

THE **BLACK LENS** SPOKANE

NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

Warnock Wins Georgia Senate Race

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - The Rev. Raphael Warnock, 51, pastor of Atlanta's historic Ebenezer Baptist Church once led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., has become the first Black U. S. senator elected from the state of Georgia.

As votes were still being counted (as this goes to print), the Associated Press, CNN and even the rock-hard conservative FOX News, called the race for Warnock, announcing that he would surely defeat the ultra conservative incumbent Republican Sen. Kelly Loeffler in a runoff election watched around the nation. At that time, Warnock had won 50.6 percent of the vote with 2,227,296 to Loeffler's 49.4 percent, 2,173,866, a difference of 53,430 votes.

Warnock's historic win was the first of two wins needed to solidify the Democratic dominance in the U. S. Senate. At Trice Edney News Wire deadline, the second race between Democrat Jon Ossoff and Republican David Perdue was yet too close to call with Ossoff leading by 16,370 votes - 2,208,717 (50.2 percent) to 2,192,347 (49.8 percent). If Ossoff pulls it off, Democrats will win control of the Senate with a 50-50 tie vote that would be broken by Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris. Democrats would then have control of the White House, U. S. House of Representatives and the U. S. Senate.

**Editor's Note: Ossoff also won his race.*

In a stirring early morning speech, Warnock marked the historic moment.

"I come before you as a proud American and a son of Georgia. My roots are planted deeply in Georgia soil," he



Rev. Raphael Warnock, Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church

said, "A child who grew up in the Kayton Homes housing projects of Savannah, Georgia. Number 11 of 12 children. A proud graduate of Morehouse College and the Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, the spiritual home of Martin Luther King Jr. and Congressman John Lewis, A son of my late father who was a pastor, a veteran and a small businessman and my mother who, as a teenager growing up in

Waycross, Georgia, used to pick somebody's else's cotton. But the other day, because this is America, the 82-year-old hands that used to pick somebody else's cotton went to the polls and picked her youngest son to be a United States Senator."

The Warnock win is largely due to the work of democratic activist Stacey Abrams, who was catapulted onto the national stage after losing her gubernatorial bid against Republican Secretary of State Brian Kemp in 2018. Her organization, Fair Fight, registered and turned out voters across the state. The record turnout also appears to be yet another repudiation of President Trump who has spent the past two months trying to overturn the Biden election. He has spent the past four years spouting and tweeting offensive rhetoric and associating with violent and/or racist regimes such as the Proud Boys, which were to hold a rally in D.C. Jan. 6, the day Congress was set to affirm the Electoral College votes for President-elect Biden.

Warnock indicates he envisions a new style of leadership. "In this moment in American history, Washington has a choice to make, we all have a choice to make," he said in his speech. "Will we continue to divide, distract and dishonor one another or will we love our neighbors as we love ourselves? Will we play political games while real people suffer or will we win righteous fights together, standing shoulder to shoulder, for the good of Georgia, for the good of our country? Will we seek to destroy one another as enemies or heed the call towards the common good, building together what Dr. King called 'the beloved community?'"

Crucial Questions After Domestic Terrorist Attack at U. S. Capitol

By Hazel Trice Edney

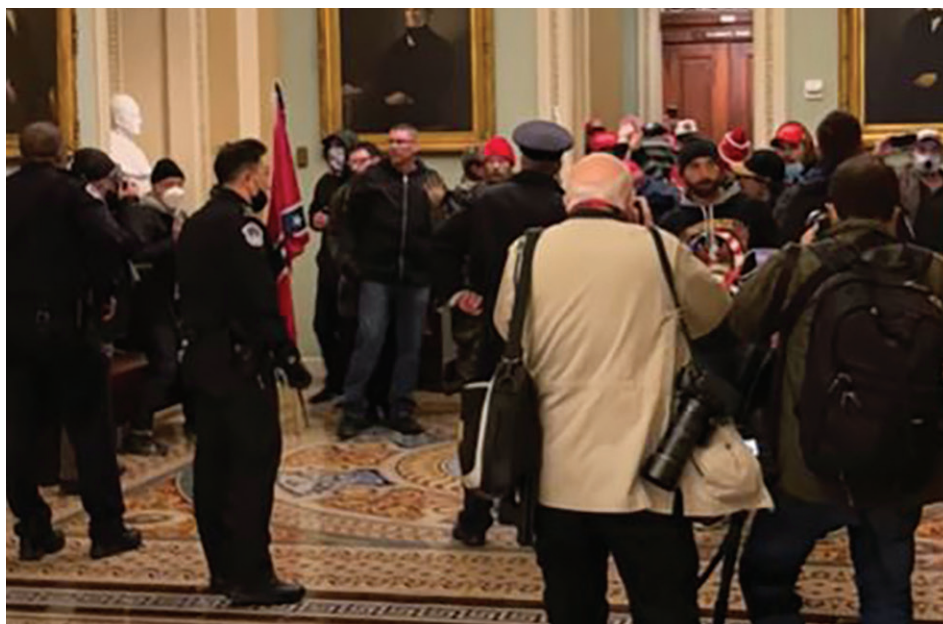
(TriceEdneyWire.com) - The U. S. Capitol in the heart of Washington D.C. was hit with a violent domestic terrorist attack on Jan. 6 as thousands of vastly White American citizens, right wing groups and Trump supporters stormed the building.

Capitol Police barricaded doors and drew guns to stave off the terrorists.

After it was over, four people were dead; members of Congress and their staffs were terrorized, and dozens of crucial unanswered questions remain. Among those questions:

Why were there not more security officers on duty since this rally was openly planned?

Why weren't police, Secret Service, FBI, ATF among other security agencies on the ground in preparation for this insurrection as hundreds of them were in attendance during protests by Black Lives Matter?



Is it because these masses of insurrections were White that they did not receive the same treatment as Black Lives Matter protestors and they were not expected to do the damage that they did?

Were any members of these law enforcement groups accomplices in sync and in cooperation with the terrorists?

In addition to Trump himself, were there any members of Congress who were ac-

complices in sync and in cooperation with the terrorists?

What part did Twitter, Facebook and other social media sites play in failing to flag the plans for this terrorist attack; including the failure to end Trump's use of Twitter and social media to help encourage and organize it?

What about those members of Congress who had remained silent for the past two months as Trump railed, claiming to have been the rightful winner of the election?

Will there be a Congressional investigation to answer these questions and will there be more arrests?

The insurrectionists had been invited to D.C. and sent to the Capitol by President Donald Trump and his lawyer, former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani who, at a rally Wednesday morning, encouraged the crowd to go forward and "Let's have trial by combat!"

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ON MY MIND

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

by Sandra Williams

Running Out of Time!

I had planned to start the new year off by writing in this column about my reflections on 2020. The good. The bad. The challenges. The frustrations. The pain and sadness, and the moments that reminded me of just how good life really can be. That was my plan.

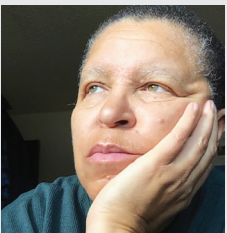
And then yesterday, January 6, happened. I wish I could say that I was surprised, but I'm not. I would wager that most people of color are not surprised either. If you are surprised, you are probably part of the problem.

I've been listing to a lot of people with a lot to say, but all that I have to say right now can be summed up in the photos below.

The top photo was from yesterday. The bottom photo was what greeted the Black Lives Matter protesters who were in DC on June 2 because of the murder of George Floyd. They were not there to overthrow the government.

This is what America looks like to me. This is what it has always looked like to me and to so many others.

Those who have been complicit. Those who have pretended that they don't notice this. Those who have benefited off of this need to fix this, now, because I think this country is running out of time.



THE BLACK LENS NEWS

The Black Lens is an independent community newspaper, based in Spokane, WA, that it is focused on the news, events, issues, people and information that is important to Spokane's African American/Black Community and beyond. The paper is published on the first of each month.

Contact Information:

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Subscriptions:

Delivered monthly by mail - \$45/year or online by e-mail - \$12/year

Advertising:

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The Community Voices Council believes no one should experience a difference in care as a result of their identity, income, or ability. The Community Voices Council makes recommendations to local health care leaders on improvements that will support this vision.

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DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Beyond Viet Nam: The Speech We Never Hear

Editors Note: I originally printed this article in the very first issue of The Black Lens. January 2015. I first heard this speech by accident when I was in my mid-twenties, long after I had graduated from college with my Masters Degree. I was angry that in all the years that I had been in school learning about Dr. King, in all the MLK Birthdays that I had celebrated, in all the I Have a Dream speeches that had been played, I had never heard these words. Words that feel even more appropriate now than ever before. So I share these words every year and in January 2021 as we welcome a new administration, I will share them again.

