instantly became homeless. There was a pain that I saw in her eyes and a hole that I felt in her heart, that twenty years later I still cannot forget, and each year, during the month of June, when rainbow flags and balloons fill the air, I think about that girl, and I wonder if she is still alive.

Too many of our young people are taking their lives because the adults in their lives that they desperately need to love them can't find a way to do it. I was fortunate that my parents found a way to love me when I stood in front of a crowd in Riverfront Park in June of 1993 and I read this poem for the first time, declaring to the world, that yes this is who I am. I dedicate this poem to the girl that I cannot forget, and to all of the other girls and boys that I have met along the way.

ADSUM (I AM HERE)

Even though I have walked this path For many silent years Past eyes that looked at me and glared at me, and stared at me, but never saw me standing there, Only saw that I was not like them. I AM HERE.	And for my people Pretending I don't exist Is easier than recognizing Where I stand. I AM HERE.
Even though my precious child inside is Scorned for how she looks Despised for how she feels Ridiculed for what she thinks Hated for what she believes And attacked for who she is And what she represents By those who will not know the richness of her spirit Or the magic and the wonder of her soul. I AM HERE.	Even though my voice still cracks From years of shouting out my name And my truth Again and again for all to hear, Knowing that behind their walls Of hate and fear Most can not hear me And never will. I AM HERE.
Even though the beauty of my skin, My eyes, my hair and my lips Is valued less— And the tenderness of my touch, my kiss, my union and my love is belittled more--- And I am systematically taught To hate each and every thing That makes me who I am. I AM HERE.	Even though You may not hear me scream.... Even though You may not see me cry..... Even though You may not know my name Or care that I have a name at all.... Even though you may believe that you can shame me or hate me or preach me or beat me into invisibility.... I AM HERE.
Even though I stand alone Ignored and overlooked Because in my community In my church In my family	I am here proud. I am here strong. I am here beautiful. I am here powerful. I am here loving And I am loved. I AM HERE.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Which picture shows police response to a gang shootout?



Rod Aydelotte/Waco Tribune-Herald



Charlie Riedel, AP

1 - Waco, TX- Biker Gang Shootout, 9 dead. #2 - Ferguson, MO - Community Protest

KYRS



88.1/92.3
FM

Humaculture, the only locally produced African-American news and views radio program in the Northwest, Saturdays 1-2 PM

The Soul Dimensions of DX Pryme music program Fridays 10 AM - noon

Streaming at kyrs.org

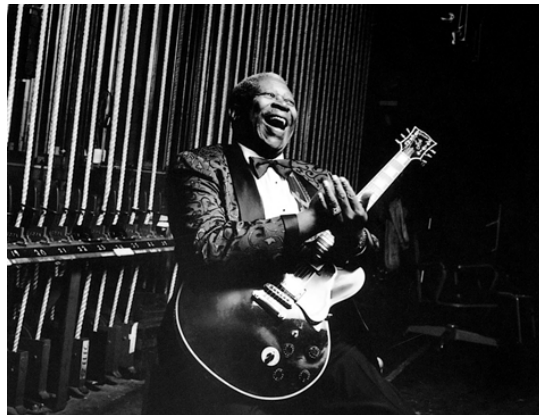
THE BLACK LENS NEWS SPOKANE

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BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

From Across the Country and Around the World

Blues Legend B.B. King Passes Away in his Sleep



(<http://www.bbking.com>) Blues legend, guitarist and singer, Riley B.B. King, also known as “The King of Blues”, passed away peacefully in his sleep at the age of 89 on May 14, 2015 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

It was announced in early May that King had entered into Hospice care as a result of complications from Type II Diabetes which he had battled for over twenty years. He had been hospitalized in early April with Diabetes related dehydration and had cancelled several shows due to his illness.

King received 15 Grammy awards. His first, in 1970, was for one of his most widely known songs, “The Thrill is Gone”. He was also honored with a Presidential Medal of the Arts, honorary doctorates from Yale and Brown Universities, a Kennedy Center Honor, and he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987.

In a recent turn of events, two of King’s daughters, Patty King and Karen Williams, have asked for an investigation in King’s death, accusing his business manager and personal assistant of poisoning him. The coroner says preliminary autopsy results do not support the allegations, but final results will take several weeks.

Olympia Police Officer Shoots Two Unarmed Black Men Suspected of Stealing Beer



(Photos: KING-TV, Seattle)

Two twenty year old stepbrothers, Bryson Chaplin, 21, and Andre Thompson, 24, were shot by an Olympia Police officer. Both were unarmed.

The two men were accused by Safeway employees of attempting to shoplift beer and throwing the beer at them when they were confronted. Police were called to the scene and began searching for the men after employees gave a description, including their race and that they were both carrying skateboards.

Officer Ryan Donald, who has been working in Olympia for three years, encountered the men at approximately 1:14am, according to Olympia Police Chief Ronnie Roberts, and minutes later, at 1:16am, Officer Donald radioed in to say that shots had been fired.

According to Chief Roberts, Officer Donald wasn’t injured but claimed that he had been assaulted with a skateboard and felt threatened so he “discharged his firearm.” “An officer has a right to defend himself,” Chief Roberts said, adding, “there’s no indication to me that race was a factor in this case at all.”

The Olympia Police Department will be conducting an internal investigation and the Thurston County Critical Response team will be investigating the shooting. Officer Donald is in leave pending the investigation.

Both men are expected to survive.

Doctors Declare Liberia to be ‘Ebola Free’



Special to the Trice Edney News Wire from Global Information Network

(TriceEdneyWire.com) – With no new infections in 42 days, Liberia has been declared free and clear of Ebola by the World Health Organization. The announcement was made in the emergency command center in Monrovia, a room packed with reporters, aid agencies and dignitaries, including the U.S. Ambassador to Liberia Deborah R. Malac. Responses ranged from applause to tears followed by a moment of silence called by President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

“At this symbolic juncture, I ask the whole world to remember the 4,608 Liberians who lost their lives, and the many thousands more who endured the horror of fighting the disease,” Johnson-Sirleaf said. “Let us celebrate, but stay mindful and vigilant,” she said. “Clearly, the events of the last year must never be forgotten. Then, in an action of physical closeness not seen in many months, she went around the room shaking hands.

It was just over a year ago – in March 2014 – that the outbreak was confirmed in Liberia. It had traveled swiftly south, from Guinea to Sierra Leone, and then to Liberia, frightening health officials and world health agencies with its deadly ferocity.

But alarm bells weren’t sounded until the virus reached foreign shores. In July 2014, a Liberian-American, Patrick Sawyer, collapsed and died in Nigeria, leaving 19 people infected and eight dead. Four months later, Thomas Eric Duncan flew into Texas where his symptoms exploded. Sent home with antibiotics, he survived only a short time after re-entering Texas Presbyterian Hospital where he passed away on Oct. 8.

Less than a year has passed and Liberians have successfully prevented any new infections since the last case was reported on March 20. Still, outbreaks persist in neighboring Guinea and Sierra Leone, creating a risk that infected people may cross into Liberia over the region’s exceptionally porous borders.

Meanwhile, writing in FrontpageAfricaonline, Liberians gave thanks to God, the Liberian President, U.S. President Obama and the American people, the European Union, Cuba, China, support from Nigeria and Ghana, the United Nations and other NGOs.

TSA Agrees to Stop Singling Out Black Women For Hair Searches



(blacknews.com) - After reaching an agreement with the American Civil Liberties Union, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), has agreed to stop searching through the hair of African American women who wear all natural hairstyles and subjecting them to extra security screenings. The resolution follows years of complaints from black women who have said they were singled out because of their hair. The TSA was unable to offer a security explanation for the searches, and has agreed to hold anti-discrimination trainings for employees

Michale B. Jordan Cast As Johnny Storm in ‘Fantastic Four’ Film, Responds to Racist Backlash



Michael B. Jordan, the talented actor from “Fruitvale Station” and “Friday Night Lights”, was cast to play the role of Johnny Storm in the upcoming comic inspired “Fantastic Four” movie remake. His character was originally described as having blond hair and blue eyes, and some loyalists took issue to his casting. Jordan responded to the criticism in an essay published in Entertainment Weekly.

This is an excerpt from his essay: “Sometimes you have to be the person who stands up and says, ‘I’ll be the one to shoulder all this hate. I’ll take the brunt for the next couple of generations.’ I put that responsibility on myself. People are always going to see each other in terms of race, but maybe in the future we won’t talk about it as much. Maybe, if I set an example, Hollywood will start considering more people of color in other prominent roles, and maybe we can reach the people who are stuck in the mindset that ‘it has to be true to the comic book.’ Or maybe we have to reach past them.”

“To the trolls on the Internet, I want to say: Get your head out of the computer. Go outside and walk around. Look at the people walking next to you. Look at your friends’ friends and who they’re interacting with. And just understand this is the world we live in. It’s okay to like it.”

Fantastic Four is scheduled for release on August 7.

Levar Burton to Produce ‘Roots’ Remake in 2016



(Yesha Callahan, theroot.com, 4/30/15)

According to a press release, Will Packer (Ride Along, Think Like a Man) and LeVar Burton (Kunta Kinte from Roots) will join forces to executive-produce a remake of the series, which will air on three channels—Lifetime, A&E and the History Channel—simultaneously.

