

# THE BLACK LENS<sup>TM</sup>

NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

## LOCAL MAN SHOT IN THE BACK Friends of William Poindexter Asking for Justice

Friends of 45 year old William Poindexter, who was shot and killed on July 21 in Spokane's East Central neighborhood, say what they are asking for is justice for their friend.

Spokane Police arrested 27 year old Edward A. Bushnell for 2nd Degree Murder after what witnesses described as an altercation that began at the intersection of Fifth and Altamont when Bushnell intervened in a domestic dispute between Poindexter and his girlfriend.

According to witnesses, Bushnell confronted Poindexter and a fight broke out between the two men. Bushnell claims that he was assaulted by Poindexter with a bat during the fight, but Poindexter's friends claim that Bushnell threatened Poindexter with a knife and he was defending himself.



From Edward Bushnell's Facebook Page

In any event, what happened next is not under dispute. As Poindexter and his girlfriend were walking away from the scene together, Bushnell, who has a concealed weapon's permit, retrieved a 9mm gun from his backpack and fired three shots at Poindexter's back. Killing him.

Bushnell admitted to shooting Poindexter when the police arrived, but claimed self defense, saying that he felt threatened. Witnesses, however, said that a good 30 - 45 seconds elapsed as Poindexter and his girlfriend were walking away before Bushnell fired.

"That's not self defense," exclaimed a friend of Poindexter who did not want his name to be used, "how can you call that self defense?"

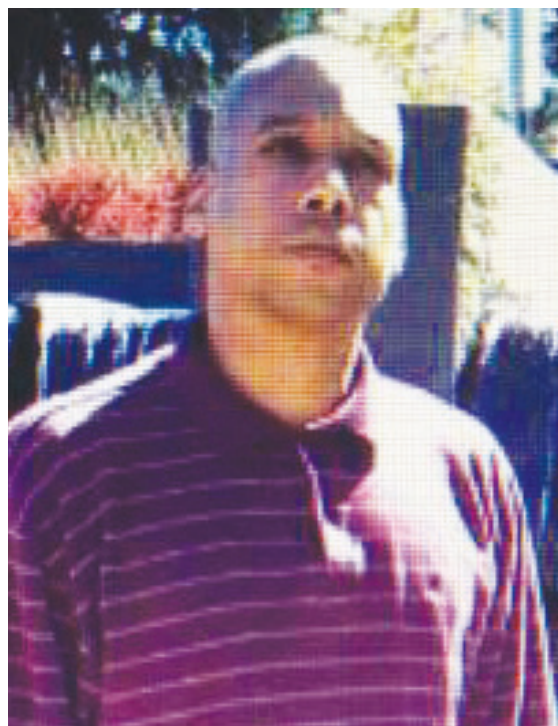
It is no secret amongst William Poindexter's friends that he was leading the kind of life that many members of his family did not condone or approve of. Born on June 14, 1970, William had been in and out of prison, and though there were moments after he was released, when it seemed that he might be turning his life around, those moments seemed to be short lived, and as a result some of his family and some of his friends felt the need to distance themselves.

Jemell Cuthbert, visibly shaken by William's death, said he met his best

friend when he was 12 years old and the two of them had been friends ever since. As a teenager, William spent time living with Jemell and his mother during one of his difficult periods, and what Jemell remembers most, he says, is that they were both goofy, telling stupid jokes and making each other laugh. He also has fond memories of their late night trips to Taco Time to get "four soft tacos each with orange sauce".

William's friends described him as quiet and humble, saying that he pretty much raised himself out on the streets, doing his own thing from a young age. They added that they also thought he might have been struggling with depression or perhaps some other mental issues.

"Prison changed him," Jemell shared, "when he got out, he didn't talk much." Several friends added that they thought the death of William's mother had an impact on him as well. William once told Jemell that he missed his mom and wished that he could go be with her. "I don't think he ever really got over his mother's death." Maybe that's why he made some of the choices he made.



William Poindexter Photo From Facebook

William's friends say they are waiting to see what will happen next. Hoping, they said, that the punishment for William's killer will fit the crime, but worried that it won't.

"I want people to know that William was a good dude," Jemell shared, choking back tears, "he didn't deserve what happened to him. I want justice."

A memorial service for William Poindexter will take place at 11am on Saturday, August 1 at Holy Temple COGIC, 806 W. Indiana Avenue.

## PATRICK RUSHING: NO INTENTION OF STEPPING DOWN Airway Heights City Council Passes "No Confidence" Resolution



Airway Heights Mayor, Patrick Rushing, who has two years left in his term, explained that his Facebook comment regarding President and Michelle Obama was "just playful banter that my friends and I do," and wasn't intended to offend anyone.

The full text of Mayor Rushing's Facebook post was released to the public by KHQ News after a complaint by one of their viewers who found his comment racist and offensive. The comment, posted on Rushing's personal page, but open to the public, read: "Gorilla face Michelle, can't disagree with that. The woman is not attractive except to monkey man Barack. Check out them ears. LOL."

Mayor Rushing insisted that the post was simply a joke. "Just because I'm Mayor doesn't eliminate my 1st amendment rights to freedom of speech," he wrote on his page, calling it "ridiculousness" that someone was trying to "paint him as a racist."

The Mayor does have his supporters, who point out that he is a veteran who goes out of his way to help people. They insist that he has done an excellent job as Mayor and that he "doesn't have a racist bone in his body," but many in the community do not agree, feeling that the Mayor's behavior is not in keeping with the standard that should be set for a public official. They note that this post was not an isolated event.

In fact, Daniel Walters, writer for the Inlander newspaper penned an article on July 15 titled "75+ more questionable posts by Airway Heights Mayor Patrick Rushing", that listed dozens of questionable and offensive posts made by Rushing, including many more that demeaned President and Michelle Obama, as well as posts that targeted Muslims, gays & lesbians, undocumented, low income, and overweight people.

On Monday, July 20, the Airway Heights City Council passed a vote of "No Confidence" against the Mayor during a standing room only City Council meeting that featured an hour of testimony from both die-hard supporters and disappointed detractors.

Council members, city employees, and Airway Heights residents all called for the Mayor to "do the right thing" and resign, saying that he did not represent the values of their community or the standards of his office. It came as no surprise that Mayor Rushing, who was the lone vote against the resolution, refused to step down. To do so, he told the Spokesman Review, is "admitting I'm a racist and I'm not." Since he is an elected official, it will take a recall to remove him from office. In the meantime, Mayor Rushing has taken down his Facebook page, calling it "a tool of the devil" and has issued multiple apologies. It remains to be seen whether or not that will be enough.

# ON MY MIND

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR



by Sandra Williams  
**#SayHerName**

*“Two months ago I had a nice apartment in Chicago. I had a good job. I had a son. When something happened to the Negroes in the South, I said ‘That’s their business, not mine.’ Now I know how wrong I was. The murder of my son has shown me that what happens to any of us, anywhere in the world, had better be the business of us all.*  
*-Mamie Till-Mobley (mother of Emmett Till)*

She could have been my daughter. That’s the thought that keeps circling around and around in my mind as I find myself unable to stop staring at the mug shot of Sandra Bland, released by Texas authorities after her death. Twenty-eight year old Sandra Bland, was full of life when she left the safety and security of her home and her family in Chicago to travel across the country to start a new job. A fearless, young Black, woman, with college degree in hand, who was ready to strike out on her own. Ready to take on life’s challenges. Ready to change the world. Or so she thought.

But in her mugshot, only a few days later, Sandra Bland looks lifeless. Eyes dead. Face gaunt. Whatever fearlessness and hopefulness she once had about making the world a better place-- gone. I look at her face and I wonder, what in the hell happened to this young woman? And I say to myself, that could have been my daughter.

Like Sandra Bland’s mother, I too raised a strong, black daughter. Educated. Passionate. Political. Opinionated. Not an easy task in a world that seems hell bent on stripping young women of color of any hint of confidence or self-assuredness that we are able to instill in them. But my daughter, like Sandra, managed to hold on to hers, and I have always been so very proud of the way that my daughter stands up for herself and speaks her mind and calls injustice exactly what it is. Wrong.

But now, looking at Sandra Bland’s mugshot, this mother of a strong black daughter admits that she is more than a little bit nervous. More than a little bit worried.

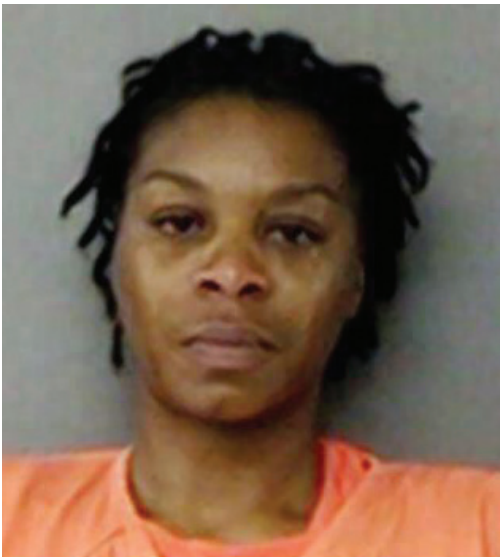
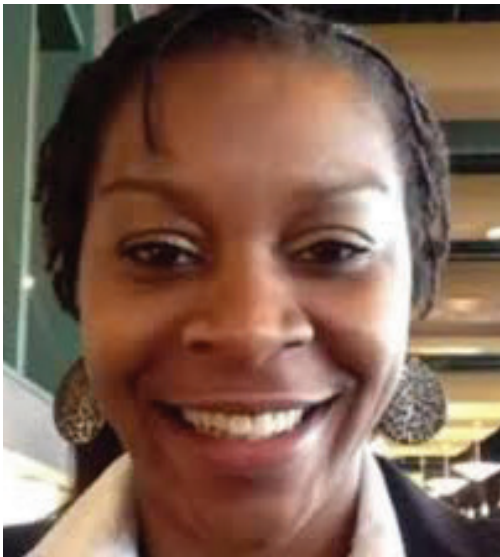
My daughter and I were talking about the death of Eric Garner last year, an unarmed Black man that was choked to death in Staten Island, New York by police officers who were in full view of witnesses and a video camera. His death had shaken up my daughter and damaged her sense of security. It left her feeling like a target. “I could do all of the right things and it doesn’t matter,” she told me. “I can go to college, I can get a good job, I can do all of the things that you are supposed to do, but if I end up in the wrong place at the wrong time with the wrong cop, I’m just Black, and none of that will matter.” Unfortunately, there is more truth to her statement than I would like to admit, and it scares me.

Yes, I want my daughter to be strong. You have to be strong, actually more than strong, to succeed in a world that is predicated on your failure. But I also want my daughter to be alive. And right now, it seems that being strong and proud and Black all at the same time makes you a threat and a target.