When Martin Luther King Jr. is remembered and celebrated around the world in January, his famous “I have a dream” speech is the one that is recounted over and over again as his legacy and the primary representation of who he was and what he stood for. A Civil Right leader.

But when Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee, he was there for a march in support of striking sanitation workers. He was not only a Civil Rights leader, he was also a champion of the poor, an advocate for economic justice, and a vocal critic of the Vietnam War and America’s foreign policy, although this is not talked about nearly as often.

On April 4, 1967, a year to the day before his assassination, Dr. King delivered what was considered a “controversial” speech against the Vietnam War and against the principle of war in general.

Speaking at Riverside Church in New York City in front of an audience of thousands, the speech, titled **“Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence”** was condemned by many Civil Rights leaders at the time who felt that King’s anti war stance was damaging their cause.

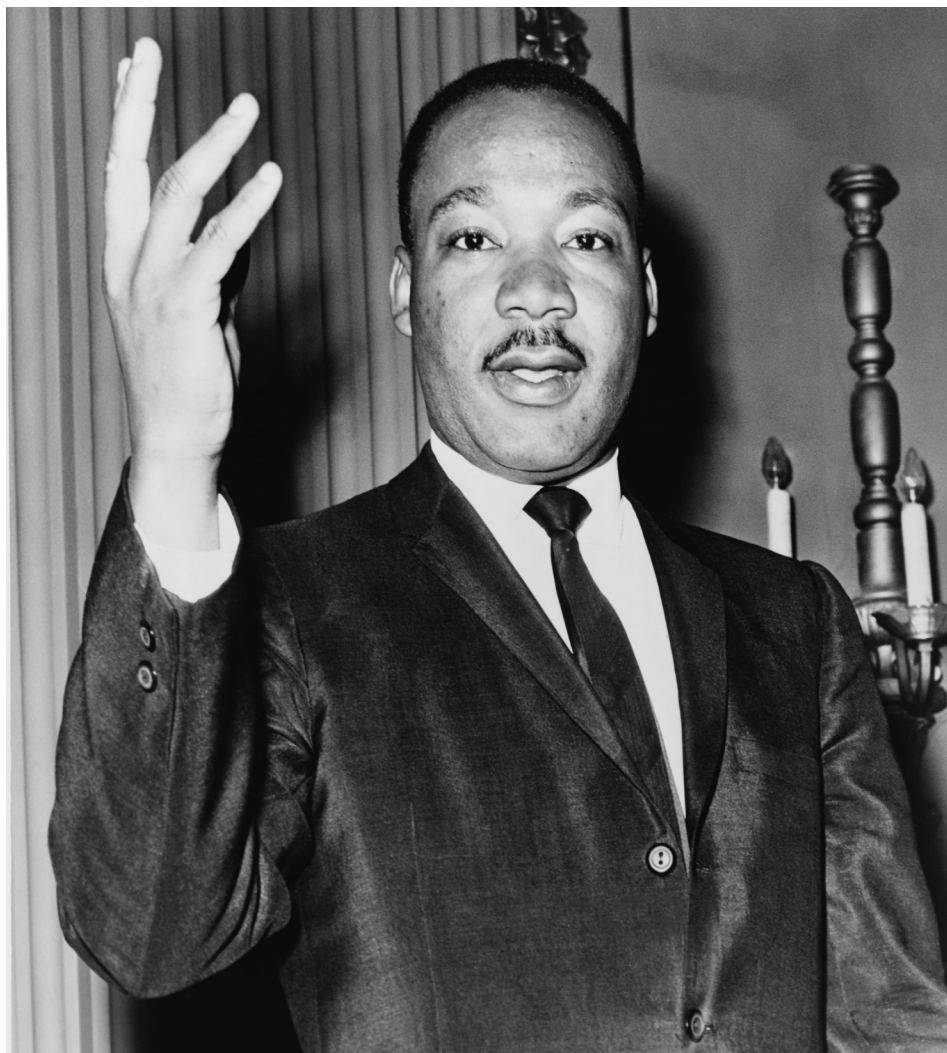
The speech angered many in the United States government, making King a target of FBI investigations. According to the Tavis Smiley documentary “MLK: A Call to Conscience”, 168 major newspapers denounced King the day after the speech, and an angry President Lyndon Johnson dis-invited him from the White House. Despite the negative impact of the speech, King felt that he could no longer in good conscious remain quiet about the war and called on others to do the same. The rarely heard speech is considered by many to be one of King’s greatest, and still relevant as wars continue around the world.

Following are excerpts from Dr. King’s fifty minute speech:

I knew that America would never invest the necessary funds or energies in rehabilitation of its poor so long as adventures like Vietnam continued to draw men and skills and money like some demonic, destructive suction tube. So I was increasingly compelled to see the war as an enemy of the poor and to attack it as such.

We were taking the black young men who had been crippled by our society and sending them eight thousand miles away to guarantee liberties in Southeast Asia which they had not found in southwest Georgia and East Harlem. So we have been repeatedly faced with the cruel irony of watching Negro and white boys on TV screens as they kill and die together for a nation that has been unable to seat them together in the same schools. So we watch them in brutal solidarity burning the huts of a poor village, but we realize that they would hardly live on the same block in Chicago. I could not be silent in the face of such cruel manipulation of the poor.

I knew that I could never again raise my voice against the violence of the oppressed in the ghettos without having first spoken clearly to the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today: my own government. For the sake of those boys, for the sake of this government, for the sake of the hundreds of thousands trembling under our violence, I cannot be silent.



I cannot forget that the Nobel Peace Prize was also a commission to work harder than I had ever worked before for the brotherhood of man. This is a calling that takes me beyond national allegiances. But even if it were not present, I would yet have to live with the meaning of my commitment to the ministry of Jesus Christ. To me, the relationship of this ministry to the making of peace is so obvious that I sometimes marvel at those who ask me why I am speaking against the war. Could it be that they do not know that the Good News was meant for all men—for communist and capitalist, for their children and ours, for black and for white, for revolutionary and conservative? Have they forgotten that my ministry is in obedience to the one who loved his enemies so fully that he died for them? What then can I say to the Vietcong or to Castro or to Mao as a faithful minister of this one? Can I threaten them with death or must I not share with them my life?

Here is the true meaning and value of compassion and nonviolence, when it helps us to see the enemy’s point of view, to hear his questions, to know his assessment of ourselves. For from his view we may indeed see the basic weaknesses of our own condition, and if we are mature, we may learn and grow and profit from the wisdom of the brothers who are called the opposition.

Increasingly, by choice or by accident, this is the role our nation has taken, the role of those who make peaceful revolution impossible by refusing to give up the privileges and the pleasures that come from the immense profits of overseas investments. I am convinced that if we are to get on to the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin, we must rapidly begin the shift from a thing-oriented society to a person-oriented society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights, are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered.

True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring.

The Western arrogance of feeling that it has everything to teach others and nothing to learn from them is not just.

A true revolution of values will lay hands on the world order and say of war, “This way of settling differences is not just.” This business of burning human beings with napalm, of filling our nation’s homes with orphans and widows, of injecting poisonous drugs of hate into the veins of peoples normally humane, of sending men home from dark and bloody battlefields physically handicapped and psychologically deranged, cannot be reconciled with wisdom, justice, and love. A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.

To view the complete text or listen to the audio of this speech visit American Rhetoric at <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/mlkatimetobreaksilence.htm>

NAACP UPDATE: SPOKANE

NAACP
http://www.SpokaneNAACP.com

By Kiantha Duncan
President, Spokane NAACP Branch 1137

One voice. One fearless and daring strategy.

I would imagine that everyone would agree that 2020 was a very difficult year. One in which we continued to see inequities in communities of color nationally. Each day was filled with a new headline shining a spotlight on the tumult our people continue to endure in the fight for justice and equality.

The vitality of the NAACP locally and nationally depended upon the collective strength of our membership. Locally you showed up. Each time there was a call to action or a request for support, you lent your time, talents and treasures to the organization for the good of our community and for that my heart is filled with gratitude. Yet, there is so much more to do.

The Spokane NAACP will be laser focused on our six national Game Changers; economic sustainability, education, health, public safety and criminal justice, voting rights and political representation, and youth and young adult engagements.

In the new year the Spokane NAACP will continue to work together to achieve the American dream for all in which EVERY person has equal opportunity to achieve economic success, sustainability, and financial security.