“The opportunity to present one of America’s most powerful stories to a generation that hasn’t seen it is tremendously exciting. Contemporary society needs this story, and I’m proud to be a part of it,” said Packer.

Burton, who recently relaunched his Reading Rainbow series, hopes the remake will reach a younger audience.

“My career began with Roots, and I am proud to be a part of this new adaptation,” said Burton. “There is a huge audience of contemporary young Americans who do not know the story of Roots or its importance. I believe now is the right time to tell this story so that we can all be reminded of its impact on our culture and identity.”

Roots was based on Alex Haley’s 1976 novel, Roots: The Saga of an American Family. The series first aired in 1977 on ABC. Roots received 37 Emmy Award nominations and won nine. The new series will air in 2016.

YOU SHOULD KNOW

(Or Things You Probably Didn't Learn In School)

Francois Dominique Toussaint L'Ouverture

Art and Article by Bertoni Jones

With history's most vicious form of slavery in full effect, the Caribbean produced a man to meet this challenge in a Haitian named François Dominique Toussaint L'Ouverture. Toussaint had no formal education, no training in military strategy, and no experience in political reform. Yet he rose to draft a free national constitution and strategically defeat Europe's greatest military forces: Britain, Spain, and France.

In 1743, Toussaint was born to a slave master who gave him all of the books he could read, where he discovered that his people possessed a history beyond mere slavery. Though mystery surrounds his early life, he was a fierce defender in the proper treatment of animals, a master horseman, and expert in horticulture.

By 1791, the people of Haiti were in open rebellion against both French plantation masters and French governmental policies in Haiti. Toussaint was freed by age 33, married (to Suzanne Simone Baptiste L'Ouverture) and had children. He joined the army as a doctor, but his charisma led to his appointment as a campaign commander for an army of 200 well-disciplined slaves.

Toussaint fought using a "scorched-earth" policy, where plantations and towns were burned, wells poisoned, and lightning-fast ambushes decimated the enemy. His military genius so thoroughly outwitted British forces that by January of 1798, his 4,000 slave-army forced the British into full treaty and immediate withdrawal

from the island. Two years later, his 55,000 man force defeated and expelled Spanish forces from what is now the Dominican Republic.

By 1801 General Toussaint was the undisputed ruler of Haiti, and he personally dictated spirit and word for the new Haitian Constitution, where slavery was forever abolished, all peoples had rights to employment, and no one held a superior status over anyone else by law.

This was not the will of France's General Napoleon Bonaparte, who intended to re-enslave Haiti by force, using his brother-in-law General Charles Leclerc. Neither side winning, Napoleon asked Toussaint for a "gentlemen's truce". When Toussaint arrived for negotiations, he was immediately arrested and shipped to a prison in Paris, where he died of starvation on April 7, 1803.

Asked about his dishonorable act, Napoleon replied, "What could the death of one wretched Negro mean to me?" For this, the Haitian people never again trusted French proposals and an all-out rebellion removed France from the island at the Battle of Vertières in 1804.

As a result of the Haitian Rebellion, Napoleon Bonaparte lost more than 60,000 French troops, the richest plantation jewel in the world, and the Louisiana Territory, which he sold for 15 million dollars, to recoup losses (the Louisiana Purchase in 1803).

Haiti was only the second of two Western nations to declare independence (Haiti in 1804, the United States in 1776). The Haitian Revolution



Bertoni Jones

(1791-1804) was the most successful "slave revolt" in the history of slavery, led by the greatest military strategist the modern world has yet to acknowledge.

Sources:
Black Heritage Day III – Jamiyo Mack, dadychery.org,
thelouvertureproject.org, historywiz.com/Toussaint

DECORATION DAY

Did Blacks Start Memorial Day?

David W. Blight, Professor of American History at Yale University, posted an article in 2011 on the Zen Education Project Website (www.zenedproject.org). The Goal of the Zen Education Project is to introduce students to a more accurate, complex, and engaging understanding of United States history than is found in traditional textbooks and curricula.

Professor Blight's article titled "The First Decoration Day", offers a "people's history" of the origin's of Memorial Day.

The following are excerpts from David W. Blight's article:

After a long siege, a prolonged bombardment for months from all around the harbor, and numerous fires, the beautiful port city of Charleston, South Carolina, where the (Civil) war had begun in April, 1861, lay in ruin by the spring of 1865.

The city was largely abandoned by white residents by late February. Among the first troops to enter and march up Meeting Street singing liberation songs was the Twenty First U. S. Colored Infantry; their commander accepted the formal surrender



of the city. Thousands of black Charlestonians, most former slaves, remained in the city and conducted a series of commemorations to declare their sense of the meaning of the war.

The largest of these events, (unknown until some extraordinary luck in my recent research), took place on May 1, 1865. During the final year of the war, the Confederates had converted the planters' horse track, the Washington Race Course and Jockey Club, into an outdoor prison.

Union soldiers were kept in horrible conditions in the interior of the track; at least 257 died of exposure and disease and were hastily buried in a mass grave behind the grandstand.

Some twenty-eight black workmen went to the site, re-buried the Union dead properly, and built a high fence around the cemetery. They whitewashed the fence and built an archway over an entrance on which they inscribed the words, "Martyrs of the Race Course."

Then, black Charlestonians in cooperation with white missionaries and teachers, staged an unforgettable parade of 10,000 people on the slaveholders' race course. Following the solemn dedication the crowd dispersed into the infield and did what many of us do on Memorial Day: they enjoyed picnics, listened to speeches, and watched soldiers drill.

Over time several American towns, north and south, claimed to be the birthplace of Memorial Day. But all of them commemorate cemetery decoration events from 1866. Pride of place, as the first large scale ritual of Decoration Day, therefore, goes to African Americans in Charleston. By their labor, their words, their songs, and their solemn parade of flowers and marching feet on their former owners' race course, they created for themselves, and for us, the Independence Day of the Second American Revolution.

David W. Blight, professor of American history at Yale University and Director of the Gilder-Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance and Abolition, has won major historical awards for his work, including the Bancroft Prize and the Frederick Douglass Prize. He is also the author of many books on United States history.

OUR COMMUNITY **PEOPLE SERVICES PROGRAMS**

NAACP UPDATE:

SPOKANE NAACP

<http://www.SpokaneNAACP.com>

Spokane to Host NAACP State Area Conference in September

By Rachel Doležal, President of Spokane NAACP

The Spokane NAACP is pleased to announce that we have been selected to host the 2015 Alaska, Oregon, Washington State Area Conference Annual Convention, September 18-20.

As we enter June, Spokane is one of the fastest growing branches of the NAACP in the Northwest, and we are working hard to achieve the mission of the NAACP by advocating for individuals who are experiencing civil rights violations and working toward systemic change in the areas of education, criminal justice, health, political action and economic sustainability.

We are delighted to host this year's convention, which will bring 200-300 civil rights leaders and dignitaries into our city.

Located on the Spokane River and encircled by the Cascade Mountains, Rocky Mountains, and Palouse wheat fields, Spokane is a scenic city and outdoor tourist attraction.

Amid the natural beauty encircling us, it is no secret that we are a culturally isolated region and have our fair share of need for civil rights advocacy and intervention.

Just 20 miles from the Idaho border, we are the second largest city in Washington state, yet Black women in our city make 20 cents to the male dollar. Black and Native citizens here live at least a decade shorter lifespan than our white counterparts, and our population is twice as likely to contract HIV and fifteen times more likely to

be stopped by police than white citizens.

These and other statistics, combined with the testimonies of everyday citizens living in our area, fuel our passion and motivation to organize swift and effective change.

One of our most visible national NAACP campaigns, ERPA (End Racial Profiling Act) seeks to shut down the disproportionalities in police brutality & racial profiling across the country, and it is powerfully connected to the Spokane NAACP in our current leadership. As both the President of the Spokane NAACP and the Chair of the Office of Police Ombudsman Commission, I have been working closely with the Department of Justice, the Washington Bureau of the NAACP, local community groups and the Spokane Police Department to implement equitable community policing and collaborative reform in law enforcing practices.

We look forward to sharing more about what we are doing here as we learn from the experiences of the delegates and leadership of the AOW State Area Conference this fall.

Recently, I was able to attend rallies and marches supporting the ongoing call for justice in the Freddie Gray case in Baltimore and met with the well-known state prosecuting attorney, Marilyn Mosby, Esq.

It was an honor to spend time discussing justice work with her and indeed was a privilege to have her consider coming to Spokane to be our featured speaker at the September convention banquet. As we await her final confirmation to be our keynote speaker, I recall Marilyn sharing that her grandmother always told her to do the right thing no matter what people say.

It is wise counsel that everyone will "talk" regardless of what leaders do, and her grandmother told her that she might as well "Give them something to talk



Spokane NAACP President Rachel Dolezal with Baltimore State's Attorney Marilyn J. Mosby

about." Certainly the nation is talking about Marilyn Mosby's courage, and we look forward to sharing her wisdom and grace with the Spokane community this fall.

For more information about the Spokane NAACP or the upcoming 2015 Alaska, Oregon, Washington State Area Conference, September 18-20, contact the NAACP at 509-209-2425.