Sandra Bland’s “crime”, the one that possibly cost her life, was that she did not know “her place” and she dared to have a voice. She is not the only Black woman that has been judged “guilty” of this crime and paid the ultimate price for it. #SayHerName, like #BlackLivesMatter, is attempting to raise awareness, and in this case bring attention to the deaths of Black women at the hands of law enforcement. A report recently released by the African American Policy Forum tells their stories. Too many strong, Black women lost. Too many daughters, like Sandra Bland, gone. Too much silence. #SayHerName, before one of our daughters is next.

# QUESTION OF THE MONTH

**Why would a #BlackLivesMatter activist and critic of police brutality hang herself in her jail cell three days after being arrested in Texas during a routine traffic stop?**



**Sandra Bland (28 years old) was moving from Chicago to Texas for a new job when she was pulled over on Friday, July 10 for not signalling during a lane change, and arrested for allegedly “assaulting a police officer”. She told her family she believed her arm was broken. On Monday she was found dead in her cell. Texas authorities claim that she committed suicide. Her family disputes that claim.**

# KYRS



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## THE BLACK LENS NEWS SPOKANE

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# BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

## Local, State, National and Around the World

### Spokane Muslim Center Vandalized with Hate Speech



(Source: Tracy Simmons, <http://spokanefav.com>)

As reported by Tracy Simmons on the website SpokaneFavs.com, on July 4, while Admir Rasic and other members of Spokane's Bosnia and Herzegovina Heritage Association of Spokane were inside reciting prayers for America during the holy month of Ramadan, someone was outside spray painting "Death to Islam" on the center's east-facing wall.

Arsalan Bukhari, executive director of CAIR-WA (Council on American-Islamic Relations), joined Blaine Stum, Chair of the Spokane Human Rights Commission, and members of Spokane's religious community in asking the FBI to investigate the incident.

"Words have real consequences. When hate speech and conspiracy theories against an American minority are constantly spread and go unchallenged they can foster an atmosphere that causes hate crimes," Bukhari stated, adding that there has been an increase in reported anti-Islam hate crimes across the country — at least one a day.

Stum noted that the graffiti at the Bosnian Heritage Club falls on the heels of recently reported hate mail sent to the Spokane NAACP and vandalism to Temple Beth Shalom synagogue in October.

### Columbia University First US College to Divest Funds From Private Prisons



(Source: [financialjunteenth.com](http://financialjunteenth.com))

After a long student run campaign that began in 2014 that highlighted the abuses of private run prisons, Columbia University became the first college in the United States to divest from private prisons. This means that the university will ensure that its \$9 billion dollar endowment is completely removed from any companies that invest in private prisons. Columbia University currently holds 220,000 shares of G4S, the world's largest private security firm and they also have shares in the Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), the largest private prison company in the United States.

Blacks make up a disproportionately high number of prison inmates, and the student group, which was called, Columbia Prison Divest, told university administrators "that it was wrong for an 'elite' university to invest in a 'racist, violent system'." Danni Oduyemi, a 20-year-old Columbia student and one of the organizers told CNN, "The private prison model is hinged on maximizing incarceration to generate profit — they're incentivized by convicting, sentencing, and keeping people in prison for longer and longer times."

It is expected that other universities may follow Columbia University's lead.

### 'She Didn't Kill Herself,' Sandra Bland's Mother Says at Daughter's Funeral



(Source: Lynette Holloway, <http://theroot.com>)

Twenty-eight year old Sandra Bland was laid to rest on Saturday, July 25, as hundreds of mourners gathered to remember the young activist who reportedly died by suicide in a Texas jail cell three days after an arrest for a minor traffic infraction earlier in the month.

Sandra Bland's mother, Geneva Reed-Veal, was the last to speak at the service, which was held at DuPage African Methodist Episcopal Church in Lisle, Ill. According to the Chicago Tribune, while addressing mourners, "she did not cry as she spoke clearly and decisively about her daughter, who was excited about starting a new job. 'I'm the mama, and I'm telling you that my baby did not take herself out.' Reed-Veal continued, 'The fact is, I'm the mama. And I still don't know what happened. You think you're mad? I'm mad, too'."

Bland's family disputes the autopsy report released by Texas authorities finding that Bland reportedly used a plastic trash bag to hang herself. The family has called for an independent investigation.

### Minority Banks Shut Out of New Tax Credit Awards



(Source: Shantella Y. Sherman Special to <http://AFRO.com>)

Members of the National Bankers Association, including heads of several Black-owned banking institutions, recently alleged charges of racial discrimination against the Department of Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund), according to an afro.com article. The banks were overlooked for up to \$3.5 billion in allocations in New Markets Tax Credits (NMTC) provided by the fund.

The article goes on to say that the NMTC program, which was designed to spur economic development in distressed communities across the U.S., recently made awards to 76 community development institutions, but none to any of the nation's minority banks, despite their work in the nation's most underserved communities.

"The absence of a single minority bank raises much concern," Michael Grant, president of the National Bankers Association, stated in a press release on July 10. "In 2009, the General Accounting Office issued a report detailing the disparity in NMTC awards to minority entities. The numbers have actually gotten worse, not better."

A 2009 study by the Government Accountability Office indicated that only about 9 percent of minority entities were successful when applying for NMTCs, while non-minority entities had three times the success rate, winning 27 percent of the time. According to the GAO, minority entities have less than a one in three chance of any other type of entity to receive an award.

### Susannah Mushatt Jones the World's Oldest Living Person Turns 116



(Source: <http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/news>)

Ms. Susannah Mushatt Jones of Brooklyn, New York, who is confirmed by Guinness World Records as the world's oldest living person, celebrated her 116th birthday on July 6.

Born on July 6, 1899, Ms. Jones became the record holder on June 17, 2015. at the age of 115 years and 346 days. Asked for the secret of her longevity, she noted "sleep!"

Ms. Jones was born Susie Mushatt in Lowndes County, Alabama, to Mary and Callie Mushatt. Her father was a sharecropper who picked cotton to support his wife and ten children. In 1922, Ms. Jones left Alabama for New Jersey before moving to New York City in 1923, finding employment as a live-in housekeeper and childcare provider.

On her 106th birthday, Ms. Jones told the NY Housing Authority: "I never drink or smoke. I surround myself with love and positive energy. That's the key to long life and happiness." While she has lost her eyesight and is hard of hearing, Jones isn't bed-bound and only takes two medications a day. In 2014, Ms. Jones' niece, Dr Lavilla Mushatt Watson, published a biography about her beloved aunt's life entitled 'Susannah - Our Incredible 114-Year-Old Aunt'.

### Cuba Becomes The First Country To End Mother-To-Child HIV Transmissions



(Source: Angela Bronner Helm, <http://newsone.com>)

In a report from Reuters, The World Health Organization (WHO) declared Cuba the first country in the world to eliminate the transmission of HIV and syphilis from mother to child. In 2013, only two children in Cuba were born with HIV and five with syphilis, the WHO said in a statement.

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and WHO credited Cuba's success with offering women early access to prenatal care, HIV and syphilis testing, and treatment for mothers who test positive. The two organizations began an effort to end congenital transmission of HIV and syphilis in Cuba and other countries in the Americas in 2010.

Reuter's reported that Cuba's Communist government considers its free healthcare a major achievement of the 1959 revolution, and in the past the World Health Organization has named Cuba's Health Care System "a model for the world."

# YOU SHOULD KNOW

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

## IMHOTEP: Architect, Astrologer, Physician and Chief Minister

Art and Article by Bertoni Jones  
(jbaguart@yahoo.com)

Imhotep lived during what is referred to as Egypt's Old Kingdom (2980-2600 BC). His exact birth-date has been recorded as the 16th day of Epiphi (May 31st).

Imhotep served under the 3rd Dynasty Pharaoh Djoser (2668-2649 BC). As his Pharaoh's servant, Imhotep (meaning "He who comes in peace") held the highest positions of power and was known as Vizier, Chief Lector Priest, Astronomer, Master Architect, Master Magician, Doctor, Poet and Author.

Imhotep's early architectural knowledge was passed to him through his father, Kanofer, who held the royal title "Architect of South and North Kemet". (Kemet is the native name for Egypt). His medical knowledge came from his mother, Khreduonkh, who was a doctor. There is no doubt or question that Imhotep represents history's first ever documented example of a genius.

Honors were bestowed upon him that were usually reserved for Pharaohs. As Vizier, Imhotep supervised all administrative affairs of the land; as Chief Priest and Magician only he could utter the sacred hymns and prepare ceremonial oils and offerings. At his temple at Philae, Imhotep is defined as a God of Medicine bringing life and healing.

He opened a school of medicine at Memphis, a

capital city of Ancient Egypt, and with the discovery of his medical texts (Edwin Smith Papyrus) he documented 48 injury cases and remedies, as well as 90 documented anatomical terms.

To honor his Pharaoh's immortality, Imhotep developed the Kemetic art of embalming or preserving bodies, making him the world's founder and creator of the art of mortuary science. Imhotep's mortuary legacy and practices are later referenced in The King James Version of the Bible (Genesis 50:2, 3, 26).

Medicine's Hippocratic Oath comes out of Greece in the fifth century B.C. But since Imhotep's medical knowledge precedes Hippocrates by at least two-thousand years, it should be obvious that the real name of the oath should be the Imhoteppean Oath, or the Oath of Imhotep.

Yet for all of his great feats, Imhotep's greatest feat still remains physically evident today for us to see. He is the builder of the step-pyramid at Saqqara in Memphis (2650 BC.). Not only the first of Kemet's pyramids ever built, but also the first structure built entirely of stone anywhere on Earth.

Imhotep's achievements represent the world's earliest examples of science working in harmony with spiritual principles to create a civilization unparalleled on Earth.



Sources:  
*The Edwin Smith Surgical Papyrus: Hieroglyphic Transliteration, Translation, and Commentary VI* (James Henry Breasted).  
*The Horizon History of Africa, Chapter II: Civilizations of the Nile* (Margaret Shinnie).  
*When Egypt Ruled the East.* (George Steindorff/Keith C. Seele).  
*King James Version of the Bible (Book of Genesis).*

## STUDENTS DESIGN TECHNOLOGY TO HELP HOMELESS

By Zenitha Prince

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - On a stingingly cold day in late January, more than 1,100 individuals in the Washington Metropolitan area were without shelter, living on the streets, in alleys, under bridges, in local parks, in camp sites, and in other places frequented by the homeless. Thousands more were similarly bared to the elements in cities across the nation.

Students at Bowie State University, a historically Black university in Bowie, Md., have designed an electronic kiosk to help such displaced persons find shelter.

The kiosk, which the students recently unveiled before members of Congress at the Capitol Hill Maker Faire, provides real-time information about the availability of space in area shelters, according to the Journal of Blacks in Higher Education.