Photo Courtesy: Kinder Style Photography

The Covid-19 pandemic has shown us the importance of health equity for communities of color. Everyone must have equal access to affordable, high-quality health care, and racially disparate health outcomes must end in our city and region. As we move forward in 2021 we will seek institutional and organizational partnerships to not just respond to health crises such as Covid-19 but to think upstream about all health matters involving communities of color.

Disproportionate incarceration, racially motivated policing strategies, and racially biased, discriminatory, and mandatory minimum sentencing must end in our city and we will work closely with our Spokane law enforcement entities to this end, and the Spokane NAACP will do so from

a collaborative position as I personally believe that is the relationship our city deserves.

We will continue to make the importance of every child receiving a free, high quality, equitably funded, public pre-K and K-12 education, followed by diverse opportunities for accessible, affordable vocational or university education a priority. We look forward to investing in a stronger partnership with our Spokane Public School district and our esteemed Higher Education Institutions as they continue to implement policies and practices that further activate their commitment to equity in the city of Spokane.

Making our national Game Changers a reality locally will require strong Executive Committee leadership and a shared com-

mitment to using innovative strategies to achieve organizational outcomes. To this end, I wanted to bring together the best, a group of Soulful Leaders banded together by integrity and a genuine love for the people of our city and mankind.

Together we are prepared to walk alongside all local organizations and institutions in their equity journeys. That is how we will contribute to making the Inland Northwest all that it can be for all of its residents.

With that, I am excited I introduce you to your new Spokane NAACP organizational leadership.

Your NAACP President and friend,
Kiantha

Introducing the 2021 Spokane NAACP Executive Committee



Luke Baumgarten
Luke is a writer, community organizer and life-long Spokane resident who has spent his career telling stories and building community. He is co-founder of Terrain host and editor of Range.



Ben Cabildo
Ben has over 45 years of experience in community organizing. He was chairperson of Unity In the Community for 20 yrs and is currently the President of AHANA, a multi-ethnic business org.



Rev. Jim CastroLang
Rev. Jim is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ on a lifelong spiritual journey. He currently serves on the Board of the Faith Action Network and has done Social Justice organizing.



John Clarke
John served in the US Air force in law Enforcement, then worked for 30 years in Social Services. Before retiring, he became a Certified Public Housing Manager and Director of Sec 8 housing.



Anna Franklin
Anna is the Director of Clinical Effectiveness for Providence Health. She serves on the WA State Women's Commission and the YWCA Board of Directors. She holds an MBA from West Texas A&M.



Malisea "Lisa" Gardner
Lisa is a public relations and communications professional. She is the Director of Communications and Community Engagement for the Spokane City Council and a member of Zeta Phi Beta.



Nicole Jenkins-Rosenkrantz
Nicole is the Director of Community Relations and Partnerships at the Spokane Public School District. Prior to that, she worked at Spokane County Juvenile Court for seventeen years.



Rickey "Deekon" Jones
Deekon is a Nez Perce Tribal Member. He founded Community Development Initiative and New Developed Nations and sits on the WA State Juvenile Justice Council, Racial Equity Committee.



Lanequa (Nikki) Jones
Nikki was born in Arkansas, raised by her Mother Deidre Jones and grandparents Frank and Annie Jones. Her life has been dedicated to her family and community from the time she could walk.



Rev. Rick Matters
Rick serves on Spokane Community Against Racism (SCAR), Smart Justice Spokane, and the Racial Equity Committee of the SRLJC. He serves a multi-ethnic congregation in Kennewick.



Amy McColm
Amy currently works for The ZoNE Project in NE Spokane and serves as a Family Resource Coordinator in the Spokane Public Schools. She spent almost a decade as an educator in Korea.



Hadley Morrow
Hadley (they/them & she/her) currently serves as Director of Equity and Engagement for Better Health Together. They went to college at the U of Denver majoring in International Studies.



Jada Richardson
Jada is a current high school senior who strives to empower Black and Brown youth. Her social Justice work is seen on both local and statewide committees, commissions, and boards.



Kurtis Robinson
Kurtis is the ED for Revive CFRC/I Did The Time. He serves on the Board of Directors for Better Health Together and Just Lead WA, and is Co-Chair for the BHT Community Voices Council.



Dorothy Webster
Dorothy is a native of Alabama who retired after serving as a public administrator with the City of Spokane. She has a bachelor's degree from Tuskegee and a master's degree from WSU.



Stacey Wells
Stacey works for Goodwill Industries of the Inland Northwest at the Next Generation Zone where she manages the WIOA Youth program and is a member of Spokane Coalition of Colors.



Nicole Wood
Nicole is the development director for Spark Central, a nonprofit organization dedicated to breaking barriers to creativity, and is a member of Spokane Public School's Diversity Advisory Council.



Elin Zander
Elin graduated from WSU with a degree in forestry, returning to school to study nutrition and dietetics. She worked as a nutrition support dietitian for almost 30 years before retiring.

BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Four Die as Domestic Terrorists Occupy U.S. Capitol Building

By Charise Frazier

Source: News One (newsone.com)

At least four people are dead and more than a dozen police officers injured from the siege on the U.S. capitol on January 6 that was waged by pro-Trump white domestic terrorists rioting in baseless opposition of Joe Biden's election.

Thousands of protesters stormed the Capitol vandalizing property, ignited by an early afternoon speech from Donald Trump. Trump appeared at the rally scheduled to contest the outcomes of the election as a joint session of Congress convened to certify the Electoral College vote.

The violent attack that included illegally breaking and entering into the Capitol and stealing from vandalized offices took place as Congress convened to count Electoral College votes and certify President-Elect Joe Biden as the winner. Congress ultimately confirmed Biden's win at about 4 a.m. EST on Thursday.

The day began with Vice President Mike Pence presiding over the count of the electoral college votes. Pressure had been mounting for Pence to go against certifying the votes, culminating in speeches from Trump and others at a "Stop the Steal" rally that was simultaneously taking place on the capital grounds. Pence, who does not have the authority to overturn the electoral votes, responded by penning a letter citing that he had no plans to thwart the constitutional process which he had been sworn to uphold.

"It is my considered judgment that my oath to support and defend the Constitution constrains me from claiming unilateral authority to determine which electoral votes should be counted and which should not," he wrote according to The New York Times.

As the rally continued outside, inside the Capitol, Republicans forged ahead by objecting to the verification of Arizona's Electoral votes. GOP Rep. Paul Gosar from Arizona voiced the objection, backed by his colleague Sen. Ted Cruz, a Senator from Texas. The joint session of Congress was then called to split and go into separate chambers to deliberate and vote on the objection.

During the Senate's deliberations, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (who will soon take the title of Minority Leader) voiced opposition against opposing the electoral votes.

Outside the Capitol, while the deliberations continued, violence and resistance ensued



AP Photo/Andrew Harnik

as a mob of Trump supporters ascended the steps to the nation's capital to contest the results of the election.

The day provided some harrowing imagery from inside the Capitol as the thugs and extremists continued their coup attempt. Washington D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser instituted a mandatory curfew from 6 p.m. Wednesday until 6 a.m. Thursday barring any non-essential travel in and out of the city. Essential workers were not included.

According to C-Span, Speaker Pelosi and other high-ranking members of Congress were ushered into an unknown, safe location. Other members were escorted to their chambers as the Electoral College count was put on pause.

One of the four people who died was a woman who was shot in the chest by the U.S. Capitol Police as a gigantic mob overtook the Capitol grounds. The others have not been identified, as of this writing.

Former President Barack Obama released a statement following the vocal condemnation given by his predecessors Bill Clinton and George W. Bush in response to the domestic terrorism at the Capitol. "History will rightly remember today's violence at the Capitol, incited by a sitting president who has continued to baselessly lie about the outcome of a lawful election ... But we'd be kidding ourselves if we treated it as a total surprise," Obama wrote.

Obama called for leaders in government to steer the path back towards securing the victory of President-elect Biden's and thanked those on opposite sides of the aisle for speaking out against the violence.

Members of "The Squad" were using their legislative powers to hold Trump accountable for Wednesday's violence. Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar tweeted that she intends to draw up Articles of Impeachment against Trump and his removal by the Senate, backed by Rep. Ayanna Pressley.

The notice came less than two weeks prior to Trump's scheduled departure on Jan. 20, Inauguration Day.

Following calls to impeach and remove Trump from office, the NAACP released a petition echoing that call to action.

"In the latest show of failed leadership, we witnessed the Capitol under siege by bad actors who had no other objective than to disrupt the constitutional proceedings of a fair and rightful transition of power."