NAACP May General Membership Meeting

THOUGHTS FROM A GRANDMOTHER

MORE GRATITUDE LESS ATTITUDE

By Evelyn Anderton

How often have we heard parents say "children today are so ungrateful", "I just can't do enough" or "where did I go wrong". Raising a grateful child is an enduring process. It does not happen overnight.

You must first start in the early stages of a child's development. It is important to be patient, because each child develops at different stages in their lives. Many psychologists agree children under the age of seven are naturally self centered. However, as they mature it is the parents' responsibility to assist the child with understanding how their behavior influences others.

One way to approach teaching gratefulness is through repetition. For example, encourage your

toddler to use the magic word "thank you" EVERY time he/she receives a snack. Another example, parents should consistently bless the food before EVERY meal. This will allow your child to see that parents are grateful, too.

It is critical that you teach your child that it is in giving that they receive blessings. We want our children to think of others and to take "give me" out of their vocabulary. Encourage your child to participate in a giving situation close to home and be personal about participating in this task. For example, "The Tree of Sharing", where they can experience buying gifts for a child their age who is less fortunate. Make this an annual activity, something they would look forward to doing and someday passing on to their children. Thinking of others goes hand in hand with gratitude.

Be your children's' first example. Never forget your child's greatest example is you. Be the role model that your child can imitate. This is done, by showing gratitude daily. Explain to them the importance of not only being thankful for sunny days but, also for the rainy ones. Teach them that it is better to give than to receive. Take them with you when you volunteer in the community. Let them experience the joy of helping in a soup



kitchen and feeding the homeless. Share in the understanding that you enjoy each and every day when you can give to someone else.

Parents should always make parenting a top priority if they want to see children take on strong morals, principals, and values. Remember, you don't get a second chance to be the first impressionable role model in a child's eyes.

HONORING OUR ELDERERS

JERRELENE WILLIAMSON *Reflections on Growing Up In Spokane (Part 2)*



Jerrelene's husband Sam Williamson moved to Spokane in 1948, and they were married two years later. Together Jerrelene and Sam raised five children, three girls and two boys.

"My last child was born when I was 25. Jennifer, was the first to leave, and went to NY University, to journalism school. My daughter got married and moved to PA. My oldest son went into the army, my other son had a band, and my youngest daughter moved to Los Angeles with her husband and she is running a beauty shop."

Jerrelene says that all of her children knew that she and Sam wanted them to excel, that it was expected

of them. And so they did. "We didn't push them," she says, "but they knew that we wanted them to excel and that education was the way."

From her, Jerrelene says she thinks her children learned love and they learned patience, "because I'm a very patient person." From their father, "they learned to be good workers and to better yourself. Because he just had the job with his uncle but we moved to a nice house in town, then to a nice house out here, because that was his thing, to do the best for his family, to keep on going and to do your best."

From her mother, Jerrelene, who went to work after her youngest child started school and became the first Black grocery store checker in the Spokane area, says that she learned how to run a household. "We had nine kids (six girls and three boys). She had a garden, she had chickens, and she cooked all of the time, big nice Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, all of the time. She kept us clean, she kept us going to school, and sometimes I say to myself, how did she do that?"

Jerrelene's appreciation for how Blacks in Spokane were able to do what they did would eventually lead her to become the founder of the Spokane Northwest Black Pioneers in 1988 and author the book, "African Americans in Spokane."

The book and the organization were both born out of "The Centennial Tribute to African Americans", which was to be an in-store display in Spokane and Seattle department stores sponsored by the Bon Marche (Now Macys) that was to be held in conjunction with the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Washington State. "They decided to show what black people had contributed to Washington state, so we

collected photos and artifacts from people in this community and that community. We had it at the Bon Marche building down town and we were so proud. We had artifacts and pictures and things all over the store."

The exhibit opened to the public on July 16, 1989 and a display was placed on each floor of the Bon Marche, along with a display in each window of the store. The exhibit would also eventually travel around the state, offering Washingtonians a glimpse into the lives of Washington's African Americans that was previously unknown to many.

It was Jerrelene's daughter that suggested that the photos from the display should be turned into a book. "I had asked if I could keep the pictures in my possession, so I had all of these copies of the pictures, and my daughter Jennifer said, 'you know mom you really should write a book about all of the pictures', and we did it with the help of the museum, the MAC helped us get the book together."

Though it has been hard work over the years to continue the process of researching and preserving the history of African Americans in this area, Jerrelene says that it has been an undertaking of love. "I loved seeing all of the pictures, and seeing the picture of my grandmother and my great grandmother in the Bon Marche. They would not have been there otherwise, if we hadn't put the exhibit together."

It has been eight years since the last time that the exhibit was displayed and given all that is happening around the country right now, perhaps it is time to share the exhibit again. "People are looking at themselves right now and that's what is changing. Young people are getting together and it makes me proud to see that. Change has to come from the heart."

JUNETEENTH: THEN AND NOW

Celebrating 150 Years of Freedom

THE HISTORY OF JUNETEENTH *(from www.juneteenth.com)*

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States.

Juneteenth, or June 19th, 1865 is considered to be the date that the last slaves were officially freed in the United States. Although, President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was issued in September of 1862 and become official on January 1, 1863, it would take two and a half additional years before the news reached the slaves in Texas.

It was on June 19th that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that those enslaved were now free. The Emancipation Proclamation had previously had little impact on the Texans due to the minimal number of Union troops to enforce the new Executive Order in the state. However, with the surrender of General Lee in April of 1865, and the arrival of General Granger's regiment, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance.

General Granger's first order of business was to read to the people of Texas, *General Order Number 3*

which began most significantly with: "*The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer.*"

The reactions to this profound news ranged from pure shock to immediate jubilation. While many former slaves lingered to learn of this new employer to employee relationship, many left before the offers were completely off the lips of their former 'masters' - attesting to the varying conditions on the plantations and the realization of freedom. Even with nowhere to go, many felt that leaving the plantation would be their first grasp of freedom.

North was a logical destination and for many it represented true freedom, while the desire to reach family members in neighboring states drove some into Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma. Settling into these new areas as free men and women brought on new realities and the challenges of establishing a here-to-fore non-existent status for black people in America. Recounting the memories of that great day in June of

1865 and its festivities would serve as motivation as well as a release from the growing pressures encountered in their new territory.

The celebration of June 19th was coined "Juneteenth" and grew with more participation from descendants. The Juneteenth celebration was a time for reassuring each other, for praying and for gathering remaining family members. Juneteenth continued to be highly revered in Texas decades later, with many former slaves and descendants making an annual pilgrimage back to Galveston on this date.

JUNETEENTH IN SPOKANE

The Inland Northwest Juneteenth Coalition was formed in June 2011 and recognized by the State of Washington. On a rainy day, June 18, 2011, the INJC, with the Spokane Minister's Fellowship assisting them, put a on a Juneteenth program that not only educated those on hand, but also uplifted the community. INJC organizes Spokane's Juneteenth Celebration each year and this year Juneteenth will take place on Saturday, June 20. Visit www.injc.org for more information and a schedule of events.

"Juneteenth is a day on which honor and respect is paid for the sufferings of slavery. It is a day on which we acknowledge the evils of slavery and its aftermath. On Juneteenth we talk about our history and realize because of it, there will forever be a bond between us."

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

MAKING WAVES BY DEONNA SMITH

MICHAELA BROWN



For this installment of Making Waves, I interviewed **Michaela Brown**. Michaela is a recent Gonzaga University graduate who has long been making waves in the Black community of Spokane and is now affecting change in Spokane’s education system.

Michaela, unlike many recent grads, decided to stay in Spokane after graduation, instead of relocating to a larger and more diverse city. Recently, we sat down and discussed why smaller communities lose so many of their educated people of color to bigger cities and what that means for the future of homogenous cities like Spokane.

Michaela is a former Black Student Union President at Gonzaga and member of the Spokane NAACP, however her path to identity development was neither clear cut, nor smooth.

“I knew I was brown, but it wasn’t an identity that I fully embraced or was empowered by” Michaela told me. “In Spokane, when you are the only one [African American] you don’t question or interrogate the roles and assumptions that are being put on you”.

Growing up biracial, Michaela explained that she was always careful not to fall into the “disobedient” Black person role. It was not until college, ironically at Gonzaga University, that she began to develop her Black identity. A pivotal moment for Michaela came when for the first time in her life she had an African American professor.

“When I had Dr. Jackson, it was a different way of seeing myself. I saw someone who looked like me doing what I thought I wanted to do. People had always said I could, but when I met Dr. Jackson I was like ‘Wow, I can’”. For all student of color, Asian, Latino, Native or any other underrepresented population, Michaela continued to explain, “the importance and impact that



having a teacher of color can have on your life cannot be overstated.”

After being denied access to her own identity and history for eighteen years, I asked Michaela what compelled her to stay in a place like Spokane. Her answer was simple, Spokane is her home. She explained that she sees the potential in Spokane, but is very aware that many think that Spokane has nothing to offer them and so they leave.