The students designed software creating a network of area shelters, which provide information about the availability of their resources. Through the kiosk, which comprises a minicomputer, a wireless Internet



adapter, and computer monitor, homeless persons can access up-to-the-minute data on which local shelters have available food, clothing or beds.

Courtney Lamar, an assistant professor of computer science at Bowie State and leader of the project, said the students' invention will be a boon not only to homeless populations across the nation but also to the students themselves.

"Many students do not graduate from college having created a model or an idea they developed to solve a real-life problem," Lamar told JBHE. "These students will definitely have an edge on their peers when they enter the workforce."

That kind of innovation is encouraged at the Maker Faire and is necessary for the future of the United States, the White House has said. The Maker Faire is hosted each June by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services in collaboration with the Congressional Maker Caucus, Maker Media, and Nation of Makers.

It highlights the growing "Maker" movement of hobbyists, tinkerers, crafters, and innovators that is "changing the face of informal learning at community institutions and is breathing new life and innovation into American manufacturing," according to the Faire's promotional material.

# NAACP UPDATE:

## #Black Lives Matter:

### An Affirmation of Self-Worth

By Naima Quarles-Burnley  
Spokane NAACP President

Some have questioned why Black Communities around the nation have decided to make a declaration that “*Black Lives Matter*.” The reality is that all lives matter, yet many lives are devalued. Our lived experience in 2015 provides evidence of the diminished importance of Black life. Black life is discounted and disposed of more often and more easily than the lives of the many that make up our world. In an effort to affirm our own self-worth, if to no one else but one another, we are compelled to announce “Black Lives Matter!”

In 1968 James Brown gave the clarion call of self-affirmation to the Black community, he said “Say it Loud!—I’m Black and I’m Proud!” These words echoed throughout Black America and the world. It was recognition that the Black experience in America is unique. This was the year that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated, this was a time that peaceful Civil Rights protesters were being water hosed, attacked by dogs and beaten by police in the streets. In the midst of fighting for fair housing rights and the opportunity to make a living wage, James Brown sang “Say it Loud—I’m Black and I’m Proud!”

In 2012 after the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the murder of Trayvon Martin, Black people took to the streets to protest our dehumanization, and “Black Lives Matter” was born. #Black Lives Matter is not just a slogan; it’s a movement that is helping to highlight the disparate conditions of African Americans that render 25% of Black women in poverty. #Black Lives Matter has focused our attention on the fact that every 28 hours a black man, woman or child is murdered by police or vigilante law enforcement.

#BLM and the Spokane NAACP affirm our worth as a people, while challenging the disparate treatment Black people experience in America.

The Spokane NAACP is working to bring attention to local disparities that threaten the well-being of our community.



The Spokane NAACP is advocating for equal access to health education, treatment and care for HIV/AIDS, given that African Americans and Native Americans are eight times more likely to contract and die from HIV/AIDS than our Caucasian counter-parts.

This year, two Spokane churches participated in the NAACP Day of Unity to raise awareness about the impact of HIV/AIDS on the Black community. We are working together to provide HIV/AIDS testing in the near future. Pastor Andre Dove of Restoration Church,

along with Pastor Lonnie Mitchell of Bethel AME Church are both a part of this collaborative effort to combat HIV/AIDS in our communities while demonstrating Black Lives Matter.

But how much do Black Lives Matter if the Mayor of Airway Heights feels he can callously disregard and disrespect African Americans many times on his Facebook profile and remain Mayor? When people in positions of power and privilege denigrate one group of people by comparing them to animals, it has been shown that this is often a way to condone violence or unjust treatment. We do not need leaders who lack integrity and promote divisiveness. This is why the NAACP says elected officials cannot remain in office if they demonstrate contempt for Black Lives through bigoted statements and unfair actions.

Black Lives also must matter in the depictions of African Americans in the media. Based on local media coverage, it is hard to see that the life of William Poindexter, who was killed in East Central on July 21, matters to the media as much as that of the shooter Edward Bushnell. When an African American man is shot by a Caucasian man in the back, why is the media leading with “The Shooter Attempted to Give Medical Aid”? Other reports emphasized that the gunman was a veteran and called him a “Good Samaritan.” Yet, Bushnell poses with guns on his Facebook profile and features as a cover page a Nazi firing squad.

**SPOKANE**  
NAACP

<http://www.SpokaneNAACP.com>

#### NAACP CHURCH TOUR VISITS WORD OF FAITH CHRISTIAN CENTER



On Sunday, July 19, the NAACP Church Tour stopped at Word of Faith Christian Center to visit with and support Founder and Pastor Otis Manning and his congregation.

Pastor Manning’s message was a timely one, given the numerous deaths of African American men and women making headlines. We need “Prayers of Protection”, he told the congregation, quoting from 2nd Chronicles, chapter 20, “the battle is not yours, but God’s.”

Word of Faith Christian Center meets at the Northeast Community Center, 4001 N. Cook. Sunday services begin at 9am with an Intercessory Prayer and morning service begins at 10am. For more information call 509-891-5253 or visit the website: [www.wordoffaithspokane.org](http://www.wordoffaithspokane.org).

How much do you think Black Lives Matter to Bushnell? We are glad the shooter was arrested and charged with Second Degree Murder. Now we can only hope that the police and the prosecutors do their due diligence to protect the rights of the victim so that justice is served. After all, we in America claim that justice is blind. Let’s make sure that it is not blind to the fact that Black Lives Matter. “Say it Loud—I’m Black and I’m Proud!” Stay tuned....

For morning information, contact the NAACP at (509) 209-2425 (extension 1141), or visit the Spokane NAACP website at <http://spokanenaacp.com>.

## THOUGHTS FROM A GRANDMOTHER

### SAY IT LOUD

By Evelyn Anderton

Growing up in the 50’s and 60’s was not an easy thing. Many people were busy fighting issues like racism, segregation, equal rights and civil rights, just to name a few. Although things were slowly changing, it was still difficult and very challenging for Black Americans.

However, as for me and my friends, nothing seemed to ignite our spirit until in the late 60’s when James Brown asked us in a song to “Say it Loud, I’m Black and I’m Proud”.

That song resonated in our hearts and became our theme song for several months and we sang it morning, noon, and night.

My friends and I were overheard singing that song in our P.E. class one day and we were forbidden to ever sing that song again by our white teacher. We were shocked and could not understand why she was so upset. Could it have been the fact that we were Black, or that we were proud, or that we were saying it loud?

Whatever her reason may have been, we continued to sing the song, but tried our best to not get caught

singing in her class. Yet one day I was caught again singing the song in the P.E. class. I was immediately escorted to the principal’s office and was instructed to sit in the lobby until my mother could be notified, which scared me more than anything.

My mother worked at the school and arrived about 10 minutes later, and we went inside the office to talk to the teacher and principal. They began to explain to my mother why she had been called to the office. All of a sudden my mother’s voice got louder and louder, and she said “I know you didn’t call me from my job because my child was singing a song.”

I don’t think I have ever seen my mother so upset in my life. The principal was trying his best to explain but, he finally realized it was falling on deaf ears. I was allowed to go back to my classroom and my mother returned to work. My mother whispered softly as we were leaving “Have a nice day and I will talk to you when I get home”. I was so proud of my mother for supporting me, and I walked back to my classroom feeling like a million bucks.

At home that evening my mother shared with me how proud she was of me that I was not afraid to say that I was Black and proud. Something she would never have been allowed to do at my age.

This was a teachable moment for my mother to encourage me to remember two things: never forget where I came from and to be proud to be Black. She



said, “these are two things you can never change”. Therefore, it has always been important to me to encourage my children to be proud of being Black, and hope they will pass it on to our future generations.

**“SAY IT LOUD, WE ARE BLACK AND WE ARE PROUD”.**

# GOVERNMENT / POLITICS

## BEFORE WE MOVE ON:

### THE BLACK LENS FOLLOWS UP ON OPOC INVESTIGATION

*An Analysis by Sandra Williams*

On Wednesday, June 17, the summary of findings from an “independent investigation” into allegations of misconduct by three members of the Spokane Office of the Police Ombudsman Commission (OPOC), Rachel Dolezal, Kevin Berkompas and Adrian Dominguez, were released to the public in a joint press conference held by Mayor David Condon and City Council President Ben Stuckart.

The report, which began as a whistleblower complaint by a city employee, listed eight conclusions that were considered serious enough that Mayor Condon and Council President Stuckart called on the three volunteer Commissioners to resign “immediately”. Commissioner Berkompas did resign. Commissioner Dolezal was removed from her position 24 hours later, and Commissioner Dominguez, who had been out of town at the time, was given an additional week and ultimately resigned.

The City wiped its collective hands and immediately began an application process to fill the newly created Commissioner vacancies, presented the finalists for the vacant Ombudsmen position to the public, and everybody seems to have moved on, without a single word being uttered, at least not in public, about the flawed process that was used to oust the Commis-

sioners or the lack of due process that they received. Nothing. So, before this incident disappears entirely from Spokane’s collective memory, I feel that it is important to take a moment to look at the findings of the report through a different lens.

There is a misperception amongst those that I have talked to in the community that Commissioner Dolezal, in particular, was removed from her position on the Commission because of the “scandal” that erupted regarding her race and the perception that she had been lying, and many felt that it was justified. The problem, however, is that the controversy surrounding Dolezal’s race had nothing to do with her removal, except perhaps to make it easier to accomplish without a public outcry.

The actual eight conclusions from the report that were presented to the community as the justification for calling on the Commissioners to step down immediately included the following:

- 1) that Commissioners harassed a city employee and created an intimidating, hostile and offensive environment;
- 2) that Commissioners exceeded the scope of their authority in the OPOC ordinance and the City charter;
- 3) that the Commissioners violated the OPMA- Open Public Meetings Act;
- 4) that the Commissioners criticized a City employee’s job performance and insisted

that they could evaluate that job performance;

- 5) that two of the Commissioners exhibited a bias against law enforcement;
- 6) that Commissioner Dolezal’s position as the NAACP President was a conflict of interest;
- 7) that Commissioner Dominguez made false statements when questioned; and
- 8) that Commissioner Dolezal breached her duty to keep information confidential.

After days and days (and nights) of reading the documents, attachments and supplemental materials associated with this report, as well as listening to recordings of OPOC meetings, I will offer my own conclusions.

First and foremost, it was obvious from the material I reviewed that there was a distinct difference of opinion as to the role of the OPOC. The Commissioners believed one thing and the staff person, and perhaps others in city government, believed another. I was able to find supporting documentation for both positions, however only the information that supported the report’s findings was included.

This occurred more often than I was comfortable with, for example, when the observations of a witness supported the conclusions of the report, they seemed to be highlighted, but discounted when they did not. I was left with the impression that I

was reading a report that was more of a persuasive essay and justification for an already established position, rather than an unbiased investigative document. I am very uncomfortable with that.