The petition continues, "at this moment, President Trump is silent and continues to perpetuate lies and disinformation for his selfish amusement and personal gain."

After ignoring multiple requests to censor Donald Trump's Twitter account over the last four years, the social media platform finally complied after the violent insurrection.

Twitter removed three tweets from Trump's account and revealed that it will be locked for 12 hours following. The social media app released a statement that if Trump continues to violate Twitter's policy, his account will be permanently censured.

One of the tweets in question that were removed from Trump's account was the since-deleted video he posted on Wednesday afternoon repeating unfounded voter

fraud claims and relaying his love for the violent insurgents at the Capitol.

"We love you, you're very special," he said directly to the domestic terrorists at one point in the video.

The video came as reports from the White House surfaced that Trump resisted advisers' advice to condemn the violence.

According to NBC News, YouTube and Facebook also removed the video from their platforms.

Newly elected Congresswoman Cori Bush introduced a resolution asking that members of Congress who participated in undermining the election be expelled.

In contrast to Trump's reaction, Biden spoke from Delaware and called for the domestic terrorists to retreat. "Our democracy is under unprecedented assault," Biden said. When asked if he had worries about his inauguration, he said no.

"I am not concerned about my safety, security or the Inauguration. I am not concerned. The American people are going to stand up, stand up now. Enough is enough is enough," Biden said as he exited stage.

Trump's daughter and adviser Ivanka Trump stirred up more contention earlier in the afternoon in a now deleted tweet where she called the domestic terrorists' at the Capitol "patriots."

According to The New York Times, at least two explosives and a mysterious package were discovered on Wednesday during the attempted coup. Police recovered a set of explosives at the Beltway headquarters of the Republican National Committee and on the grounds of the Capitol. A suspicious package was intercepted at the Democratic National Committee headquarters.

Reversing course from earlier in the day, D.C. National Guard was finally activated. Police in riot gear also arrived at the scene, however delayed.

On social media, many are wondering two things: where were the police, and if the rioters and thugs would be handled in the same way as the peaceful protesters who were advocating for Black Lives Matter.

According to Washington Post reporter Aaron C. Davis, the Defense Department denied a request from D.C. officials to activate the National Guard.

The videos seem to support the critique that police have little energy for excessive force when the demonstrators aren't protesting the humanity of Black lives.



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BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Black-Owned Water Company Uses Innovative Technology to Solve Flint Water Crisis

(Source: Njera Perkins, aftrotech.com; quartzwatersource.com)

Once upon a time, Flint, Michigan thrived as one of the nation's largest General Motors plants until the city's economy declined and they were hit with the largest water crisis America has seen in the last 20 years, CNN reports.

The environmental injustice that's been happening to Flint over the last six years has proven to be nearly fatal to the city's residents, but this company came up with a revolutionary idea to help alleviate the health crisis.

Quartz Water Source — a company committed to expanding global access to clean water founded by Flint natives — launched this week with a mission to offer cutting-edge Atmospheric Water Generation technology solutions to the people who need it, a press release reports.

Requiring nothing more than electricity, Quartz Water Source can provide “plug-and-drink clean drinking water solutions” on a global scale as Flint is not the only place dealing with this kind of crisis.

The technology used by Quartz is designed to “meet the needs of cities, villages, factories, hospitals, and other areas where water is difficult to access, or current water sources are contaminated.”

“We are committed to ensuring that clean water is a right, not a privilege,” said co-founder and CEO, Jonathan Quarles. “As a Flint-native, I’ve seen, first-hand, what life without access to clean water looks like. Knowing that one in every three people around the world doesn’t have access to clean drinking water inspired me to roll up my sleeves and launch Quartz Water Source.”

He immediately realized the potential of this technology to serve as a recurring, scalable source of clean drinking water



(Image: from Guardian/YouTube video)



(Image: Screen shot taken via @DrinkQuartz ; screen shot taken via <http://www.quartzwatersource.com>)

for the people of Flint and other American cities struggling with clean drinking water. JQ knew that he had to bring this technology home to Flint and to other cities around the world.

As a “second line” clean water solution supplementing for municipal water supply, the Atmospheric Water Generation technology makes use of the world’s largest source of water — air. The technology then allows for swift and easy deployment in most weather conditions, remote areas as well as locations with little access.

Ex-NBA Player Buys Ebony Magazine With Plans of a Revival

(Source: Ann Brown, moguldom.com)

When it was founded in 1945 by Black businessman John H. Johnson, Ebony magazine was one of the few glossies to address African-American issues, personalities and interests in a positive manner. After Johnson’s death in 2005, his empire, which also included Jet magazine, started to crumble.

In June 2016, Johnson Publishing sold both Ebony and Jet to a private equity firm called Clear View Group. Ebony went bankrupt in July 2020, facing \$80,000 worth of lawsuits from unpaid freelancers, Revolt reported.

Business mogul and former basketball player Ulysses “Junior” Bridgeman plans to bring Ebony back to life. Bridgeman played for the Milwaukee Bucks and the Los Angeles Clippers. He was once featured on a Forbes list of top-paid athletes. He is the CEO of Manna Inc., the holding company for his franchise empire of quick-service restaurants. He became the owner of more than 160 Wendy’s and 120 Chili’s restaurants before cashing out in 2016, The Shadow League reported. He is the CEO of a Coca-Cola bottling company and part-owner of Coca-Cola Canada Bottling Limited, according to the Michigan Chronicle. The ex-NBA baller has purchased both Ebony and Jet Magazines for \$14 million.

Bridgeman said he will lead the magazines alongside his children, similar to how the original Ebony was run. Johnson’s daughter, Linda Johnson-Rice, worked alongside her father after she graduated from college. She became president and chief operating officer of Johnson Publishing, and was promoted to CEO in 2002, Black Past reported. This made her the first African-American woman CEO among the 100 largest Black-owned companies in the U.S.

“Ebony kind of stood for Black excellence, showing people doing positive



(Image: Photograph By Andrew Hancock via Fortune Magazine; 2007 Ebony Magazine Cover via NYPost)

things that could benefit everyone,” Bridgeman told the Tribune. “When you look at Ebony, you look at the history not just for Black people, but of the United States. I think it’s something that a generation is missing, and we want to bring that back as much as we can.”

Twitter was filled with good wishes for Bridgeman: “More black people with wealth should buy our black national treasures. Good for him and good for black people!” and “Well, I guess will subscribe to them again! Yeah Ebony it is back Black! Love it!”

Statue Of Civil Rights Icon Barbara Rose Johns To Replace Robert E. Lee at Capitol

(Source: Charise Frazier, newsone.com)

Civil rights activist and school desegregationist Barbara Rose Johns will be honored with a statue in the United States Capitol, which will replace a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

On Monday, Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam announced that Lee’s statue, which signified Virginia’s contribution to the National Statuary Hall Collection 100 years ago, will be replaced with a statue of Johns. Lee’s statue was removed from the Capitol overnight, according to The Hill.

Johns was born in New York City in 1935 but raised in Virginia where her family relocated to live with her grandmother in Prince Edward County. At 16, Johns became enraged over the inadequate facilities for students at Robert Russa Moton High School, an all-Black school. When she shared her

grievances with a teacher, they responded by asking, “Why don’t you do something about it?” Johns later wrote in her memoir that she interpreted her teacher’s response as dismissive and after weeks of contemplating action, she orchestrated a strike among her classmates which began on April 23, 1951.

“The plan was to assemble together the student council members.... We would make signs and I would give a speech stating our dissatisfaction and... people would hear us and see us...” she wrote according to the Robert Russa Moton Museum.

Her organizing caught the attention of the NAACP lawyers Spottwood Robinson and Oliver Hill who after speaking with Young, her fellow classmates and community members, filed a lawsuit at the federal courthouse in Richmond, Virginia. The case, Davis vs.

Prince Edward, became one of the five cases the Supreme Court reviewed in Brown vs. Board of Education decision, which declared segregation unconstitutional.

However, due to the rage over a young Black girl’s insistence on rejecting substandard conditions, her safety was compromised. She was sent to live with family in Montgomery, Alabama, after members of the Ku Klux Klan burned a cross in her yard. After high school where she attended Spelman College and finished her education at Drexel University in Philadelphia. Johns married Rev. William Powell, and raised five children while working as a librarian in the Philadelphia Public School system. She died in 1991.

The removal of Lee’s statue follows a string of actions directed toward Confederate imagery and symbols, signaling a time in



(Photo Credit: motonmuseum.org)

America where separate was not equal, but the law. And the wages of activating against the status quo, could result in death.

Johns’ contributions to American history and the course of education, particularly for Black Americans, deserves recognition and honor in the United States Capitol.

BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Naomi Osaka and LeBron James Named AP Female and Male Athletes of the Year

(Source: GoodBlackNews, goodblacknews.org; Images: Corbis Via Getty Images; Brandon Dill/Getty Images)

Tennis champion and NBA champion Naomi Osaka and LeBron James were recently voted Female Athlete of the Year and Male Athlete of the Year, respectively, by the Associated Press.

Although this year marks Osaka’s first AP victory, James has won the honor three times before, in 2013, 2016 and 2018, becoming the male athlete to win the AP top spot the most times in history. Michael Jordan, a three-time winner, is the only other basketball player to win the AP award more than once.

2020 U.S. Open title holder Osaka and NBA Finals MVP James also stand out for their activism and contributions to society.

Osaka spoke out about racial injustice and police brutality, famously wearing masks with the names of victims of police violence before each U.S. Open match along with joining the protests in Minneapolis demanding justice for George Floyd.

James’ More Than a Vote organization drew more than 42,000 volunteers to work at polling stations for the November election, and pushed for turnout among Black and young voters.

In 2018 James founded the I PROMISE school in his hometown of Akron, Ohio and most recently broke ground on an affordable housing project for 50



families this year. This month, plans for House Three Thirty (a nod to Akron’s area code) were announced, explaining how James plans to also offer things like accessible family financial health programming, job training and a community gathering space.

Meet Bellen Woodward, Crayon Activist Named Time Magazine ‘Kid of The Year’ Honoree

(Source: Shanique Yates, afrotech.com; Image: Instagram / @morethanpeachproject)

There’s a new kid on the block!

Ten-year-old Bellen Woodard is not only the world’s first crayon activist, but she has also just become Time Magazine’s youngest “Kid of the Year” honoree reports Time for Kids.

According to Face2Face Africa, after realizing that there was no crayon to represent her complexion, Bellen created her own multicultural crayons through her “More than Peach” project making her the world’s first crayon activist.

As the only Black student in her class, Bellen realized that anytime her classmates wanted the “skin-color” crayon, they were handed the peach crayon.

It was just after voicing her concerns and not being pleased with her mother’s suggestion to try alternative colors, that Bellen decided to take matters into her own hands.

The Virginia native used her savings to start the More than Peach project in Spring 2019 not even realizing that her attempt to create an all-inclusive multicultural crayon would spark a national movement.

According to Face2Face Africa, her initial goal was to donate multicultural crayons with bundles of art to more than 80,000 schools and classrooms in an effort to “change the language” about skin-colored crayons.



In March, The Virginia General Assembly passed the “Bellen Bill” to recognize Bellen and her project, according to her website.

In addition to the legislation supporting her movement, “Bellen’s Palette Packet” is housed in the Virginia Museum of History & Culture (VMHC) where it is set to always be on display.

Gold medalist Simone Biles surprised Bellen with the good news that she was a Time Magazine’s “Kid of the Year” honoree.

“It feels really good because I want everyone to not feel dis-included and to know that they’re amazing just the way they are,” Bellen told Biles.

Bellen recently launched her own collection in collaboration with Boy Meets Girl USA designed by both Bellen and New York designer Stacy Igel.

HBCUs Receive Millions from Bezos Ex-Wife, Mackenzie Scott

(Source: Dana Sanchez, moguldom.com)

MacKenzie Scott, a novelist, anti-bullying organizer and ex-wife of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, has announced a new batch of charitable gifts worth about \$4.2 billion to 384 organizations, including at least 17 historically Black colleges and universities.

More than 30 colleges or universities are among the recipients, including Prairie View A&M University, an HBCU in Texas, which received \$50 million — the largest-ever gift in the college’s history. Other HBCUs reported receiving record-breaking gifts from Scott in the tens of millions: Morgan State University, in Baltimore, reported a gift of \$40 million; Winston-Salem State University, in North Carolina, reported a gift of \$30 million; and Delaware State University and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore reported gifts of \$20 million each, Inside-HigherEd reported. Howard University in DC and Morehouse, Spellman and Clark Atlanta Universities, all located in Georgia, were also among the HBCUs that received funds, as well as the the United Negro College Fund and the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, according to the Washington Post.

For Morgan State, the \$40 million gift is “transformative” — the largest single private



donation in its history and the second-largest gift to any public Maryland university. The previous largest individual gift was \$5 million from philanthropist and Morgan alumnus Calvin E. Tyler Jr. and his wife Tina.

“This monumental gift will change lives and shape futures,” President David Wilson said in a news release. “The unrestricted funds will be used to support university efforts essential to student success as well as to advance research and investments in other mission-focused priorities and initiatives.”

As part of the divorce settlement, Bezos transferred 25 percent of his Amazon stake — 4 percent of the company — to Scott. She has promised to give away half or more of her assets in her lifetime or in her will.

Beyoncé Is Helping Individuals & Families Facing Evictions

(Source: Cedric ‘BIG CED’ Thornton, black-enterprise.com)

Beyoncé Knowles Carter is ending the year as she has been doing throughout—and that’s being charitable. The philanthropist entertainer and her BeyGOOD foundation have announced that they will be providing financial assistance to families who are facing either evictions or foreclosures.

“When we were faced with the pandemic caused by COVID-19, BeyGOOD created a plan to make a difference. We assisted organizations across the country that were providing people with basic needs like food, water, household supplies, and COVID testing. We also provided mental health support,” according to a statement on Beyoncé’s website.

BeyGood has been helping struggling businesses when the organization launched the BeyGOOD Small Business Impact Fund, and it has given more than 250 small businesses \$10,000 grants.

Beyoncé is not stopping there as she has started Phase Two of the BeyGOOD Impact Fund. This fund is slated to now help those families impacted by the housing crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic. With the housing moratorium coming to a

conclusion

on December 26, this may result in families having mortgage foreclosures and some families facing the possibility of evictions in rental units. “Many families are impacted, due to the pandemic that resulted in job loss, sickness, and overall economy downturn,” her website states.

With the holiday season already here, there will be many who are stressed out about what they will do next when it comes to being able to afford the cost of housing. The BeyGOOD Impact Fund will take care of the financial strains placed on these families as Beyoncé is giving \$5,000 grants to individuals and families facing foreclosures or evictions.

All necessary documents must be provided to the NAACP as the online application process will begin on January 7, 2021. A total of 100 recipients will be selected and grants will disbursed in late January. Round two will open in February.



AFRICA NEWS

News Highlights From and About the Continent of Africa

Black South Africans Who Fought In WWII Finally Recognized

(Africanews & AP/ Image Credit: news.sky.com) –

Some 80,000 Black south Africans served in WWII as part of the Native Military Corps but they were treated as inferior to white soldiers and their contribution was largely unrecognized.

But now soldiers are being credited after the Commonwealth War Graves Commission began a process of commemoration for those who fought and died, and for the few left who still survive.

Simon Mhlanga, who says he is “about” 106 - although his family says he is older - is one of the last surviving soldiers of the Native Military Corps. He said he joined the army to escape poverty in 1941.

“I could find that it was the only way, that I should rather go and die, escape to the army. So then I left my parents and I went away. I didn’t even tell them that I was getting into the army,” Mhlanga said.

The Black volunteers who joined the Corps were forbidden to fight by their white leaders, so they worked as labourers, guards and medical aides.

Mhlanga guarded prisoners of war in Italy and returned as a non-commissioned officer. South Africa rewarded white soldiers with new homes while Black soldiers were given boots or bicycles. Mhlanga was gifted the latter.

“To me it was, you know, I had to accept it but really I felt that I had been cheated by the government of South Africa to give me a bicycle,” he said.



In cemeteries, Black servicemen were not allowed to rest alongside their white comrades.

Some Black soldiers have never been commemorated. The Commission is working to commemorate the forgotten.

Records of those who fought for Britain in the First World War is also scant.

Terry Cawood, a researcher with the South Africa War Graves Project, said he found books with the names of a thousand Black servicemen men who fought and died for Britain in WW1.

For Mhlanga he left the past behind and when he came back from WWII he took up singing and dancing for marching bands. 75 years later, he is still singing and shaking his hips.

African Maternal Health Groups See Better Times for Women Under President Biden



(TriceEdneyWire.com/GIN) - Maternal health groups worldwide are hoping that the election of Joe Biden will lead to a lifting of the so-called “global gag rule” which cut off much-needed maternal health services in many parts of the developing world.

“I am excited and hopeful that things are going to be better,” said Nelly Munyasia, executive director of Reproductive

Health Network Kenya. Her network promotes health services, including offering information about abortion.