Michaela reversed this ideology and instead asked what she could invest in her community. “I wanted to love Spokane and show it my appreciation by giving back and being a person who deserves it. “Spokane is changing,” Michaela elaborated, “there are now more people ready to engage in conversation around equity. People are willing to ask, who are we serving? Who is getting ahead? This is a big step.” “Now,” Michaela explained, “we are ready to have a race conversation. For a long

time we were just looking at socio-economic status, but now we need to be honest with ourselves about who is making it and who is not.”

Michaela plays a dynamic role in bringing about educational equity through her job with the United Way. She works with their Accelerate Success Program, a cradle to career collective impact educational partnership. Each day she works to ensure that Spokane’s institutions produce individuals that are competent, confident, cared for, and prepared to face the world. Michaela coordinates stakeholders across sectors, from the private sector to healthcare, safety and education, to foster a dialogue and space for collaboration. The task is formidable, but she believes Spokane has a rich community for collaboration and a unique demographic that includes a wide county and not just an urban core. Michaela added that Spokane is often forgotten about in the wider Washington conversation, but insists that what is actually happening here with these community-wide initiatives is revolutionary.

All things considered however Michaela understands why so many grads turn away from areas like Spokane. “It is a cyclical problem,” she said, “where high achieving people of color leave smaller areas because they hunger for more opportunities and diversity, and because of that revolving door the homogenous cities stay that way.” Reflecting on her own experience, Michaela explained, “College is when you begin to really understand that racial inequity isn’t an accident, it’s institutional. After that experience you want to surround yourself with people who are social justice minded like yourself. That community isn’t large here [in Spokane], but that is why we need to build it.”

In closing, Michaela offered her favorite quote from G.K. Chesterton, “*People didn’t love Rome because she was great, Rome was great because people loved her.*”

MATTHEW MCCLURE

BAND & STRINGS SPECTACULAR



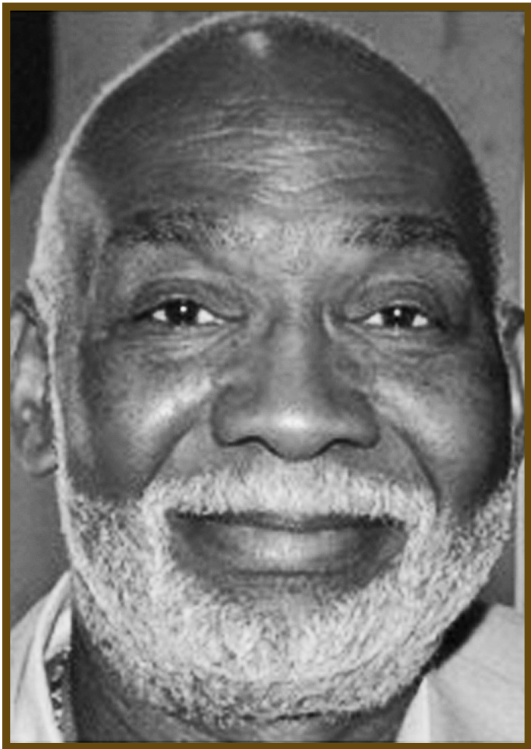
Matthew McClure performed in the Spokane Public School’s Fifth and Sixth Grade Band & Strings Spectacular on Tuesday, May 19, at the Spokane Arena.

Over 2,500 students performed in front of an audience of over 6,000 family members and friends in the annual concert which has been held every year since 1964.



LESSONS FROM

Share your stories and the lessons you learned from your mother on the Black Lens Facebook Page



JESSE WATSON JR. (OPA)

When I go back to Seattle, I often try to get inspiration from a man with such an amazing life, my grandfather. Everything from coaching little league football, owning one of the first Black-owned roofing companies in Washington, bowling as a professional WBA member, and being friends with two of Bruce Lee's students, I have him here to guide me through many of my life's experiences. In this journey, I have learned that "there's two types of people in the world, those who do it, and those who don't", "haste makes waste", and "if you think ahead, then you can plan ahead."

-Romeal Watson



WILLIE B. TURNER

AKA... "Mr. Willie", "Bill" "Hard Rock", but to me Daddy. With a soft deep voice Daddy was a man of few words. He was the E.F. Hutton to many. When Mr. Willie spoke many listened. The lessons that he taught me and my siblings were that you share what you have with those in need. Growing up on a farm in Talladega, Alabama, his strong work ethic proved that hard work brings results. Daddy and Mother were firm believers in education. It was no question about if we were going to college, the questions was where. Although he didn't say I love you on a daily basis, he proved his love by displaying it in the things he did for our family, relatives, friends and the community. I love you Daddy. You will always hold your special place in my heart.

-Fannie Turner Bush (Puddin)



JAMES A. WILBURN SR.

Growing up in the South during Jim Crow was tough but my dad taught me about family, faith, friends and community. By the time I was six I had watched my dad deal with the death of his best friend as a result of a brutal lynching, and save our family when we were burned out of three homes. Dad was one of a few successful African American businessmen. As a result of discrimination, he lost his hotel and trucking company, yet he still held our family of seven together. Though he had to quit school in the 4th grade in order to work; education, church, and helping members of the community were the priorities he instilled in me. Happy Father's Day Dad, your spirit still lives on in me; you are my hero.

-James A. Wilburn, Jr.



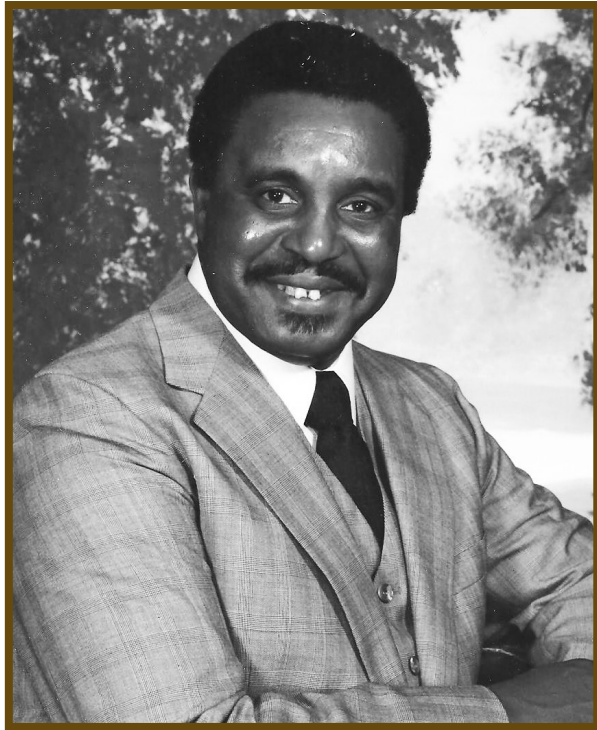
HALO BURNLEY JR.

My dad worked hard and always had at least two jobs. He was a mail carrier and cleaned office buildings at night. He sacrificed greatly for his family, but I believe he thought what he sacrificed most was time with the family. He always said, "You can't do too many things at once and do them all well."

-Lawrence Burnley

OUR FATHERS

or e-mail your photos and lessons to me at Sandy@BlackLensNews.com and I will post them for you.



GARDNER (JUNE) ANDERSON

My father taught me the value of education, truthfulness and integrity. When we didn't exhibit these values, he always showed us unconditional love.

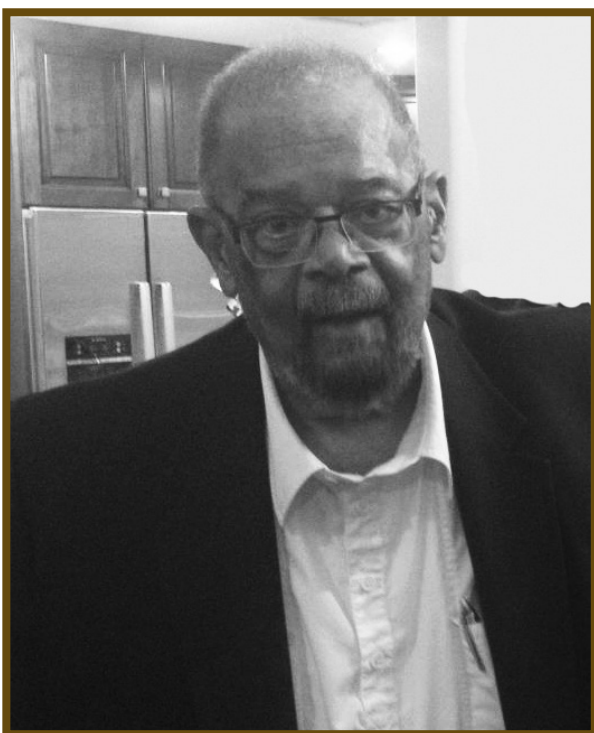
-Sandra Smith

Some of the most important things that my father taught me were first, how to be a man, integrity, honesty and letting your word define who and what you are. Second, family. The family at the end of the day are the people who you can count on and will always love you. And finally, at the end of the day, you must respect yourself if you want anyone else to respect you. That defines my father and what he taught to all of his children. I love you dad and you are loved and missed.

-Terry Anderson

From my father I learned that a person's word is their bond. Family is the most important part of your life, because there's ups and there's downs, but you are always going to be family no matter what. And most important, never forget the mayonaise in the salad.