In responding to some of the report’s specific findings, the Commissioners were accused of harassing a city employee and creating a “hostile, intimidating and offensive” environment, as evidenced by interactions recorded during OPOC meetings. I did not hear what was claimed. Two of the Commissioners were accused of bias against the police for what I viewed as simply being honest about their feelings and experiences with law enforcement, and representing their respective communities. Additionally, the accusation that Commissioner Dolezal released confidential information seems to not exactly square with the confidentiality agreement that the Commissioners signed, which said that they are only required to keep information confidential that was designated as confidential, and does not include information that has been released to the public.

In his resignation letter Commissioner Dominguez asserted, “this process has been anything but fair and just, especially when it was conducted by the former firm of our present attorney.” Something to think about before we rush to put this incident so quickly behind us.

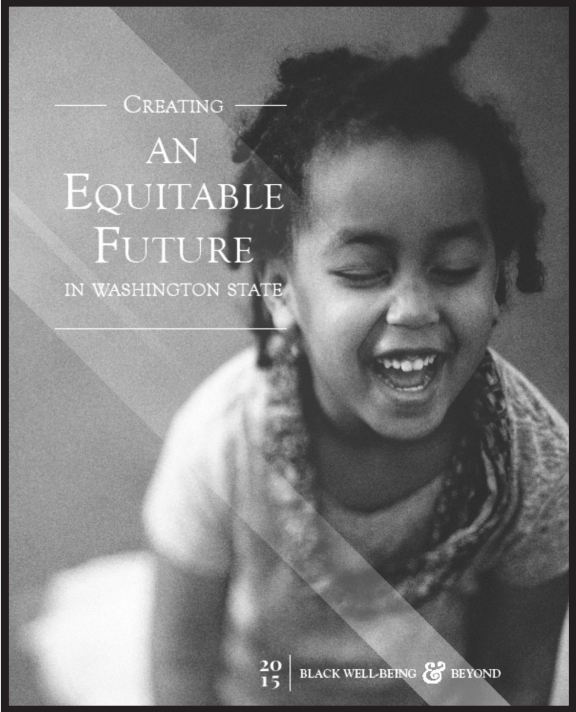
# THE STATE OF BLACK WASHINGTON (PT. 4)

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

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE: STRONG COMMUNITIES DEPEND ON TRUST

On March 30, 2015, the results were released from 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 through highlights of the report. This month the focus is on:

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE



**“Strong communities depend on trust. When people feel confident that they are protected and have the opportunity to live, work, and play without the fear of violence, harassment, or discrimination, stronger bonds form within communities.”**

The criminal justice system is responsible for protecting neighborhoods and building trust, but there is perhaps no other institution more devastating to Black children, families, and communities today. The United States has the

highest incarceration rate in the world—there are more than two million people in U.S. prisons. Of these, a staggering 38 percent are Black men and women.

A recent review of research conducted by the Task Force on Race in the Criminal Justice System concluded that “race and racial bias affect outcomes in [Washington state’s] criminal justice system and matter in ways that are not fair, that increase disparity in incarceration rates, that do not advance legitimate public safety objectives, and that undermine public confidence in our criminal justice system.”

**Washington State Criminal Justice Statistics**

- The prison population in Washington state increased more than 300 percent between 1980 and 2011
- In Washington state, the share of Black people in prison (18 percent) is four times higher than their share in the state population
- Black adults have a rate of incarceration five times higher than the state average. The rate of incarceration for Black adults is 33 per 1,000, compared to the statewide rate of six per 1,000
- Black children are detained at a rate four times higher than the state average. The rate of juvenile detention is four per 1,000 for Black children, compared to the state rate of one per 1,000

In Washington, statewide data needed to systematically evaluate whether use of force by police is happening disproportionately in the Black community does not yet exist. However, an investigation of the Seattle Police Department (SPD) conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice found “a pattern or practice of constitutional violations regarding the use of force that result from structural problems, as well as serious concerns about biased policing.”

The Seattle Police Department investigation, in addition to others across the country, suggests the trend is

widespread and pervasive, reinforcing the need for more transparency, and better data to deepen our understanding of police practices in the Black community. Black Washingtonians cannot make progress without policies and programs that reduce disparities in the criminal justice system, support families most affected by mass incarceration, and reduce violence within and against the Black community while building greater trust with law enforcement.

*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](http://center-stone.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/SOBW_report_r701_Final_032515_LowRes_spreads.pdf)

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# YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

## JAEYLIN SNYDER: SHE’S A SURVIVOR

By all accounts Jaeylin Snyder should have been just another sad statistic, one of far too many young women of color who was destined to end up without much of a future, and that is exactly the direction that she appeared to be headed before a counseling session in 2013 revealed the reason behind Jaeylin’s acting out and troubled behavior.

Jaeylin’s mother, Mysti, explained, “we had been going to counseling for a couple of years because I was having a hard time with her, and it came out that day, that Jaeylin’s stepfather had been molesting her.” With the family still reeling from Jaeylin’s disclosure about her sexual abuse, a second blow came quickly. Jaeylin’s stepfather took his life a few days later.

The firestorm that followed the death took Jaeylin and her family through more than any of them could have ever imagined. There were accusations that Jaeylin was lying about the abuse and accusations that Mysti had actually murdered Jaeylin’s stepfather (his death was ruled a suicide). The emotional toll of all of it nearly pushed Jaeylin over the edge. She attempt suicide a couple of times and started cutting herself.

Scared that she was going to lose her daughter, Mysti was at her wits end. She tried local hospitals and treatment programs, like Lutheran Social Services, which she says was great, but Mysti knew that what Jaeylin needed was inpatient treatment. “They were telling me that it could be 4-6 months before Jaeylin could get in, and I said, my kid is going to be dead by then.”

Desperate, Mysti reached out to the Dr. Phil Show one night and was surprised when she was invited to be a guest. The show, she says, was turned into a spectacle about whether Jaeylin’s stepfather’s death was murder or suicide, which disappointed her, but the end result is that Mysti was able to get help for her daughter. Dr. Phil sent Jaeylin to a 30 day inpatient treatment program in Southern California, where Jaeylin says she “got coping skills, a lot of therapy, group therapy, which helped a lot, and I got new friends, which I was able to keep in touch with afterwards.”

When she returned, Jaeylin wrote a book about her experience, called “Three Steps to Telling,” and she also started looking toward her future. She was on Facebook talking with a friend about where she wanted to go to high school. Jaeylin was thinking Rogers or West Valley, but her friend suggested that she add Gonzaga Prep to her list. She was hesitant at first, “everybody at school was talking about how preppy it was and how so many people there were mean, and I was like, I don’t want to be involved in that.” But Jaeylin did her own research and she liked what she saw. So she took it upon herself to contact the Gonzaga



Prep Admissions counselor, and went on the Bullpup tour, which she says sold her on going to the school. The students were the exact opposite of “preppy and mean”, in fact, Jaeylin says, “the first five minutes I was there somebody had already come up to me and told me I was really pretty,” a big change from the bullying and harassment that she had experienced in her other schools.

Jaeylin asked the admissions counselor to tell her what she had to do to go to the school, so that she could do it. She needed to pass the high school placement exam, which Jaeylin passed with flying colors. “I got above average,” she said, “but I didn’t get super amazing scores.” Actually, Jaeylin did get super amazing scores, she ranked in the 94th percentile, meaning she outscored 94% of the other students.

“She has always been just so smart,” Mysti shared, “and the thing that amazes me the most about her is basically the whole time that all of this was going on, she still maintained her grades.”

An education at Gonzaga Prep would be an important step on Jaeylin’s career path. “I’ve been writing letters to colleges since like the third grade,” she said. Her goal is to study Forensic Psychology at the University of Washington, which has access to the state crime lab, but first, she needs to graduate from high school.

The tuition at Gonzaga Prep, which starts August 31, is \$14,000 per year, and even with Gonzaga’s fair share program, which takes income into account, Jaeylin’s tuition will still be \$2,400, plus an additional \$600 in fees and the purchase of an Ipad (because the school doesn’t use books), bringing the total to roughly \$2,700. A lot for someone who is in the lowest income bracket. Encouraged by friends, Mysti and Jaeylin set up a Go Fund Me account to raise the money, and as of this printing they are halfway there.

If you would like to help Jaeylin cover the cost of her tuition and fees so she can attend Gonzaga Prep you can make a donation at <http://www.gofundme.com/z5w3eps>

## EGO

By Sharron A. Davis



I used to believe life was a fairytale  
Disney tales had me convinced  
That love, happiness and marriage were the premiere aspects of being a woman.

I wanted to be called The Princess,  
don’t forget the “ssss” at the end

Hip huggers and low risers soon became the trend  
Too round to fit in

And a church girl wouldn’t be seen in tight jeans,  
(At least not in public)  
Only bold chicks unwilling to compromise any reason to hide will wear on the outside what they feel on the inside.

I know how I felt about myself  
When my skirts hiked up and my skinny’s gripped my legs

I was skin tight  
Low self-esteem was my only vice  
Devaluing the price tag on my worth because I didn’t see  
That the only one hiding was the real woman in me,  
Who doesn’t buy in to a market that sells sex at her expense

The woman who says, “I’m more than this.”  
The woman who says, “I can’t be purchased.”  
The woman who says, “I’m priceless,  
My body isn’t my only image;  
Look beyond my eyes and you’ll see  
I’m so much more than what you see.

Intellect, creativity, innovation and dreams  
Scars, wounds and bandages  
Strength, wisdom and fearlessness  
Endless potential waiting to grow  
Expectations and goals  
A fighter that finds it hard to let go.”  
She’s unbreakable  
Up upon a Rock she stands  
And because of her I know the truth about life  
The fairytale myth is shattered.

# WHAT BLACK PARENTS MUST DO THIS SUMMER

By Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - There is a three year gap between Black and White students. Many people love to believe it’s due to income, fatherlessness, educational attainment of the parent and lack of parental involvement. I believe a major reason for the gap is we continue to close schools for the summer as if we are an agrarian economy.

Very few Black youth will be farming this summer. If you multiply 3 months by 12 years you will see the 3 year gap. There is nothing wrong with Black youth if their schools remained open during the summer and/or their parents kept them academically engaged.

Middle-income parents who value education enroll their children in some type of academic experience during the summer. They also visit libraries, museums, zoos and colleges. Other parents allow their children to sleep longer, play more video games, watch more television and play basketball until they can’t see the hoop. These

students will have to review the same work they had mastered in May in September.

Black parents cannot allow their child to lose three months every year. Black parents cannot say they cannot afford the library. It’s free! Most museums have discounted days.

A male friend of mine shared his experience with me when he took his family to the museum. He wondered why so many people were staring at him. His wife and children had to tell him he was the only Black man in the building!