“We are going to access funding and we are going to save the lives of women and girls,” she says, before explaining how tough the past four years has been.

Current US policies restrict access to safe abortion not just by attaching an-

Somali Practitioner of ‘Yogadishu’ is Peace Prize Winner for 2020

(TriceEdneyWire.com/GIN) - With backbends and downward dogs, Ilwad Elman has been helping former child soldiers and rape survivors overcome their trauma.

It’s called “Yogadishu” – a combination of yoga and Mogadishu. An alternative mental health technique, the therapy aims to break down walls of silence and begin the healing process.

“We keep our doors open for those who want to gather and a safe space to do so,” says Elman, winner of the 2020 German Africa prize for humanitarian work in her homeland.

Ilwad’s father - an engineer, entrepreneur and social activist — had been an ardent peace activist in the 1990s, coining the famous mantra in Somalia: “Drop the Gun, Pick up the Pen”. He was assassinated in 1996 for his human rights work and is known to this day as the Somali Father of Peace.

As violence grew in Somalia, Ilwad, her mother and sisters fled into exile in Canada. After 10 years, the family contemplated a return to the Horn of Africa. Ilwad didn’t speak the local language and the hardships of living in a war-torn country were unfamiliar and difficult for her.



But her mother – a strong human rights activist and a fierce custodian of her husband’s legacy – was determined to go back even at the height of the conflict. “From her I learned that you could be anything and everything you wanted to be as a woman,” said Ilwad.

“That is not a message woman and girls hear in Somalia. But my mother empowered, encouraged and challenged me to do more and be more,” Ilwad said. The family returned to Somalia in 2010 and rebuilt the father’s project to reintegrate child soldiers and civil war orphans into Somali society.

In addition to her work with the Elman Peace and Human Rights Center, Ilwad runs “Sister Somalia” - the first rape crisis center in Somalia. It was established to support survivors of sexual and gender based violence to

rebuild and reclaim their lives.

She’s also part of the Kofi Annan Foundation’s Extremely Together initiative, which mobilizes political will to overcome threats to peace, development and human rights. For two years, she was the youngest consultant for the U.N.’s Peacebuilding Fund. She was also voted one of the 100 Most Influential Young Africans for 2020, organized by the Ghana-based Africa Youth Awards group.

GLOBAL INFORMATION NETWORK creates and distributes news and feature articles on current affairs in Africa to media outlets, scholars, students and activists in the U.S. and Canada. Our goal is to introduce important new voices on topics relevant to Americans, to increase the perspectives available to readers in North America and to bring into their view information about global issues that are overlooked or under-reported by mainstream media.

ti-abortion conditions to foreign aid. The United States also imposes its rules on how medical providers and non-profits spend their own funds, and on how they care for and advise their clients. The so-called global gag rule led to more pregnancies and lower contraceptive use among women in African countries reliant on U.S. foreign aid, according to a study published in the Lancet Global Health journal.

“Our findings suggest how a U.S. policy that aims to restrict federal funding for abortion services can lead, unintentionally, to more – and probably riskier – abortions in poor countries,” said Nina Brooks, a researcher at Stanford University who co-lead the work.

Stanford University’s Eran Bendavid, who co-lead the study, said its findings had probably captured only a partial view of the policy’s harm to maternal health, since knock-on effects of risky abortions were not measured.

“Because abortions are an important cause of maternal mortality, the increase in abortion uptake might also increase maternal deaths — and possibly disproportionately given that abor-

tions under the policy could be less safe,” he said.

When organizations reject U.S. funds, they often have to reduce the scale of their programs—years of work to earn the trust of marginalized communities are also lost when clinics close and there are often no other existing programs to replace the services.

Past versions of the global gag rule have shown that the policy does not reduce the number of abortions and has instead increased unsafe abortions. It also has negative impacts on maternal, newborn, and child health.

President-elect Joe Biden is expected to repeal the Mexico City Policy – also known as the ‘global gag rule’ as one of his early acts in office.

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A Different View

with 



Photo Credit: Maddie Pearson

Betsy Wilkerson, Spokane City Council

This is the chorus to a song my Mother used to sing all the time:
“Count your blessings,
Name them one by one,
Count your blessings see what God has done,
Count your many blessings,
See what God has done.”

Today I am counting my many blessings. I’m serving as the second African American Councilwoman to have served on the City Council of the second largest city in Washington State. All of my family is safe and healthy. We have a roof over our heads and food on the table. We are all still working. The guys at my group home have done well through COVID-19. I have great employees and I have amazing friends that I can truly count on.

That’s not to say 2020 wasn’t a challenge and hard as hell. To those that have sacrificed so much for the health of our community, especially those who have lost so much: family, friends and livelihood, my heart goes out to you. You are constantly on my mind and please know you are not forgotten.

Your City Council is working tirelessly with the Mayor and our different community partners to return your life to some semblance of “normal.” Your burden is not borne alone. To our brave frontline workers and essential workers, many of you who are disproportionately folks of color, please know your sacrifice is also something that is noticed and history will remember you as part of the many that kept everyday life going during this pandemic.

2020 has also been a mixed bag of Black Lives Matter protests, COVID-19 restrictions, yet another economic downturn, ensuring businesses of color get their fair share, housing issues, police reform, the exhausting election, the Dr. Lutz saga, home schooling and the vaccine! I’m not saying those challenges will not follow us into 2021, but I think we need to take a breath and acknowledge what we have just survived as a community. I don’t remember ever working this hard!

Jesse Jackson says “Keep Hope Alive” and he is right. Life without hopes and dreams would be an empty life. If we don’t keep hope alive then what’s it all about?

I don’t make resolutions, but I do have some goals for this year 2021 and here are a few. Other than trying for that weight loss goal again. (Right!)

Policywise, I’m focusing on issues relating to Housing, Healthcare and Career-development. The people of Spokane deserve not just a happy life, but a meaningful and fulfilling life. This starts with continuing the work on the East 5th Ave Initiative, bringing in not just attainable housing, but shops, small businesses and things that make a City hum with activity. This also means inviting the diverse cultures in Spokane to be a part of the new Downtown Plan.

Another tool for success is bringing WiFi into city parks, which remote working and “Zoom University” has spotlighted as a necessity. Liberty Park is on deck to follow Riverfront Park to have WiFi in the park, so I see all parks as places where people can enjoy Spo-

kane’s sunshine while remote working, doing homework or even Zooming with family.

Other topics I see that need attention are traffic calming, attainable housing, supporting minority business associations, youth programs and apprenticeships (specifically our youth of color), Police Reform, Liberty Library and the upcoming economic recovery.

So as The Lord said, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.” Please join me in not only harvesting what great things are happening for Spokane, but planting seeds and making our community a more culturally inclusive, economically dynamic, and the vibrant city we all know and love.

Imagine beautiful safe parks, cultural festivals throughout the heart of Downtown, and all the trappings of a major city with the charms of the small town we love. Let’s lift up our community as Spokane grows!

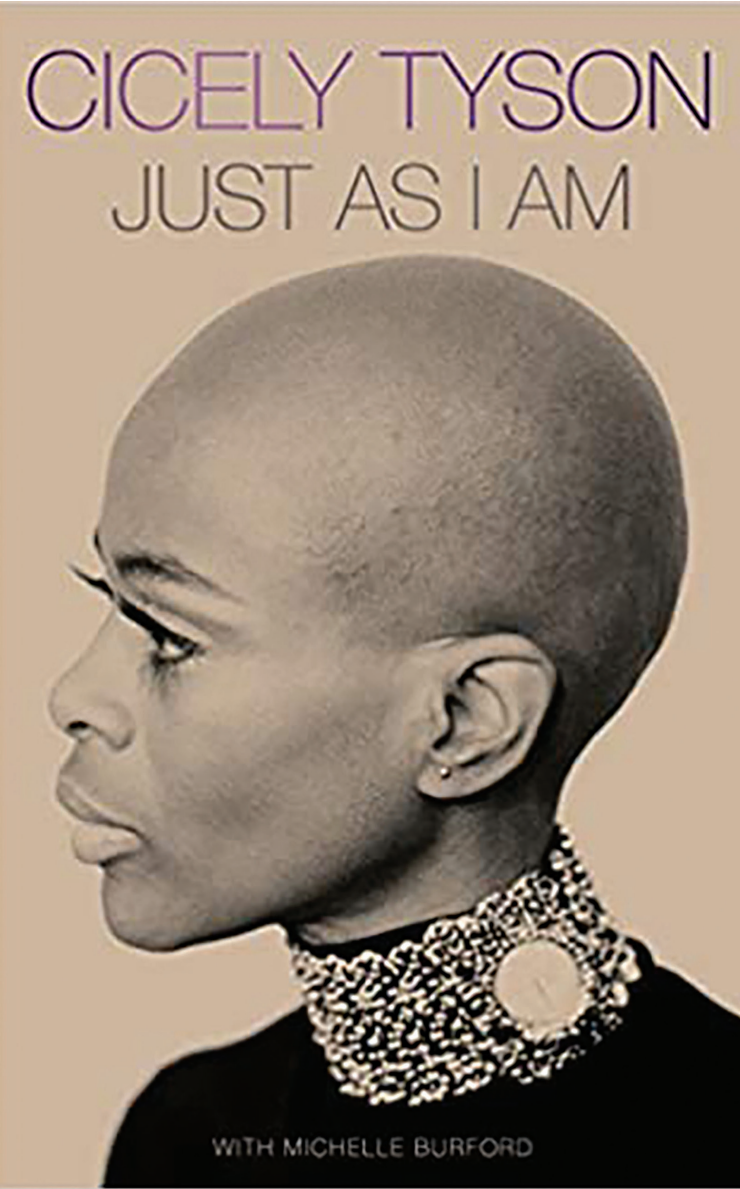
So as you reflect on the year that was 2020, and plan for what is to come in 2021, count your many blessings. Give Thanks and return Kindness. Our community needs it.