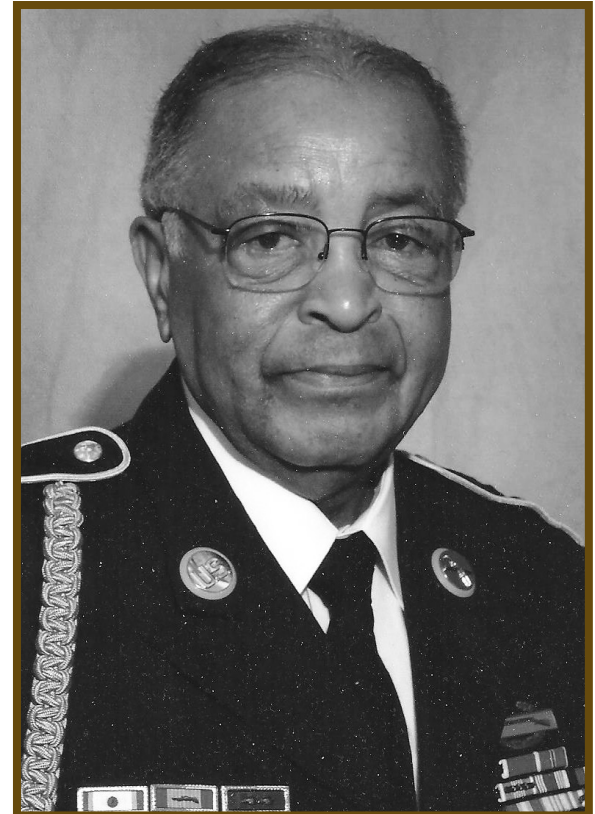
-Cynthia Campbell



ROTH ASHBY

Dad is a man of few words. Dad always told us no one could take our education away from us.

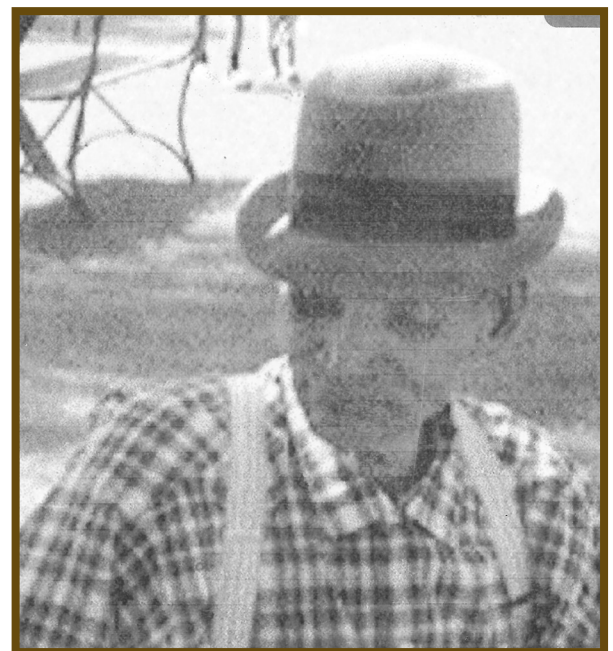
*-Terrie Ashby-Scott, MSW, PhD
Frank Ashby, EdD*



CSM THOMAS E. WILLIAMS

My dad grew up without his father, so he was determined to give his children and grandchildren what he never got himself, and dedicated his life to being the best father possible. I learned what it really means to be a dad. I learned about honesty and integrity, and that talk is cheap. I learned that hard work and always doing your best are how you earn respect. I learned how to demonstrate love, not through words, but through actions, and that taking care of your family is the most important thing in the world. Most of all I learned about dignity and courage and strength in the face of overwhelming pain and adversity. My daughter Renika said she learned two important things from her grandpa, never loan money to a boy or buy him a cell phone!

-Sandra Williams



DOBY FLETCHER

My dad had 16 children, born and raised. He grew up on a farm and was what you would call a dirt farmer. He taught us how to survive, to be honest and just in all of our dealings, and that a handshake was your word. I learned to take care of myself and my family, to help people along the way, and that if I make a debt, to pay it off, which is why I don't owe anybody anything.

-Tommy Fletcher

IN THE SPIRIT

MICHAEL C. WATSON INTERVIEWS WITH SPOKANE TRANSPLANTS

By Marilyn Euseary

Michael C. Watson moved to Spokane last September from Kansas City, Missouri. He feels that God sent him here to fulfill his purpose in life.

Michael works in the medical profession and in Christian Ministry, and when asked about his perspective of Spokane, he said, "I found it to be a little different here." The first thing Michael said he noticed was how he was treated in the grocery chains.

"The greeter at Fred Meyer's gave me a total look over when I came into the store, so I asked her are you supposed to greet everyone? She said I was making this racist, and I said, no, I'm a Christian." Michael says he had the same problem at WinCo, "and you would think an employee owned store would treat their customers better."

Michael is now a member of Calvary Baptist church, where he serves as the Director of the Men's Ministry. "I am very happy with that position," he says. "The main reason I'm here in Spokane is because I was called to preach the



gospel. God pulled me from my family and friends to come here to spread His word and to magnify His name and to help lead people to Jesus." He says it has come with a price to pay but

he is committed to go all the way, to do what God wants him to do, and to not stop until he gets the job done. Michael says that he is happy to be here in Spokane, WA, and loves working with the men at the church, "they are a great group of guys."

Michael requests that the community pray for him to reach his destination, and he sends blessings to all of Spokane and readers of the Black Lens Newspaper.

I appreciate the words that Mr. Watson shared with me, and I would like to add that every Saturday that I work at Calvary's Soup Kitchen, Michael is there to pray with us and provide spiritual support and assist and encourage the staff and honored guests.

Also, I remember going through a situation recently that rocked my world and I called on Michael and he was there to give me spiritual and natural support like I had never seen, so I am a witness to the fact that Michael C. Watson is on the battlefield for the Lord.



WORDS OF INSPIRATION: LET THEM WALK

BY T.D. JAKES

There are people who can walk away from you.
And hear me when I tell you this!
When people can walk away from you:
let them walk.

I don't want you to try to talk another person
into staying with you,
Loving you, calling you,
caring about you, coming to see you,
Staying attached to you.
I mean hang up the phone.

When people can walk away from you
let them walk.
Your destiny is never tied to anybody that left.

The Bible said that, they came out from us
that it might be made manifest
that they were not for us.
For had they been of us, no doubt they
Would have continued with us. [1 John 2:19]

People leave you because
they are not joined to you.
And if they are not joined to you,

you can't make them stay.
Let them go.

And it doesn't mean that they are a bad person
it just means That their part in the story is over.
And you've got to know
when people's part in your story is over,
so that you don't keep trying to raise the dead.
You've got to know when it's dead.
You've got to know when it's over.

Let me tell you something.
I've got the gift of good-bye.
It's the tenth spiritual gift,
I believe in good-bye.
It's not that I'm hateful,
it's that I'm faithful,
and I know whatever God
Means for me to have
He'll give it to me.
And if it takes too much sweat I don't need it.

Stop begging people to stay.
Let them go!!



Bishop T. D. Jakes serves as senior pastor of The Potter's House, a global humanitarian organization and 30,000-member church located in Dallas, TX. Jakes is the winner of several prestigious awards, including BET Honors, Stellar Award, NAACP Image Award, Keeper of the Dream Award and McDonald's 365Black Award for his humanitarian efforts. Jakes also has produced eight films to date, including the recent hit, "Winnie Mandela WINNIE MANDELA" starring Jennifer Hudson, "SPARKLE," featuring Jordin Sparks and the late Whitney Houston, and "HEAVEN IS FOR REAL." <http://www.tdjakes.org>

New Hope Baptist Church
Pastor Happy Watkins

409 S. Greene Street, Spokane WA 509-535-1336
11am Sundays www.NewHopeSpokane.com



BUSINESS / ECONOMICS

JAMES CLINGMAN: BLACK DOLLARS MATTER

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - He has been called "the nation's most prolific writer on economic empowerment for Black people." Now, Jim Clingman has released his 5th book on the subject, aptly describing the dominant-submissive relationship between economics and politics, respectively. The book, *Black Dollars Matter*, contains stark and sometimes biting commentary, statistical data, and documented information, with thought-provoking quotations sprinkled throughout.

"Black Dollars Matter is a searchlight to find solutions, a spotlight that illuminates the way forward, and an admonishment that we 'Teach our dollars how to make more sense,' and it shows us how to do that," says Clingman in a statement.