I am appealing to every father to take his children this summer to the library, mu-



seum, and the zoo. I am appealing to every mother if he won’t, you will. We need every parent to make sure their child reads at least one book per week and to write a book report.

I am reminded of the formula Sonya Carson used to develop Ben Carson to become the best pediatric neurosurgeon. This low-income single parent, with a third grade education, had enough sense to tell her sons to turn off the television, read a book

and write a report that her sister would grade!

I have a theory that I can go into your house and within 5 minutes tell you the type of student who lives there and predict

their future. I believe that engineers, doctors, lawyers, accountants etc. need different items in their house than ballplayers, rappers, and criminals.

I am very concerned when I visit a house that has more cd’s and downloads than books. My company African American Images has designed a special collection of books for boys. Research shows one of the major reasons boys dislike reading is because of the content. The set is titled Best Books for Boys. We also have one for girls, parents and teachers.

Enjoy your summer. Let’s close the gap. I look forward to your child’s teacher asking your child what did you do for the summer? And your child answering we went to the library, museum, zoo, colleges and other great educational places.

*Dr. Kunjufu is Author of “There is Nothing Wrong With Black Students, Changing School Culture For Black Males And Raising Black Boys”*

# SPORTS & ATHLETES

## KIDS AND COPS



### Spokane Police Athletic League Builds Mutual Respect and Trust

The Spokane Police Athletic League (PAL) is a partnership program developed by Spokane community leaders and the Spokane Police Department to work with at-risk students and their parents. PAL began in 2013 and expanded its program in 2014 because participation in the program doubled. This summer, PAL is expanding once again to include three separate programs in the East Central, West Central, and Hillyard neighborhoods, and it is the partnerships that the Spokane Police Department has with KFCA Ministries, Youth for Christ, Operation Healthy Family, Southeast Lions Club, the Spokane Lieutenants & Captains Association, and the Spokane Police Guild, that make the PAL program possible.

The goal of PAL's programs, which include basketball, swimming lessons, STEM, and literacy activities, is to increase the level of respect, understanding and goodwill between Spokane area youth, community leaders, and members of the Spokane Police Department. The program focuses on five core values: honesty, integrity, sportsmanship, leadership and respect, with an underlying hope of engaging youth and encouraging healthy positive choices. PAL also provides strong role models for Spokane's youth, to build bridges and break down stereotypes between youth and law enforcement.

The response to PAL from parents is overwhelmingly positive. Nakia Roberts, whose nine year old daughter Diamond participates in PAL's East Central program, says she loves it. "The program teaches leadership, responsibility and sharing." Veronica Howard loves the program too. She said her nine year old twins, Jarelle and Janese, are learning about team work and building their self-esteem. They've also learned that not all cops are bad cops. "Just because an officer is white doesn't make them bad, Black kids need to know that."

Jennifer Nunn's fifteen year old is a volunteer for PAL and she says that she has noticed her son being more responsible since he started participating with PAL, and letting go of some of his anger. Jennifer added that the PAL officers are a resource for the parents as well. When she needed support for an issue with her son in the school, it was one of the PAL officers that was there to help her.

The PAL summer program will culminate with a celebration on August 20 at Liberty Park that will recognize players from all 3 PAL programs.

*For more information about the Police Athletic League (PAL), how to register your child or how to volunteer, contact Jennifer DeRuwe at (509) 209-7178 or JDeRuwe@spokanepolice.org or visit the website at www.SpokanePAL.org.*



## TEAM SHEBA: HOOPFEST CHAMPIONS

It didn't matter to 59 year old Sheba Caldwell that she was probably "the oldest lady out there," during Spokane's 2015 Hoopfest Three on Three Basketball Tournament, playing against people a lot younger than she was. "Nobody told me that I was old," she said, "so I just go for it!"



Floyd Rhodes is the one that got Sheba back out on the basketball court. He put the team together. "Floyd had played for years with his sons on a Hoopfest team called My Three Sons," Sheba explained, "but his sons grew up and moved away," ending their run. This year, however, one of Floyd's sons returned and the opportunity to play in Hoopfest once again presented itself.

Floyd spotted Sheba coming across the finish line at Bloomsday and remembered that she had played basketball in high school, college, and in the military. She had also played on four previous Hoopfest Teams. So Floyd recruited her, and when she agreed, Team Sheba was born. "The rest," Sheba says, "is history."

The name, Team Sheba, was also Floyd's idea, Sheba said, because she was the player that had to always be on the court. Since they played on a coed team, and Sheba was the only female, that meant that she had to stay on the court at all times. "I didn't get to rotate out, I didn't get to get any time off of the court, I had to be out there all the time, so I was pretty much the matriarch of the team." That's where the name came from.

Wearing their ages on their backs, Team Sheba, which consisted of Floyd Rhodes (61), Sheba Caldwell (59), Bill Lamb (41), and Floyd Rhodes IV (29), captured the Hoopfest Coed Championship Title, and Sheba has the t-shirt to prove it. "I had my husband take a snapshot of me holding my championship shirt," she told me, "because everybody said, I've gotta see that." Now we just have to see if Team Sheba will make an appearance next year to defend their title.



# OUR COMMUNITY

PEOPLE  
SERVICES  
PROGRAMS

## BEYOND OUR MASKS INTO OUR TASKS



## Spokane Teen Summit Empowers Male Youth

by Nicole Kidder

Aiming to affirm and uplift the community's male youth, the second annual Inland Northwest Male Summit (INWMS) held on May 16, 2015, created a safe space for critical conversations about the most important issues young men face today. Throughout the daylong Saturday event, the teens openly discussed their concerns about violence, law enforcement, access to education and male identity.

Presented in partnership by Eastern Washington University with Community Colleges of Spokane, the free leadership program is designed to help historically underrepresented ethnic, low-income and first-generation young men in six through twelfth grades gain the tools they need to excel in school, social settings and their communities. This year's 34 participants arrived at the Cheney campus riding free buses that departed from Spokane, Coeur d'Alene, Tri-Cities and Walla Walla.

Event co-organizer Randy Corradine, who serves as the senior admissions advisor and diversity outreach coordinator for EWU,

explained that this year's theme "Beyond Our Masks ... Into Our Tasks" directly confronts male posturing and the masks today's youth are required to wear. By talking openly about brotherhood, ethnic identity and social expectations, the participants were able to remove their masks and learn ways to value themselves and each other. We created a space with learning experiences where our young men's voices were celebrated and strengthened."

### *The Power Behind "Be a Man!"*

Incorporating aspects of the Black Lives Matter and My Brother's Keeper movements, the event kicked off with a presentation of "The Mask You Live In" documentary. The captivated audience silently listened as men talked about why respect is linked to violence, emotions are viewed as weakness and how men never learn to take off the masks they are expected to constantly wear. Among the most powerful messages was the declaration that the most destructive words to hear growing up are "Be a Man!"

After the video, the young men were asked to turn to the nearest person and make

eye contact without speaking. This simple 10-second lesson in connecting was met with more than a few snickers, forehead wrinkles and shifting eyes. Despite this, the participants noted that they felt engaged and invigorated – and a little weird.

Next, keynote speaker Ramon Shiloh, who is Cherokee, Creek, African-American and Filipino, shared his meandering journey to becoming an award-winning illustrator and Native American storyteller. During his keynote speech, he challenged the participants to really think about where they are going after tomorrow.

"Who are you? How are you going to define your life?" he asked. "Small contributions make big impacts. If you buy a pair of Jordans one day, then learn how to stitch a shoe the next day. If you buy a meal at McDonalds today, then learn how to make a meal tomorrow. Step outside yourself and do something for the world."

### *Removing the Masks of Male Posturing*

Before splitting into breakout sessions, Corradine told the multicultural crowd, "This is a moment, a movement. It's okay

we are starting small. "What we share here today is sacred, but what we learn is meant to be shared when you go back into the world."

Throughout the day, community leaders and area college students led motivational workshops designed to encourage the young men to engage in social justice and acquire personal development tools. Each participant attended his choice of two workshops to discuss college options, financial literacy, social media responsibility or anger management. While a small group talked about the stigma of addiction, next door an intense conversation was taking place about the masks that are worn every day to hide from others.

Former NFL player Levi Horn and current professional boxer Chauncey Welliver chatted with a classroom about how playing sports builds grit and determination while also preparing them for life's challenges. In the "7 P's of Performance," Michael Bethely shared advice about getting involved in expressive arts, such as poetry, slam and rap.

*Continued on Page 14*







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# IN THE SPIRIT

## A TALE OF TWO CHURCHES

### Charleston Shootings Bring Two South Carolina Congregations Together

It has been said that the most segregated time in America is at 11am on Sunday morning, and though race relations in the United States have certainly improved in the 150 years since the end of slavery, you don't have to look too hard or too long to find reminders of how things used to be, especially in the South.

Take Greenwood, South Carolina for example. For as long as anyone can remember there have always been two Damascus Baptist Churches in Greenwood. First Damascus for the White folks and Second Damascus for the Black folks. That's just the way it was. No questions asked.

But when Dylan Roof walked into Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC, on June 17, intending to use the murder of



First Damascus Baptist Church

innocent people to incite a race war, he inadvertently set events in motion that are changing the face of the American South.

Rev. Leroy Robertson, pastor of Second Damascus Church for 19 years, was standing in the pulpit on June 28, a hot and sunny Sunday morning, when at around 11am the doors to his church burst open and in walked Rev. Kevin Carter, Pastor of First Damascus, followed by his congregation.

"They came into our service," Rev. Robertson recounted, "and they were singing and clapping, and giving praises to him that is able to keep us from falling."

After the initial shock wore off, the Second Damascus congregation welcomed their visitors by standing and joining them in praise, and at that moment, Rev. Robertson says, "the glory of God filled that place." Rev. Robertson offered Rev. Carter the opportunity to express what was on his



Second Damascus Baptist Church

mind, and Rev. Carter shared that he was led by the spirit to tell his congregation that they were going to worship at Second Damascus that Sunday. He talked about God's amazing grace and how they are all one in Jesus Christ, and, finally he told them, "the Confederate flag needs to come down."

Rev. Robertson says that he was honored to have Rev. Carter do the altar call prayer that morning, and it was an amazing sight, he said, "people came together joining hands, white and black, the young and the elderly, all of them came, and oh did our hearts burn from within."

After the service, the two congregations greeted each other and spent time fellowshiping together. For most, it was a first, and for many who heard about it, it was hard to believe. There are some things that people thought would never change. "I'm here to tell

you," Rev. Robertson declared, "God is up to something, because what the devil meant for bad, what happened in Charleston, God has made it good. Our prayers go out to the families in Charleston and elsewhere, and we thank God for a Pastor like Rev. Carter and people like the First Damascus Church congregation that obeyed the moving of the spirit."