Wishing a prosperous 2021 and many blessings to you and yours,



Council Member Betsy Wilkerson
Spokane City Council District 2, Position 2
bwilkerson@spokanecity.org

Cicely Tyson Autobiography "Just As I Am" to be Released on Jan 26



(Source: Maiysha Kai, theglowup.theroot.com; biography.com; Leigh Haber, oprahmag.com; Joi-Marie McKenzie, essence.com)

Publisher Harper Collins announced in September that Cicely Tyson’s memoir, *Just As I Am*, will be released on January 26, 2021.

The book, which was co-written by O Magazine founding editor Michelle Burford, chronicles Tyson’s career from her lesser-known early days as a model and dancer, to her reported co-founding of the Dance Theater of Harlem with close friend and ballet dancer Arthur Mitchell.

Tyson, now aged 95, was born in New York City on December 19, 1924, and grew up in Harlem. At the age of 18, she walked away from a typing job and began modeling. Tyson drawn to acting, despite her mother’s objections, found success, appearing onstage, in movies and on TV.

In 1963 Tyson became the first African American star of a TV drama in the series *East Side/West Side*, playing the role of secretary *Jane Foster*. She went on to be nominated for an Academy Award for her role as *Rebecca* in 1972’s *Sounder*.

Other memorable roles during Tyson’s six decades-long acting career include *Binta* in *Roots*; *Sipsey* in *Fried Green Tomatoes*; the title character of *Jane* in the Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman, which earned Tyson two Emmy Awards; housemaid *Castalia* in the CBS miniseries, *The Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All*, which earned Tyson her third Emmy; maid *Constatine Bate* in the highly acclaimed move, *The Help*; and *Ophelia*, in Viola Davis’s *How to Get Away With Murder*, which earned her an Emmy nomination.

Tyson became a member of the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame in 1977. She was honored by the Congress

of Racial Equality, by the National Council of Negro Women and in 2010, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People presented Tyson with its 95th Spingarn Medal — an award given to African Americans who have reached outstanding levels of achievement. She was a recipient of the Kennedy Center Honors and was honored in 2016 with the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama, who said, “In her long and extraordinary career, Cicely Tyson has not only exceeded as an actor, she has shaped the course of history.”

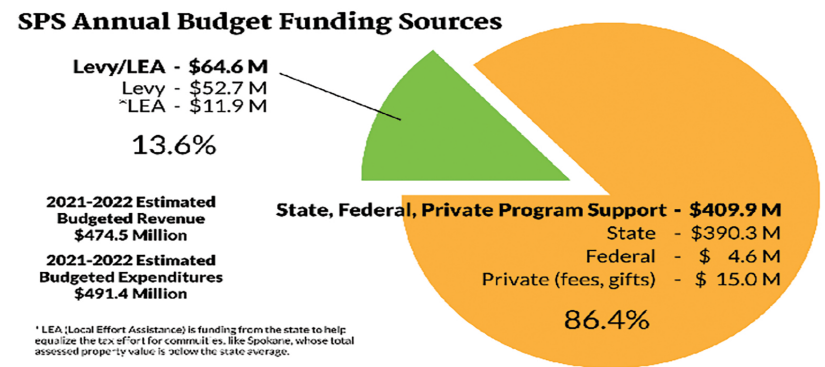
Just As I Am details not only Tyson’s friendships with iconic actors such as Sidney Poitier, Harry Belafonte, Ossie and Ruby Davis, Richard Pryor, James Earl Jones, while also shedding light on her moments with other luminaries, including Maya Angelou, Nelson and Winnie Mandela, Aretha Franklin and even Quincy Jones. In the memoir Tyson also upes up about her tumultuous eight-year marriage to jazz legend Miles Davis.

Tyson wrote in the introduction of the book that she wanted to share “how my tree, my story, first sprung into existence. How its roots, stretching far beneath the soil, have nourished and anchored me.”

“Just As I Am is my truth. It is me, plain and unvarnished, with the glitter and garland set aside. In these pages, I am indeed Cicely, the actress who has been blessed to grace the stage and screen for six decades. Yet I am also the church girl who once rarely spoke a word. I am the teenager who sought solace in the verses of the old hymn for which this book is named. I am a daughter and mother; a sister; and a friend. I am an observer of human nature and the dreamer of audacious dreams. I am a woman who has hurt as immeasurably as I have loved, a child of God divinely guided by His hand. And here in my ninth decade, I am a woman who, at long last, has something meaningful to say.” —Cicely Tyson

Spokane Public Schools Levy

Beginning on Jan. 22, 2021, Spokane residents will be voting on a replacement school levy for Spokane Public School (SPS). The educational program and operation levy is a way for the Spokane community to support SPS students and families by funding extracurricular activities, support for students with special needs, and critical health and wellness services. The 2021 levy replaces the expiring 2018 levy and is **not a new tax**. Levies support programs and services, such as: Nurses, Counselors, Behavior specialists, Student intervention programs, Special education services, Technology support, Smaller class sizes, Advanced placement courses, Athletics, Arts, music, and drama. Please submit your online and mail registrations, and voter updates, by February 1, 2021. For more information please visit: <https://www.spokane-schools.org>.



Year	Amount	Estimated Tax Rate*
2022	\$65,700,000	\$2.40
2023	\$73,800,000	\$2.45
2024	\$82,100,000	\$2.50

*per \$1,000 of Assessed Property Value

- Remember . . .**
- The replacement levy provides funds to enrich and support essential educational programs for Spokane's youth.
 - The total estimated tax rate for schools will be less than in 2018 and prior years.

Please vote by February 9!
Find more information at spokaneschools.org/levy



Questions After Attack at Capitol

Continued from 1

Carrying Trump flags, U. S. flags, Confederate flags and other paraphernalia; wearing MAGA (Make America Great Again) hats, the crowds stormed the building during a joint meeting of Congress. The crowd overwhelmed armed Capitol Police officers to gain entry to the building. They broke windows, knocked down doors, climbed inside and outside walls. Pipe bombs were found at the Republican and Democratic headquarters. Four people were killed during the Mayhem. At this writing, their names had not been released. According to reports, 52 people were arrested.”

The intent was to stop lawmakers from certifying the presidential and vice presidential elections of Joseph Biden and Kamala Harris. The attack did not work. After members of Congress hid on floors under their desks and Congressional leaders were whisked away to secure bunkers, hundreds of police and National Guard troops in riot gear were finally able to clear the building.

In the early morning of Jan. 7, the Congress voted to certify the Biden-Harris election. Inauguration is set for January 20th. Vice President Mike Pence, who was presiding over the joint session of Congress, affirmed the Congressional vote. Historians say nothing close to this physical attack on the Capitol had occurred in more than 200 years when British forces stormed and burned the Capitol in 1814.

Members of Congress, Trump’s cabinet and the media are now discussing how to prevent continued attacks in this regard; including the possible invoking of Section 4 of the 25th Amendment, which states in part, “Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.”

In the midst of the attack Trump, in a Tweet, told the terrorists to respect police and said, “We are the party of law and order.” Ultimately, he tweeted, “Go home, we love you. You’re very special.”