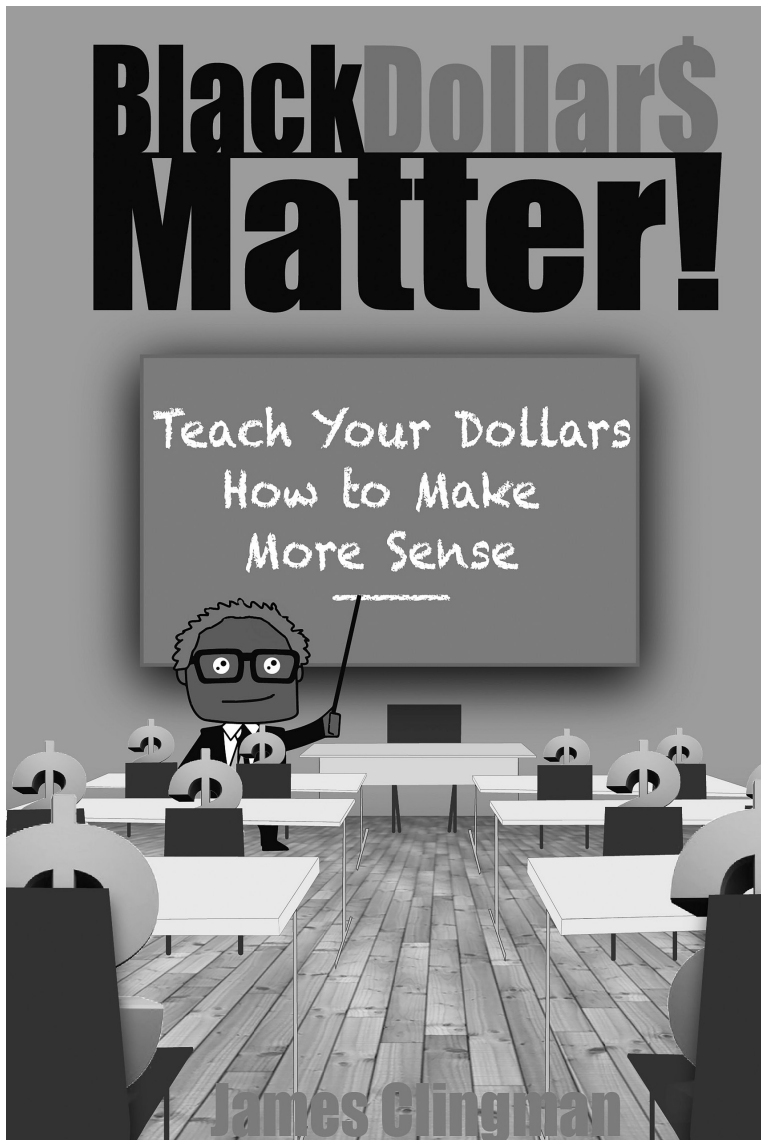
Clingman has always believed in the priority of his message over the messenger. "I have no proprietary claim on most of what I write. My message is taken from the deep treasures of information left by many who have passed on," he states. "I am just another in a long line of messengers."

In the book, Clingman espouses practical easy-to-facilitate solutions to the economic and political problems facing Black people in America, and he continues to dedicate himself to initiating and participating in those solutions, rather than merely issuing self-serving and self-aggrandizing calls to the masses. "Jim Clingman is unquestionably one of the foremost practitioners of Black economic empowerment in America," says Rev. Dr. Jonathan L. Weaver; Founder & National President, Collective Empowerment Group, Upper Marlboro, Md.

"Professor James Clingman is considered by many to be the most thought-provoking, solutions-oriented, and perceptive commentator on the too-often ignored critical subject of Black economics," says Peter Bailey; Journalist, Washington, D.C.

"Because Jim is a man of faith, he recognizes that these conversations encompass issues regarding government, institutional religion, nationalism, and social injustice," says Arnelious Crenshaw, Jr.; Evangelist, Northeast Church of Christ, Oklahoma City.

Black Dollars Matter is available at www.blackonomics.com, www.professionalpublishinghouse.com, and Amazon Kindle eBooks. For more information or to order the book, James Clingman can be contacted directly at jclingman@blackonomics.com, or 513-315-9866.



HOW TO INCREASE YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS!

by Otis Manning, President,
Retirement Solutions

In the April 2015 issue I wrote an article titled "Preparing for Retirement," and I mentioned some of the things that are necessary to prepare for Retirement such as:

- Obtaining Medicare
- Medicare Supplement
- Long-Term Care Insurance
- The Value of Using Annuities
- Applying for Social Security

In this article, we will focus on applying for, and how to INCREASE, your Social Security benefits!

Social Security is the ultimate annuity and, if you HAVE NOT applied for Social Security yet, there are various strategies that can be used to INCREASE your benefits.

One strategy is called "*File and Suspend*." An example of how to use this strategy is as follows. (We will use a fictitious couple by the name of Fred and Betty.)

- Fred is 64 years old; Betty is 66, her Full Retirement Age.
- Betty files for Social Security and suspends it.
- Fred, when he turns 66, his Full Retirement Age, he applies for the Spousal Benefit.
- When they both turn 70, they take the Maximum Social Security Benefit.
- Based upon Betty's benefit of \$24,000 per year, Fred can get half—which is \$12,000 per year from age 66 to 70—in a Spousal Benefit. Times 4 years, this equals \$48,000—almost \$50,000!

You can file for Social Security as early as age 62. However, for every year you wait, Social Security pays you 8 percent more! Social Security has 2,728 core rules in its Program Operations Manual, and Social

Security workers are not supposed to give you "advice" or "information." Social Security states its workers are not at liberty to substitute their own judgement or opinion on rulings or regulations.

Only 1-2 percent of people claim at age 70; 38-50 percent at age 62. One study concluded that 40 percent who claimed early came to regret their decisions later.

The purpose of this article is to focus on retirement and spousal benefits. However, Social Security also provides benefits for children of retirees, disabled children, divorcees, widow/widower survivors, and divorcee widow/widower survivors. To be eligible, you must have worked 40 quarters and 10 years in total. Those who may receive benefits on your work record include your current spouse, ex-spouse, young children, disabled children, and even your parents. For those of you that are divorced and were married for at least 10 years, you may be able to collect Spousal and Survivor benefits on an ex-spouse's work record.

You can go to www.socialsecurity.gov and print a copy of your statement.

Starting January 1st of each year, Social Security raises all benefits by the rate of inflation that occurred between the prior two Octobers. This is called a Cost of Living Adjustment, or a COLA.

Delayed retirement credits raise your benefit 8 percent per year through to age 70, if you wait to claim your benefits. Here is another example of how this may look in round numbers:

- You are due \$1000 per month at age 66.
- If you claim at age 62, your benefit is reduced to \$750 per month.
- If you wait to age 70, it is increased to \$1320 per month.

- The difference between \$750 and \$1320 is 76 percent more! or \$570 more per month, or \$6840 more per year; over a five-year period this is \$34,200 more; over a ten-year period this is \$68,400 more; over a 15-year period this is \$102,600 more—and this does not even include the cost of living increases!

Suspending your Social Security benefits is only allowed between your Full Retirement Age and age 70; it allows your spouse to collect Spousal Benefits. Voluntary suspension of benefits for people reaching Full Retirement Age has only been permitted since 2000, and it was enabled under the "Senior Citizens' Freedom to Work Act of 2000."

You can file the request in writing by sending a letter to the Social Security Administration. Include your Name, Social Security Number, Date of Birth and request that you want to "File and Suspend" your retirement benefits. For more information on this topic go to: <http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/suspend.htm>

Another strategy is taking a Survivor Benefit now, and your Retirement Benefit at age 70. If your spouse passed away and you have reached your Full Retirement Age—let's say that is 66—you could apply for just a Survivor Benefit and wait until age 70 to receive your Retirement Benefit, which will be LARGER. In the meantime, you are collecting a Survivor Benefit for four years (between ages 66 and 70) while you are waiting. And your Retirement Benefit is receiving delayed retirement credits, raising your benefit 8 percent per year through to age 70.

The two strategies above assume that you are in a position financially that you can wait to collect a larger benefit later. How-



ever, if you are not in this position financially, you may want to take your Retirement Benefits EARLY rather than later.

These situations would include:

- You need the money now!
- A medical condition arises that will dramatically reduce your life expectancy (such as a terminal diagnosis).
- You got laid off, downsized or fired from your job, and financially you cannot wait.
- To enable a young or disabled child to begin collecting a child benefit.

As you can see, there are many factors that can go into when to file for your Social Security benefits.

You only have one opportunity to make the right decision that can INCREASE your benefits. It may be wise to talk with a financial services professional that understands how Social Security fits into your overall retirement planning so you can maximize your benefits!

For additional information on this article you may contact: President Otis Manning, Retirement Solutions, 9212 E. Montgomery Avenue, Suite 401-4, Spokane Valley, WA 99206, email: ombusiness7@aol.com.

Disclaimer: This article is not intended to give legal, tax or investment advice. You must consult your own adviser in order to determine what is best for your specific situation.

BRIDGET POTTER: Twenty Years of Spokane Pride



and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) organized a march that took place on downtown sidewalks and brought together roughly 300 people from the LGBTQIA community. The next year the march moved to the streets, and in 2004 the march became a Parade that each year attracts thousands of Spokane residents, who gather together to remember the struggles of the past, celebrate the accomplishments of the present and look forward to the future.

In 1995, Bridget Potter, was looking for a way to get involved with her community and began volunteering to help plan the annual march. Twenty years later, Bridget is still there, on the Board of Directors for OutSpokane, the organization that was formed in 2005 to take on the task of organizing the parade and community festival that takes place in Riverpoint Park.