Rev. Robertson's only regret is that he didn't get photos or video of the service. It would have been nice to have had a recording of the historic event

for those that were not able to be there, but it all happened so fast, and nobody was thinking about it. Next time, though, he will be ready, and Rev. Robertson is already planning on the next time. "Now it is our challenge," he said, "it is our privilege and our honor to let First Damascus know that we appreciate them and what they did by worshiping with them also."

Perhaps what happened at First and Second Damascus is only the beginning.



## TAKE WHAT YOU NEED - USE WHAT YOU TAKE

### Morning Star Baptist Church Opens New Community Clothing Bank

It's no secret that times are hard and that some families are having a hard time, struggling to make ends meet on a day to day basis. One of the needs that is not always talked about is the need for clothes. Clothes for work. Clothes for school. Clothes to wear to church.

Morning Star Baptist Church recently opened a clothing bank to address this need and Rev. Walter J. Kendricks, Morning Star's Pastor, is hoping to spread the word to those in need.

The clothing bank is open on Wednesdays from noon - 2pm and on Saturdays from 10am - 3pm. You do not have to be a member of Morning Star to visit the clothing bank, which is filled with clothes of all sizes and colors that have been donated by members of the community.

Rev. Kendricks says there is no limit to how many clothes a person can take. He only asks that "you take what you need and use what you take."

Morning Star Baptist Church is located at 3909 W. Rowan in north Spokane. For more information or to donate clothes call (509) 534-4878.



New Hope Baptist Church

Pastor Happy Watkins

409 S. Greene Street, Spokane WA 509-535-1336

11am Sundays www.NewHopeSpokane.com



# EDUCATION/SCHOOLS

## AFRICAN AMERICANS AND EDUCATION

### *Looking Back in Order to Move Forward: A Seven Part Series*

By Lawrence Burnley, Ph.D.

*“Black people continually attempted unorthodox forms of resistance, and were rewarded with even more unorthodox punishment. . . . According to black tradition, it was not unusual for rural blacks to have fingers or hands cut off, if they were caught in defiance of anti-literacy laws.... Unorthodox though it may have been, this was an unmistakable form of resistance: at its simplest level, a challenge to white laws and white men; at its best, a forceful personal movement toward self-determination and independence of mind. Collectively, this secret learning represented a people’s thrust toward new self-definitions, toward the creative transformation of culture.”*

-Dr. Vincent Harding



The struggle by free and enslaved African, and later African American people, to secure access to quality education has been unwavering. Conversely, policies and practices aimed at preventing Black people from achieving even basic levels of literacy traces its origins to the earliest periods in colonial North America. What do you know about this history?

Even if you are a graduate of an Ivy League university, chances are you know very little about this subject. If this is the case, then the question becomes why? At a time in our nation’s history where we see unprecedented dropout rates among African American youth, with many of them reading 2 to 3 grade levels behind their peers and being disproportionately represented among students who are disciplined or being expelled, one should wonder aloud how we got here.

How did a people who literally risked life and limb to learn how to read, write and do math; a people who would later walk as many as fifteen miles a day – one way – to get an education; a people whose efforts laid the very foundation of public state funded education in the South, end up lagging so far behind in virtually every measure of educational success?

In response to what I believe to be an intentional effort on the part of education administrators to avoid examining this history, this series of articles seeks to provide the reader with a better understanding of the policies and practices which have and continue to perpetuate and reproduce a widening gap of educational achievement.

In addition, this series seeks to examine the historical landscape of a system aimed at thwarting the efforts of a people to achieve upward mobility for themselves and their progeny, as well as developments which leave African American children in a position of disadvantage.

These articles will celebrate and affirm the brilliance, strength, beauty, courage, resilience and deep spirituality of a people who overcame unimaginable challenges and obstacles aimed at denying their humanity and the enjoyment of their inalienable rights. The African American experience will not be romanticized on these pages as we will be honest about the ways African Americans have contributed to their own oppression.

The premise upon which this series is written is rooted in the Adinkra tradition of

Sankofa which posits, “We must go back and reclaim our past so we can move forward; so we understand why and how we came to be who we are today.”

In doing so we will examine questions such as “What was the purpose of formal education in the early years of our nation?” For whom was

it not intended for and why? What role did the Black religious community play in the struggle for literacy development and formal education? What efforts and sacrifices were made by African Americans and others to provide formal schooling for Black people? What type of education did African Americans believe would best position them for freedom and empowerment?

The above quote by the late historian, Dr. Vincent Harding, crystallizes the dualistic nature of the resistance that surrounded the struggle of enslaved and free Africans to attain literacy and schooling.

On one hand was the “unorthodox” resistance toward chattel enslavement and anti-literacy laws. These efforts took the form of black men and women struggling to secure the secrets of letters they believed to be the key to a more fruitful and abundant life, both on earth and after death.

On the other hand was the equally unorthodox resistance of whites who acted out their vehement opposition to literacy development among blacks. Many Whites, especially those among the planter elite of the South, were convinced that litera-

cy development among enslaved Africans presented a direct threat to their ability to maintain an established system of economic development and power relations. This system was characterized by White male domination and an agrarian (agricultural) system of production whose profit margin and expansion depended upon a system of enslaved labor.

In the years following the Civil War, Blacks viewed literacy and schooling as indispensable and essential tools of resistance in their struggle for liberation. Heather Williams makes this point when she writes, “In slavery, the very act of learning to read had been a secret form of resistance, but in its aftermath, Freedpeople transformed the act of becoming literate from a clandestine occurrence into one of life’s necessities. Secret readings of newspapers had kept enslaved people informed of political debates whose outcomes could determine their fates. Writing a pass had allowed slaves to move about without owner’s knowledge.... Literacy became central to the project of freedom and citizenship because African Americans realized as literate people, they would be better able to negotiate in a world dominated by educated whites.”

In order to achieve a more informed understanding of the educational challenges facing African Americans today, we must examine the educational foundations of African and African American people from the founding on this nation up to the Civil War. I invite you to engage this series over the next several months.

***Next in this Series - Part I: “Education for Whom?: The Birth, Purpose and Function of Formal Education in a New Nation”***

# REDUCING HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS

## U.S. Representative Donna Edwards Introduces Bill

*Special to the Trice Edney News Wire from the Afro American Newspaper*

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Boosting high school completion rates continues to be an ongoing priority for officials and other stakeholders across the United States.

U.S. Rep. Donna F. Edwards ((D-Md.) recently re-introduced legislation, *Broadening Opportunities Through Education Act*, that would tackle the problem by providing resources to states that raise the age of compulsory school attendance through age 17.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the compulsory school attendance age is 16 in 23 states, 17 in nine states and 18 in 18 states and the District of Columbia.

“Education is the key to building a workforce prepared to meet the needs and challenges of the 21st century global economy,” the Maryland Democrat said in a statement. “However, every year more than 1.2 million students drop out of high schools across the United States. Students who drop out of high school not only reduce their opportunity to learn, but also tend to earn less over the course of their life and are often less prepared to compete in the workforce.”



The Census Bureau’s October Current Population Survey showed that in 2013, 7.3 percent of young people between 18 and 24 had dropped out of high school. Unsurprisingly, those rates increased among minority males—14.7 percent and 9.6 percent of Hispanic and Black men, respectively, failed to graduate high school, according to the survey.

Edwards said turning around that trend would be a boon, not only to those individuals, but also the U.S. economy.

“Reducing the high school dropout rate could provide a significant boost to the economy. A study from Columbia University estimates that the net economic benefit per student graduating high school is approximately \$127,000,” the congresswoman said. “As Congress continues to work on strategies to grow our economy, we cannot forget that our greatest asset is the knowledge base of our workforce.”

The Broadening Opportunities Through Education Act would offer funding for initiatives such as expanding work-based programs that integrate academic and career-based skills training; school-registered apprenticeship programs; implementing early-alert systems to identify and help struggling middle- and high-school students, increasing support for students through student advisories and one-to-one mentoring and more.

The bill has received support from education organizations, including the National Education Association and the National Association of Secondary School Principals though not all experts agree on the approach’s efficacy.

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE

## SMART JUSTICE SPOKANE

*Working to Reform our Expensive, Ineffective, and Unfair Criminal Justice System*

By Inga Laurent



People arrived early and stayed late at the most recent Quarterly Meeting of Smart Justice Spokane. The Emanuel Family Life Center graciously hosted over sixty Spokane community members who came together to discuss pressing issues for Spokane’s criminal justice system.

People came for a number of different reasons; some came to share stories about how the criminal justice system had impacted their lives, others because of their long standing support of ideas around smart justice, and some came to learn more about the coalition or hear from our guest speakers.

Whatever the reason, most left feeling inspired and empowered with knowledge and a belief that we can bring major changes to our criminal justice system.

The meeting began with a warm welcome from Pastor Lonnie Mitchell, which was followed by an update from Dr. Jackie Van Wormer, Acting Criminal Justice Administrator for the Spokane Regional Law & Justice Council, who discussed the formation of the SRLJC and the application process for the MacArthur Foundation Safety and Justice Challenge Grant, which could mean millions of dollars coming to Spokane to enact specific reforms to decrease the jail population and address racial disparities across our criminal justice system.

Spokane County has received a \$150,000 planning grant through the MacArthur Foundation’s Safety and Justice Challenge, aimed at reducing over-incarceration in county jails. Spokane County is one of 20 communities that received a grant out of 200 jurisdictions nationwide. Spokane has the highest racial and ethnic disparity of the 20 communities who were chosen! Spokane was selected partly because so much work has been done already to advocate for and launch the reform of our criminal justice system.

Liz Swavola and Kaitlin Kall from the Vera Institute explained their role in providing

assistance to Spokane and discussed some of their organization’s history and purpose. “For more than 50 years, the Vera Institute of Justice (Vera) has worked with government and civil society to improve the systems people rely on for justice and safety.... Vera conducts research and analysis, develops and tests solutions, uses its publications and expertise to engage stakeholders and the public, and collaborates with government leaders and communities to make justice systems fairer and more effective.”

Finally, attendees split into small groups and began sharing their experiences and perspectives; they worked to identify problems within the criminal justice system and potential solutions. These thoughts were captured and will be used by Smart Justice Spokane to advocate for reforms in our criminal justice system in Spokane. If this work sounds meaningful to you, please consider joining Smart Justice Spokane.

Smart Justice Spokane is a broad, diverse coalition of more than 30 organizations, community members, and criminal justice professionals who have come together to reform our expensive, ineffective, and unfair

criminal justice system. There are a variety of ways to become involved.


For more information contact us at: [info@smartjusticespokane.org](mailto:info@smartjusticespokane.org), call us at 509-624-5657 or check out our Facebook page <http://facebook.com/SmartJusticeCampaignSpokane>.