A graduate from Washington State University with a B.S. in Architecture, a B.A. in Fine Arts, and a minor in Women's Studies, Bridget says her work with OutSpokane "is the only contant in my life, besides my family."

Bridget was born in Washington, DC in 1960, and ended up in Washington State when her family had to move for employment. Bridget's parents left the choice of where to move up to the children "They asked the kids and we all vetoed Georgia, so we moved to Lynwood, WA, and then to Edmonds."

Bridget graduated from Edmonds High School and then decided that she needed to move away from home to attend college. "I was beginning to explore my sexuality, and I needed to

go far enough away from home where I could visit, but where my parents had to tell me when they were coming."

There was a large gay community in the Pullman/Moscow area when she was attending school, according to Bridget, and the distance from home offered the time and privacy that she needed to figure out who she was.

Bridget planned how she would "come out" to her parents, but she never got the chance.

Continued on Page 14

Every second Saturday in June, downtown Spokane overflows with the colors of the rainbow. Rainbow flags, banners, hair ribbons, balloons, t-shirts, even rainbow doggie sweaters. You name it, the rainbow is brought out in full force to celebrate Spokane Pride.

Spokane's Pride Parade has been taking place since the summer of 1992, when a group of mothers from the Spokane chapter of PFLAG (Parents



**MY CARE
MY WAY
IS** *experts who understand me*

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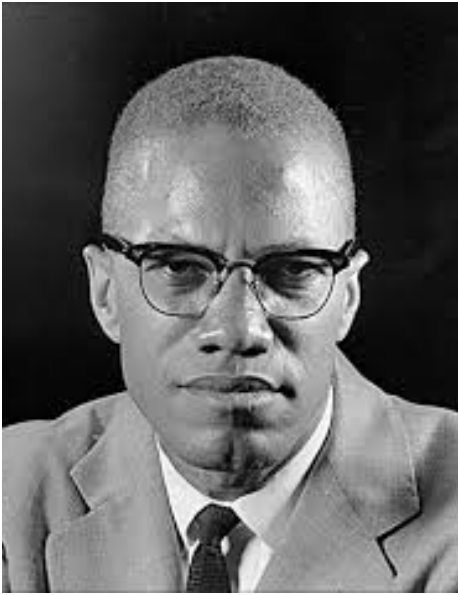
Spokane:
123 E. Indiana Ave.
Spokane Valley:
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1.800.230.PLAN
WWW.PPGWNI.ORG

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OUR VOICES

REMEMBERING MALCOLM X: FIFTY YEARS LATER



Malcolm X was born on May 19, 1925 in Omaha, Nebraska. This year would have marked his 90th birthday. On February 21, 1965, Malcolm X was assassinated at the Audubon Ballroom in Manhattan, New York.

On April 12, 1964, one month after splitting with the Nation of Islam, Malcolm X gave his "Ballot or the Bullet" speech to two thousand people at King Solomon Baptist Church in Detroit. The words became a rallying cry in the fight for racial justice. This is an excerpt from that speech:

Before we try and explain what is meant by the ballot or the bullet, I would like to clarify something concerning myself. I'm still a Muslim; my religion is still Islam. That's my personal belief. Just as Adam Clayton Powell is a Christian minister who heads the Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York, but at the same time takes part in the political struggles to try and bring about rights to the black people in this country; and Dr. Martin Luther King is a Christian minister down in Atlanta, Georgia, who heads another organization fighting for the civil rights of black people in this country; and Reverend Galamison, I guess you've heard of him, is another Christian minister in New York who has been deeply involved in the school boycotts to eliminate segregated education; well, I myself am a minister, not a Christian minister, but a Muslim minister; and I believe in action on all fronts by whatever means necessary.

Although I'm still a Muslim, I'm not here tonight to discuss my religion. I'm not here to try and change your religion. I'm not here to argue or discuss anything that we differ about, because it's time for us to submerge our differences and realize that it is best for us to first

see that we have the same problem, a common problem, a problem that will make you catch hell whether you're a Baptist, or a Methodist, or a Muslim, or a nationalist. Whether you're educated or illiterate, whether you live on the boulevard or in the alley, you're going to catch hell just like I am.

We're all in the same boat and we all are going to catch the same hell from the same man. He just happens to be a white man. All of us have suffered here, in this country, political oppression at the hands of the white man, economic exploitation at the hands of the white man, and social degradation at the hands of the white man.

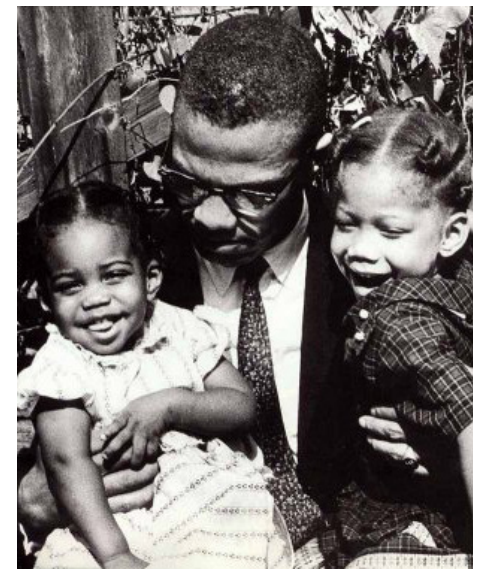
Now in speaking like this, it doesn't mean that we're anti-white, but it does mean we're anti-exploitation, we're anti-degradation, we're anti-oppression. And if the white man doesn't want us to be anti-him, let him stop oppressing and exploiting and degrading us.

Whether we are Christians or Muslims or nationalists or agnostics or atheists, we must first learn to forget our differences. If we have differences, let us differ in the closet; when we come out in front, let us not have anything to argue about until we get finished arguing

with the man. If the late President Kennedy could get together with Khrushchev and exchange some wheat, we certainly have more in common with each other than Kennedy and Khrushchev had with each other.

If we don't do something real soon, I think you'll have to agree that we're going to be forced either to use the ballot or the bullet. It's one or the other in 1964. It isn't that time is running out - time has run out!

For more information, history, photos and speeches visit: <http://malcolmx.com>, or <http://www.malcolm-x.org/index.html>.



Save the Date:

NAACP

Alaska Oregon Washington State Area Conference
2015 Annual Convention

Spokane, Washington
September 18th-20th

Details to follow:

event sponsorship, registration and workshops
www.naacpaowsac.org/news-listing.php

The NAACP State Area Conference of Alaska, Oregon and Washington is pleased to announce that the host city selected for its 2015 Annual Convention is Spokane, WA. The Convention will be held September 18th through 20th of 2015.

As the nation's oldest civil rights organization, regional civil rights leaders from all corners of the Pacific Northwest will gather in Spokane to reflect on the Civil Rights movement for the 21st Century. The theme of this year is "Pursuing Liberty in the Face of Injustice."

State Area President, Gerald Hankerson, summed up the spirit of the convention: "From Ferguson to Baltimore, from Anchorage to Pasco, this is our time to come out and talk through issues and strategy for meaningful change. That's what this coming together in Spokane is all about."

More information on the Convention including accommodations, schedule, workshop descriptions, and keynote speakers can be found at www.naacpaowsac.org as it becomes available.

LORENZO HAYES

Continued from Page 1

Also missing from the conversation is the unexpected financial burden that the family now unexpectedly has to bear.

A Go Fund Me Site was created to help the Hayes family raise money to cover funeral expenses.

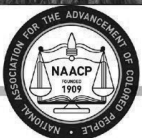
The message on the site reads:

Lorenzo was an adored father to 7 children. Son, brother, nephew and big cousin to so many. He was preceded in death by his mother and father, Sherry and Charles Hayes and leaves behind his one and only sister, Simone Hayes. The family appreciates any and all donations you are able to give. God bless you and thank you for your support.

The family has only reached one quarter of the donations needed and any help from the Spokane Community would be greatly appreciated.

To offer your support here is a link to the Go Fund Me website:
http://www.gofundme.com/ukchvb3?fb_action_ids=1430384253936984&fb_action_types=og.shares&fb_ref=undefined

Or contact the Spokane NAACP for more information at 509-209-2425 or e-mail SpokaneNAACP.org.



NAACP

Alaska Oregon Washington State Area Conference

OUR VOICES

SURPRISED TO SEE BLACK COPS ARRESTED IN FREDDIE GRAY'S DEATH? DON'T BE. By Jarvis DeBerry

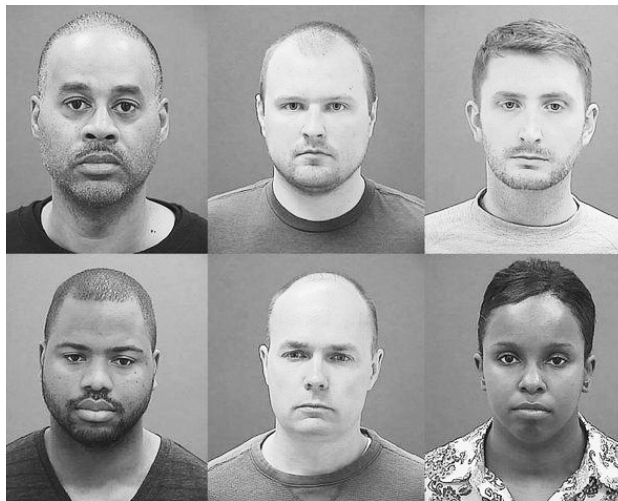
(NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune, 5/2/15)

Cops are cops are cops. I think the people who find themselves brutalized by them will attest to that fact. While Black people in America seem to catch disproportionately more police brutality than other races, that doesn't mean that black officers aren't among the ones beating them up.

I've quoted this before, and it's likely that I'll have reason to quote it again: Walter Mosely, in his mystery novel, "A Little Yellow Dog", has his protagonist Easy Rawlins, a Black man, say, "Cops didn't mind pushing around men like me. That kind of pushing was part of their job. It didn't matter that he wasn't a white man. Cops is a race all its own."

Freddie Gray was a 25-year-old Black man whose spine was severed when he was in the custody of Baltimore police. Black people all over the country, but especially in Baltimore itself, erupted in anger. Friday, six officers were arrested. They have been charged with a range of crimes from second degree depraved heart murder to misconduct in office. Caesar Goodson, the officer charged with that most serious crime, is Black. So are two of the other officers arrested. Three officers are white.

In an April 28 discussion about police brutality in Baltimore, I argued against a reader who wanted to blame Democrats and Democratic Party policy for the recent Baltimores we've seen, meaning the recent massive protests. Police brutality has nothing to do



Top row from left, Caesar R. Goodson Jr., Garrett E. Miller and Edward M. Nero, and bottom row from left, William G. Porter, Brian W. Rice and Alicia D. White. (Baltimore PD via AP, 5/1/15)

with political affiliation, I said, and everything to do with white supremacy.

I don't feel any differently now that I've seen the mug shots of the officers who had Freddie Gray in their custody. Being Black does not necessarily make a person less likely to be guided by the idea that white people are good and Black people are bad. Being Black does not mean that you can't ignore Black people's pain or inflict pain upon them yourself.

New Orleans police officers have provided me several opportunities to make that point. In 2008 I wrote about Ashley Terry, a young Black woman on the police force who terrorized a group of Black parents and

their children outside the Tambourine & Fan summer camp in Treme. In that column, "Bullies prefer the powerless," I agreed with camp director Jerome Smith who said that the Black officer wouldn't have treated white parents and their children that way. Smith specifically said that the officer wouldn't have behaved that way outside a Jewish summer camp.

And she wouldn't have. Black police know just like white police know that if you want to abuse or terrorize somebody, Black victims are best. They may be less likely to report the abuse – because who would believe them, who would care? – and there are likely to be fewer repercussions.

The New Orleans police were responsible for several crimes against civilians before, during and immediately after Hurricane Katrina. Black people were all but one of the victims, and Black officers were also among the perpetrators. And Black ranking officers were among those who looked the other way when they were told, for example, that officers had killed Henry Glover and burned his remains.

From a 2012 column called "Black New Orleans police officers help maintain blue wall of silence": "I'd never argue against an integrated force, or gain-say racial diversity; but if Black officers are going to beat and kill Black civilians or look the other way after they're dead, it's not unfair for us to ask: Why exactly are you there?"

Jarvis DeBerry can be reached at jdeberry@nola.com, or follow him on twitter at twitter.com/jarvisdeberry.

TWENTY YEARS OF PRIDE

Continued from Page 12

"I was home for the summer from college and my mother had been in bed for a couple of days not feeling well, and she called me in and said, 'so, are you gay.' I said well, 'yeah, but I've gotta go', and I left, because I was prepared to have the conversation, but she caught me off guard."

That was pretty much it, Bridget says, and she feels guilty sometimes because her com-

ing out was so easy compared to stories that she has heard about kids getting thrown out of their homes with only the clothes on their backs and kids being forced to live on the streets, and other horrendous things.

"Both of my parents had one comment that stuck with me," Bridget reflected. "My mom who was very liberal and had worked with gays before said, 'it's different when it hits this close to home', and my father, about a year or so later said, 'why are we talking about this when it's something that I don't want to talk

about', and that was the end of it. But despite any misgivings that they may have had, Bridget says that her parents always welcomed her partners into their home and were very gracious, that is, until after the relationship was over. "And then it was, 'well, we never really liked her anyway'."

Bridget moved to Spokane in 1990 after she graduated from WSU with her partner and her three children, and though they are no longer together, they are good friends and she considers the three boys her stepsons.

Twenty years of organizing Spokane's Pride Parade has helped Bridget hone her skills in working with all different kinds of people and given her an appreciation for today's youth. "Youth all over the country are saying 'we're going to do this' to the older folks, 'and if you want to come, come, but we're going, and we are not going to wait for you anymore.' I appreciate that because it forces some of us older folks to get up and step out."

The 2015 Spokane Pride Parade is on Saturday, June 13 at noon in Riverfront Park. www.outspokane.org

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JUNE EVENTS

JUNE 1, 8, 15

MORAL MONDAYS NORTHWEST
Led by the Spokane NAACP, MMNW is a constructive, proactive forum to build a multi-racial, multi-issue coalition for racial and social justice work in the Pacific Northwest.
Cost: Free
Location: Community Building
For more information, visit the NAACP website at <http://spokanenaacp.com/moral-mondays-nw/>.

JUNE 5

NAACP ROOFTOP BBQ & MIXER
Are you a member of the Spokane NAACP? Or do you want to learn more about our Civil Rights work? Join us for southern style BBQ, professional networking and social engagement. Meet the current NAACP leadership and get to know other NAACP members.
Cost: Free. Limited Seating.
Please RSVP at SpokaneNAACP.org
5-8pm
Saranac Rooftop
25 W. Main Street
Spokane, WA

JUNE 12

POWER ON EARTH - A PLAY
Hosted by the Martin Luther King
A one man play written, directed and produced by Award-winning actor Darryl Van Leer. Through live music, acting and singing, Van Leer showcases his full range of talent. In 'Power on Earth', Van Leer portrays some of the greatest legends and leaders of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, showcasing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall, Frederick Douglass, Malcolm X and more.
Tickets: \$35 (available online through <http://tinyurl.com/nfx98h6>) or call 509-455-8722
7-10pm
Spokane Community College
1810 North Greene Street
Lair Building
Spokane, WA 99217

JUNE 15

NAACP MONTHLY MEETING
Join the NAACP for our monthly general membership meeting
7:00pm
Community Building - Lobby
25 W. Main Street, Spokane WA
For more information contact the NAACP at 509-209-2425 or visit the website at <http://www.spokaneNAACP.com>

JUNE 17

WORKSOURCE - DIVERSITY RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE - MEET THE EMPLOYERS
Meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month
Cost: Free (call the number below for a ticket). For more information contact Dirk Vastrick at 509.532.3038 or 509.532.3186
3-4:30pm (Job Seekers)
Worksource, 130 S. Arthur, Spokane

JUNE 20 & 21

Black Arts fest (Festival Sundiata)
This year's exhibit represents a mix of different mediums.
Location: Seattle Center Armory #231
Cost: Free and open to the public
For more information visit the website at <http://www.festivalsundiata.org>.
Friday, June 19, 2015 from 6:00-9:00 pm or their website at <http://www.festivalsundiata.org/#!black-arts-exhibit-2014/ct2w>.

June 23

NAACP CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUM
A non-partisan introduction to the candidates for Spokane City Council with a question and answer session. Candidates will be asked to address issues pertaining to the mission of the NAACP on criminal justice, education, health, business/economics, and political action.
6-7:30pm
Community Building
35 W. Main Street, Spokane WA
For more information contact the Spokane NAACP at 509-209-2425 or visit the website at <http://www.spokaneNAACP.com>



NAACP
SPOKANE

Be Our Guests!
Rooftop BBQ and Mixer
June 5, 2015
5-8 P.M.

Saranac Rooftop: 25 W. Main St. Spokane, WA 99201

Are you a member of the Spokane NAACP? Want to learn more about our civil rights work? Come join us for Southern-Style BBQ, Professional Networking & Social Engagement With your NAACP leaders

JUNETEENTH EVENTS

Friday, June 19, 2015
2nd Annual Pillar Awards
Time: 6:30pm
Location: Holy Temple COGOC
806 Indiana Avenue, Spokane

Saturday, June 20, 2015
Juneteenth Father's Day Breakfast
Time: 8 - 10am
Location: Rogers High School
1622 E. Wellesley Avenue, Spokane

Saturday, June 20, 2015
Juneteenth Celebration 2015
Cultivating Our Roots to Strengthen Our Branches
1-5pm
Liberty Park
For more information visit www.INWJC.org

Please send information about upcoming community events to events@blacklensnews.com.

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Juneteenth *Celebration 2015*



Inland Northwest Juneteenth Coalition
INWJC



Community Colleges of Spokane

What Legacy Are You Leaving?

June 19th

2nd Annual Pillar Awards Banquet

6:30pm

Holy Temple COGIC

806 W. Indiana Ave.

For Tickets and more info visit

www.INWJC.org

June 20th

Juneteenth

Father's Day Breakfast

*8 - 10am | Rodgers High School
1622 E Wellesley Ave.*

Juneteenth Celebration

*1-5pm | Liberty Park
Spokane, Wa*