The Spokane Regional Law and Justice Council recently created a Racial Equity Subcommittee. One of their main tasks will be to develop an action plan to achieve the SRLJC’s goal to “Evaluate and address racial disproportionality in the criminal justice system and have a commitment in all departments to achieve racial equity.”

If you are interested in serving on the Racial Equity Subcommittee, you are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. To apply to go: <http://www.spokanecounty.org/scljc/content.aspx?c=3030>.



Additionally, the SRLJC meetings are open to everyone. The meetings are every 2nd Wednesday of the month from 12 – 1:30 in the Spokane Regional Health District Building, Room 140.

We hope to see you there.




# MY CARE MY WAY IS

*experts who  
understand me*



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12104 E. Main Ave.

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# OUR VOICES

## CHANGE IS ON US

By James Clingman

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - In light of the conversations about police abuse, unwarranted stops and arrests, and homicide cases involving Black people and police officers, many Black people get angry, maybe have a march, and then go home to await the next incident. Some of our organizations do their usual thing by making loud threatening statements and then get back in line until the next crisis hits. Amos Wilson said, "Until our behavior changes, the behavior of those who oppress and abuse us will not change." In other words, the onus for change is on us.

Many of you may not know about the **UNIFORM REPORTING LAW ENFORCEMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT (URLEIA)**, which is proposed legislation that calls for the creation of a National Office of Civilian Oversight that hosts meetings across the nation to garner citizen input. Law Enforcement agents, their spouses, and unions are not permitted to attend or participate in the Civilian Oversight Conferences. These conferences are essentially designed to create policy that governs policing. Police unions and associations are largely responsible for developing the policing approaches we see in effect today; URLEIA will change that practice.

This legislative proposal is provided by ONUS, Inc., and Black Communities United for Progress (BCUP) for presentation to members of the United States Congress

and the President of the United States. Now that's what I call proactive work that will have a direct and positive effect on Black people. This is not just rhetorical bombast; this is attacking the problem of police brutality from a practical, logical, and legal perspective.

Immediately after a White woman was shot and killed by an "illegal immigrant" in San Francisco, Bill O'Reilly called for what he titled "Kate's Law" to be passed by Congress. Within days 600,000 signatures were collected and members of Congress went to work to get the proposed law passed. They held hearings and brought the family of Kathryn Steinle to Washington to testify. They got swift action.

So where is the Tamir Rice law against cops shooting 12-year olds in less than two seconds? Where is the Eric Garner law against police officers choking a man to death? Where is John Crawford's law that punishes department store employees for lying to 911 and cops from killing a person for holding a BB gun that is on the shelf of that store? Where is Sandra Bland's Law that would send a cop to jail for falsely arresting a young lady who questioned why she had to put her cigarette



out while seated in her own car? Why hasn't O'Reilly's TV news counterpart, Al Sharpton, gone to his good friend, Barack Obama, and all his friends in the Black Caucus and gotten them to hold hearings and write Sandra's Law?

Instead of real action we see our vaunted politicians genuflecting before the powers-that-be and our "Black" organizations, the NAACP and Urban League, walking 860 miles and issuing an annual report that tells us how bad our situation is, respectively.

This is exactly why we need and must support ONUS, Inc. and its URLEIA legislation. Instead of symbolic gestures, "ONUS is calling upon Congressional leaders to sponsor, endorse and enact the provisions contained in URLEIA in order to stop law enforcement agents from wreaking havoc on Black Americans..." says Jerroll Sanders, ONUS, Inc. President and CEO.

Sanders states, "The contents of the URLEIA legislative proposal stand in stark contrast to H.R. 2875—a bill titled the Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act of 2015 that is currently making its way through Congress. While H.R. 2875 provides additional funding for grants and

U.S. Department of Justice policing oversight activities and promotes the creation of national training, accreditation and operating standards, it provides few real solutions to adequately address America's racist policing problem.

I would add that H.R. 2875 creates a National Task Force on law enforcement oversight composed of individuals appointed by the Attorney General from various DOJ bureaus. The AG's task force will consult with professional law enforcement associations, labor organizations and "community-based organizations." Along with a few other loosely worded recommendations, of course, the usual suspects, to and through which funds would be channeled are named outright, i.e. NAACP and Urban League.

"URLEIA, on the other hand, addresses the root cause of police brutality in black communities by holding law enforcement agents accountable for the actions and sealing loopholes that currently allow perpetrators of police brutality to walk free," Ms. Sanders continues, "URLEIA is the type of tough legislation Black Americans have been demanding in order to bring a permanent end to centuries of police brutality and abuse."

*Please go to [www.changeisonus.org](http://www.changeisonus.org) and read the URLEIA legislation for yourself, and then support it by supporting ONUS. If all we do is say we need change, we will never obtain it. It takes work, and ONUS is doing that work. Get involved.*

# PLANTATION RELATIONSHIPS:

## Resisting the Stereotype of the Angry Black Woman

By Jamala Rogers (Reprinted with permission from [blackcommentator.com](http://blackcommentator.com))

Would Sandra Bland be on her way to the new job that awaited her at Prairie View A&M University if only she had not challenged the police who made the traffic stop? Twenty-eight year old Bland is dead after being arrested, her death ruled a suicide by Waller County, Texas officials. Many questions still swirl around her unnecessary death.

It seems to be that since the advent of the #BlackLivesMatter movement, the most racist sectors of the country have resorted to an America they know best—one where black people are subservient to white people. The more we assert our black humanity, they more threatened they become and the more hostile is their response to our stance. Police-community relationships are where the opaque nature of a pseudo-democracy ends in black and brown communities.

Sandra Bland was allegedly stopped for not using her signal when she changed lanes. The fact that she joins a growing list of black folks who've lost their lives at the hands of police for initial minor violations only increases the volatility between police and the African American community. These stops are pretexts to some police needing to make it clear who's the

boss: I'm stopping you for nothing because I can. I'm arresting you because I can. I'm tasing you because I can. I'm shooting you in the back because I can.

Mike Brown was accosted by police for jaywalking. Eric Garner was choked to death for selling loose cigarettes. Walter Scott was stopped for a broken tail light and ended up with eight bullets in the back. And the list goes on.

Legal observers have pretty much agreed that Officer Brian Encinia had no right to order Bland out of her vehicle. He also made other demands that Bland rightfully questioned such as putting out her cigarette. Encinia threatened to "light her up" with his stun gun if she didn't comply with his irrational orders.

Once the mainstream media got a hold of Bland's involvement in the #BlackLivesMatter movement, her responses to the agitated cop got twisted into an age-old



narrative about the angry, black woman. Sandra Bland should have done what she was told—without question—and maybe she would still be alive. You may recall that First Lady Michelle Obama was given the same jacket after it was discovered that her Princeton thesis was on the racial divide.

If you dare assert your rights as a black person, especially a black woman, the conclusion is that you are angry - angry about your station in life, angry about everything - and you will take that anger out on anyone.

As someone who has been called the angry, black woman, I embrace it with pride. My response to what the accuser thinks is a personal attack that will disable me is to say that my anger means that I'm alive and know that I'm being treated unjustly. If the daily heaps of American injustices don't get a rise out of you, you're either spiritually dead or psychologically diminished. I am neither.

Kadia Blagrove, an African American blogger, gave some satirical advice about how not to be the angry, black woman: Them first, you last. Always be aware that you are black. Have no reaction...to anything. Shut up! Be passive. Always smile.

Blagrove's post concludes with a simple affirmation and a cynical question. "Angry black women are people who are unapologetically secure, successful and confident despite the color of their skin. How rebellious! Wait, is the angry black woman really just a white man?"

The stereotype of the angry, black woman goes back to the minstrel days but has gotten more sophisticated in contemporary times. As in the case of internalized oppression, unfortunately too many black women and black men have accepted the label for different reasons. The goal is to get a black woman to be quiet, to submit and accept her fate. Usually that fate is rooted in some form of patriarchy and racism. Hang your head and shuffle along.

Sandra Bland was a human being with full citizenship rights. A white cop didn't like that she upheld her humanity and refused to submit to his abuse of authority,

*Continued on Page 14*

# BUSINESS / ECONOMICS

## INCOME REPLACEMENT

By Pastor Otis Manning

My first article was “Preparing for Retirement” which talked about the things that need to be in place when you are Preparing for Retirement such as: Obtaining Medicare, A Medicare Supplement, Social Security, Using Annuities

My second article talked about “How to Increase Your Social Security Benefits”. There are many techniques on how to increase your Social Security Benefits and I listed two of those techniques.

In this article we will discuss “Income Replacement”.

In the case of a retired married couple, both receiving Social Security and maybe a Pension or income from Investments, when one spouse dies, one Social Security check will no longer be available to the surviving spouse. The surviving spouse can obtain the *larger* of the two Social Security checks, however they can only have One Check. So, there is a loss of income.

How does the surviving spouse replace the Lost Income?

If both spouses have a Life Insurance Policy in place that will provide funds to the surviving spouse, those funds will come in a lump sum and that lump sum can be converted into an Annuity which can provide

for a *Guaranteed Lifetime Income*, which can replace the income that was lost when one spouse dies.

Here is how this may look in round numbers.

Lets say a married couple has a Social Security income of \$3000 per month. Each spouse receives \$1500 per month. They both have a Life Insurance policy on each other for \$300,000. Upon the death of one spouse, the surviving spouse receives a death benefit of \$300,000 and those funds are used to obtain an Annuity.

Let’s say the Annuity has a payout factor of 6%, so that means the payout on the Annuity will be \$18,000 per year which is \$1500 per month. This \$1500 per month income is *Guaranteed Lifetime Income* and will continue even after the Annuity is depleted. It keeps on paying after a zero balance is in the Annuity for the rest of your lifetime!

This \$1500 per month Annuity Income replaces the lost Social Security Check and helps the surviving spouse to have the same \$3000 per month income they had before.

There are many types of Life Insurance policies that could provide this “Income Replacement”. There are basically three

types of Life Insurance and they are: 1)Term; 2)Whole Life; and 3)Universal Life.

The differences are as follows: **Term Life Insurance** will pay for a certain “Term” and that Term could be 10, 20 or 30 years or more. Term is usually the cheapest. The problem with Term is that if you die before the Term expires there is no benefit. Some Term policies allow you to convert it to a Whole Life policy, however the cost is usually many times what the Term premium was and in most cases is not affordable.

**Whole Life Insurance** will pay for your “Whole Life”. It is permanent insurance. Whole is usually the most expensive. In addition, to the death benefit, there is also a “Cash Value” component like a Saving Account. This Cash Value grows and pays you a compound interest and some even pay dividends. The Cash Value usually has a “Guaranteed Interest Rate”.

**Universal Life Insurance**, also known as Individual Universal Life (IUL), is similar to Whole Life. The difference is the Cash Value is tied to an Index and the Interest Rate Growth “*IS NOT*” Guaranteed, but goes up and down based upon the performance of the Index that it is tied to.



All three can be used for “Income Replacement”, however, all three usually require some type of medical underwriting before they will be issued.

If you can qualify, they provide an excellent way to provide for “Income Replacement” and security, enabling the surviving spouse to maintain their standard of living.

If “income Replacement” is a tool you would like to explore it is highly recommended that you contact a Financial Services Professional that can advise you in this area.

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.*

## SPOKANE TEEN SUMMIT EMPOWERS MALE YOUTH

Continued From Page 9

During the cipher circle, he told the energized group, “Creating hip hop is not about beefin’. It’s about expression.”

During his anti-bullying workshop, Tommy Williams Jr, founder of Operation Healthy Family in Spokane, spoke frankly with a mostly African-American group of teens about the importance of keeping cool in the presence of authority, especially in today’s “turned up, hyper vigilant social environment.”

The nonprofit organization’s Social Connections initiative, one of the fastest growing anti-bullying programs on the West Coast, focuses on teens forming healthy relationships with police officers through a basketball league. After sharing his personal challenges growing up in Chicago -- and intently listening to several stories from the teens, including one boy who admitted to being scared of police -- he passed on some hard-earned wisdom. “Trust, but always be aware of your surroundings,” he emphatically advised. “You have to learn how to speak up or you will make the wrong decision.”

In total, 16 professional men of diverse backgrounds came together to facilitate workshops, lead identity seminars and speak openly and honestly on a career pathways panel. According to Corradine, their presence was critical to the success of the day.

“I do not have the answer or believe there is a single solution to this national epidemic, but our young men will only engage if we get our adult men to show up and commit,” he explained. “Transformational change can only happen when us men are intentional about showing up, open to vulnerability and participate with purpose. This Male Summit is our attempt in the Inland Northwest to expand the conversation and heighten awareness about male engagement.”

During his “Unveiling Truth” workshop later in the day, Shiloh shed another light on this topic, noting

that the best way to encourage kids is to “give them the confidence to expose a talent they didn’t even know existed. The best way to engage is to just listen, get to the source of what they are trying to say.”

### Confronting the Question of Who Am I?

A lunchtime jam from Spokane band Sessions turned into a freestyle cipher circle where several young men eagerly shared songs, poems and raps. High schooler Damien Adams accepted the mic, spitting, “We are living in the rain with the clouds always following. Need something to lift us up. Sometimes it’s hard to live, but we got to find a way to survive.”

The participants entered the afternoon Racial Identity Seminars ready to openly talk about being a young man of color in today’s society. Breakout groups gathered based on ethnicity, including African American, Asian/Pacific Islander, Latino and Native American.

Facilitator Shawn Washington, who works in the Unity Multicultural Education Center at Gonzaga University, opened the African-American caucus by asking everyone to “suspend judgment in this sacred space and just listen.” The conversation quickly took on an emotional tone as one participant noted how powerful the day had been so far because he was learning about black history from black men, something he had never experienced before. “It makes me want to find more black teachers,” he said.

The conversation then turned to negative cultural stereotypes and what blackness really means. “Being a black man is a lifelong learning process,” Washington told the rapt audience. “Blackness is not skin color. Black is pride, and we are powerful as a community. Despite many attempts to take it away, there is still a soul in us. We are on a journey to reclaim that which has been taken from us.”

Emotions were raw in the Native American room as well as Shiloh shared the history of the Medicine Wheel and man’s connection to Earth. The curious young men asked engaging questions about how their cultural identity has been exploited for mass entertainment. “Mascots like the Washington Redskins celebrate a war-like mentality that doesn’t actually represent our culture,” Shiloh explained. It’s an illusion. It doesn’t represent our people, our voice. Become an Indian rapper, a Native poet, a horticulturalist. Your legacy will be to invest in our Native roots.”

### Defining Your Life Path

The summit’s closing career panel included straightforward advice on succeeding academically and socially, including actively seeking out a fellowship of brotherhood. A direct discussion about the definition of manhood included all five men noting the importance of showing emotions, having compassion and granting forgiveness. “It’s having the courage to be real, to be vulnerable, to do the right thing no matter what,” shared Manuel Hochheimer, assistant vice president of Business Development at Numerica Credit Union.

The panel ended with one word of advice from each volunteer to sum up what is needed to succeed in life: application, discipline, passion, substance and intuition. “Teens often let other individuals dictate what they do. When it feels like this is leading you down the wrong path, apply the brakes, follow your heart,” said Doc Norris, a probation officer with the Spokane County Detention Services.

As the group prepared to cap off the inspiring day with a tour of the EWU campus, Michael Tun’cap, director of Diversity and Inclusion at Green River Community College, invited the young men to “follow your uncles and big brothers and we will show you the way.”

## The Angry Black Woman

Continued From Page 13

-simply because he was white and male.

This is why we are at a critical time in this country and why we must be serious and strategic in the fight against U.S. white supremacy. We must win this round; it can’t be a TKO, it must be a decisive victory.

The #BlackLivesMatter movement demands that not only black folks refuse to be passive about the racist policies, laws and attitudes that dehumanize and criminalize an entire race but that other nationalities match that anger as well. It validates your own humanity when you respect and protect someone else’s. No lives matter until #BlackLivesMatter.

*BlackCommentator.com Editorial Board member and Columnist, Jamala Rogers, founder and Chair Emeritus of the Organization for Black Struggle in St. Louis. She is an organizer, trainer and speaker. She is the author of The Best of the Way I See It – A Chronicle of Struggle. Other writings by Ms. Rogers can be found on her blog jamalarogers.com. Contact Ms. Rogers and BC.*

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# AUGUST EVENTS

## AUGUST 2

### MORNINGSTAR BAPTIST CHURCH 69TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Morningstar Missionary Baptist Church invites you to celebrate their 69th Church Anniversary. The anniversary theme is "We've Come This Far By Faith" - The speaker of the hour is Rev. Dr. Robert L. Manaway Sr..

3:30pm

Morningstar Missionary Baptist Church  
3909 W Rowan Ave, Spokane, WA 99205  
(509) 534-4878

## AUGUST 3 & 4

### FREE MEDICAL, DENTAL, EYE CARE SERVICES

This **FREE EVENT** is for everyone (regardless of insurance or financial standing). They are offering free medical services such as; office visits, colposcopy's, mammograms, pharmacy services, cardiology, physical therapy, occupational therapy, podiatry, laboratory, and even massage therapy. Dental services include; preventative services, cosmetic dental services, root canals and even dentures! Vision services include; eye exams, glasses (takes 2-3 weeks for shipping) and free cataract surgery (on 8/3 only) through Pacific Eye Care

No insurance or identification required.

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

7AM - 4PM

Fair & Expo Center Spokane

For information contact 888-447-2849 or visit [www.YourBestPathwayToHealth.org](http://www.YourBestPathwayToHealth.org)

## AUGUST 8

### SPOKANE EASTSIDE REUNION COMMUNITY GATHERING

A family friendly annual event sponsored by the Spokane Eastside Reunion Association. Come enjoy music, friends, family and neighbors. Fred Meyers is providing free food, drinks, chips and ice cream. Vendors can set up free. Contact 509-869-4249 for more information.

1-4PM, Liberty Park, Spokane

## AUGUST 15

### UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY

The largest multi-cultural celebration in the Inland NW

10am-4pm

Riverfront Park

Downtown Spokane

For more information contact the NAACP

at 509-209-2425 or visit the website at

<http://www.spokaneNAACP.com>

## AUGUST 17

### 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 <http://spokaneNAACP.com>

## AUGUST 22 & 29

### EMPLOYMENT BOOTCAMP

Get the skills necessary to get employed. Professionals will offer lessons in resume writing, and interviewing skills

9am - Noon (both days)

Emmanuel Family Life Center

631 S. Richard Allen Court, Spokane

For more information contact Greater Spokane Progress at 509-624-5657

## AUGUST 30

### WORD OF FAITH: MOVIE VIEWING

You are invited to join Word of Faith Christian Center for a viewing of the new movie: **WAR ROOM**, a powerful movie about praying for Marriages and our Families

Sunday, August 30th

AMC Theatres, River Park Square

Cost is \$8.91 per person.

For more information call Word of Faith Christian Center at 509-891-5253.

You can watch the movie trailer by going to the link below. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrFiq8YzdZk>



## SPOKANE EASTSIDE REUNION COMMUNITY GATHERING

Saturday, August 8

1-4pm

Liberty Park, Spokane

For information or vendor tables  
call 509-869-4249

## EMPLOYMENT BOOTCAMP

### ARE YOU HAVING TROUBLE GETTING A GOOD JOB?

The Spokane NAACP, Community Minded Enterprises and The Black Lens have teamed up to offer a two day workshop that will offer help with job search skills, resume writing, filling out applications and practice interviewing. You will also get to meet HR and Career Service Representatives from local companies.

Saturday, August 22 and August 29  
9am - Noon

Emmanuel Family Life Center  
631 S Richard Allen Court, next to Bethel AME Church

Please plan to attend BOTH days!

For more information call the NAACP at 509-209-2425, ext 1141

## Come Celebrate the 21st Annual

# UNITY

## IN THE COMMUNITY

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**SHAPING LIVES ALONG THE WAY,  
THAT WE MAY ALL  
SEE HIS FACE”**

Event Dates & Locations:

August 6th @ 6:30pm  
Guest Speaker Pastor Alvin Moreno  
New Hope Christian Center  
1108 N. Argonne Rd.  
Spokane Valley, WA 99212

August 7th @ 6:30pm  
Guest Speaker Pastor Mike Walker  
Abide In Christ Ministries  
New Hope Christian Center  
1108 N. Argonne Rd.  
Spokane Valley, WA 99212

August 8th @ 5pm  
Dinner Banquet & Presentations  
Spokane Convention Center  
334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.  
Spokane, WA 99201  
Tickets \$35 Dollars

August 9th @ 6pm  
Guest Speaker Pastor Eric Holyfield  
New Life Assembly of God  
10920 E. Sprague Ave.  
Spokane Valley, WA 99206

For Banquet tickets or service info  
Please contact Min. Hallman at  
(509) 951-8993

Or Email Pastor Shon at  
pastorshon@kfcaministries.com

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*Pastor Alvin &  
First Lady Maria Moreno*  
Victory Outreach, Spokane, WA  
Guest Speaker Alvin Moreno  
Speaking August 6th

*Pastor Mike &  
First Lady Jane Walker*  
Abide In Christ Ministries, Cd'l ID  
Guest Speaker Mike Walker  
Speaking August 7th

*Pastor Eric &  
First Lady Tammy Holyfield*  
Gospel Word of Life, LA, CA  
Guest Speaker Pastor Eric Holyfield  
Speaking August 9th