Twitter ultimately blocked Trump’s tweets on Wednesday, but not until after the damage was done. On the morning after he tweet through a staffer’s account that will go down in history as an ultimate insult. After Capitol Police barricaded doors and drew guns to protect members of Congress from the terrorists that he sent; after, for weeks, calling Jan. 6 a “day of reckoning,” Trump tweeted through someone else’s account, there will be a “peaceful transfer of power.”

“New Year, Same Me”

A Poem by Bethany 'B.Lyte' Montgomery
Founder & President of Power 2 The Poetry

Maybe not here but now
Someone is being ostracized
Just because they are different
Society has always excluded
those who stand out
Because they are afraid of the change
We preach in our campaigns
Here are some names

Sojourner Truth
Rosa Parks
Martin Luther King Jr.
Ida B. Wells
Malcom X
Muhammad Ali
Tupac Shakur

Need I say more
You see who I am
But do you see who I reach
Will society murder me
Because of the words that I speak

I see you judging me
For who I want be
Who I am going to be
They said I was free
If only they could see

It's a new year and very little
has changed
Still disadvantaged because of
our race
If life was really a race
No one would start at the exact
same place
I really wish we all could ‘actually’
see pain
So we could truly relate
To the horrible agonies Black
people must face
Just because of hate

And I am not one to make excuses
But the majority of this country is
clueless
And no we ain’t new to this
For Black people this has never
been news to us
Momma always told me
This life is not fair
I must grow up and conquer
my fears
Face my situation and absolutely
dominate it
A new year does not change
How we are viewed in this nation

I can reach the masses
While holding your conscience
captive
You say you want be woke
Well I want to be free
No longer a slave to society
These shackles to be ripped
off my feet

We’re so blind as a nation
When will we ever see



That the way to escape from
the ghetto
Is not only to be a rapper
or an athlete
So we will not solely rely on your
track meets
808 beats or your basketball teams

Just like Martin Luther King
I have a dream
That one day we won’t have to rap,
run fast or jump high
To be valued in all these white
people’s eyes

We will reach for the sky’s
Come together and unify
That one day we will truly be free
And fight for equal rights for every
single human being

It would seem my lesson is through
So tell me Spokane have you
figured out what to do
If so then go now and be
the breakthrough

Because maybe not here but now
Someone is being ostracized
Just because they are a different
Society has always excluded
those who stand out
Because they are afraid of
the change
We preach in our campaigns

POWER 2 THE POETRY

Remember the name

Love & Lyte to you & yours.
May your new year be filled with
abundance and gratitude.
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KNOCK OUT THE FLU WITH ONE SHOT

It's more important than ever to get vaccinated against the flu. The flu vaccine can keep you from getting the flu and spreading it to others. This is critical during the COVID-19 pandemic to help keep our hospitals from being overwhelmed.

DID YOU KNOW...

- The Department of Health recommends that everyone aged six-months and older, including pregnant and nursing women get a yearly flu vaccine.
- Most insurance plans, including CHIP and Medicaid, cover the cost of flu vaccine for adults.
- Children aged 18 and under in Washington can get a flu vaccine and other recommended vaccines at no cost.

IS IT COVID- 19?

COVID-19 symptoms may be similar to those of illnesses like the flu or common cold. Contact your health care provider for a test if you have symptoms of COVID-19. Visit www.doh.wa.gov/coronavirus.

CONTACT US TODAY!

Our free and confidential services can help connect your family to health insurance coverage, point you toward free vaccine clinics, and much more.

-  (509) 340-9008
-  healthykids@betterhealthtogether.org
-  @BetterHealthTogether



About the 'Rona: COVID-19 Resources and Information

Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith: Co-Chair of Biden's Coronavirus Task Force

(Source: Bruce C. T. Wright, [newsone.com](https://www.newsone.com); Yale School of Medicine, medicine.yale.edu)

Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith, one of three doctors appointed by President-elect Biden to lead the Coronavirus task force is an Associate Professor of Medicine (General Medicine) and of Epidemiology (Chronic Diseases) at Yale University. She is also the Associate Dean for Health Equity Research and Founding Director of the Equity Research and Innovation Center (ERIC) for the Yale School of Medicine. Dr. Nunez-Smith is Director of the Center for Research Engagement (CRE), Director of the Center for Community Engagement and Health Equity, Deputy Director for Health Equity Research and Workforce Development at the Yale Center for Clinical Investigation (YCCI) and Director of the Pozen-Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Health Equity Leadership.

Dr. Nunez-Smith's research focuses on promoting health and healthcare equity for structurally marginalized populations, with an emphasis on centering community engagement, supporting healthcare workforce diversity and development, developing patient reported measurements of healthcare quality, and identifying regional strategies to reduce the global burden of non-communicable diseases. Dr. Nunez-Smith has extensive expertise in examining the effects of social and structural determinants of health, systemic influences contributing to health disparities, health



equity improvement, and community-academic partnered scholarship. In addition to this extensive experience in primary data collection, management, and analysis, ERIC has institutional expertise in qualitative and mixed methods, population health, and medical informatics.

She is the principal investigator on many NIH (National Institute of Health) and foundation-funded research projects, including an NIH/NCI-funded project to develop a tool to assess patient reported experiences of discrimination in healthcare. She has conducted an investigation of the promotion and retention of diversity in academic medical school faculty and has published numerous articles on the experiences of minority students and faculty.

Dr. Nunez-Smith is board certified in internal medicine, having completed residency training at Harvard University's Brigham and Women's Hospital and fellowship at the Yale Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program, where she also received a Masters in Health Sciences. Originally from the US Virgin Islands, she attended Jefferson Medical College, where she was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society, and she earned a BA in Biological Anthropology and Psychology at Swarthmore College.

Dr. Nunez-Smith joins 12 other people on Biden's task force, including her co-chairs: former FDA commissioner Dr. David Kessler, who is also a professor of pediatrics and epidemiology and biostatistics at the University of California, San Francisco; and Dr. Vivek Murthy, the former Surgeon General under President Barack Obama who led the fight against Ebola, Zika and the Flint water crisis.

Hospital Bills For Uninsured COVID-19 Patients Are Covered, But No One Tells Them

By Blake Farmer

Reprinted from [npr.org/sections/health-shots](https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots)

When Darius Settles died from COVID-19 on the Fourth of July, his family and the city of Nashville, Tenn., were shocked. Even the mayor noted the passing of a 30-year-old without any underlying conditions — one of the city's youngest fatalities at that point.

Settles was also uninsured and had just been sent home from an emergency room for the second time, and he was worried about medical bills. An investigation into his death found that, like many uninsured COVID-19 patients, he had never been told that cost shouldn't be a concern.

Back at the end of June, Settles and his wife, Angela, were both feeling ill with fevers and body aches. Then Darius took a turn — bad enough that he asked his wife to call an ambulance.

"My husband is having issues breathing and he's weak, so we're probably going to need a paramedic over here to rush him to the hospital," she told the operator, according to the 911 recordings obtained by WPLN News.

Darius Settles was stabilized and tested for the coronavirus at the hospital, according to his medical records. The doctor sent him home with antibiotics and instructions to come back if things got worse. Three days later, they did. And now he also knew he had COVID-19; his test results were in.

But Settles was also between full-time jobs, playing the organ at a church as he launched a career as a suit designer. So he had no health insurance. His wife, who works for Tennessee State University, says he was worried about costs as he went back to the hospital a second time; she tried to reassure him.

"He said, 'I bet this hospital bill is going to be high.' And I said, 'Babe, it's going to be OK.' And we left it alone, just like that," she says.



Angela Settles' husband, Darius, got sick with COVID-19 and died, he worked two jobs but was uninsured and worried about medical bills. Photo: Blake Farmer/WPLN News

When he returned to TriStar Southern Hills Medical Center, owned by the for-profit hospital chain HCA, physicians tested his blood oxygen levels, which are usually a first sign that a COVID-19 patient is in trouble. They had dropped to 88%. An X-ray of his lungs "appears worse," the physician wrote in the record.

But the doctor also noted that his oxygen saturations improved, and he was breathing on room air after a few hours in the emergency room. The records show they discussed why he might not want to be admitted to the hospital since he was otherwise young and healthy and didn't note any risk factors for complications. And when Angela Settles called to check in, he seemed to be OK with leaving despite his persistent struggle to breathe.

He was a COVID-19 patient so, "I could not go up there to see him," she says. "He was saying that I might as well go home."

Angela Settles was surprised since her husband was the one who wanted to go to the hospital in the first place. At first, she thought the hospital just didn't want to admit a man without insurance who would have trouble paying a big bill. But TriStar Southern Hills admits hundreds of patients a year without insurance — more than 500 in 2019, according to a spokesperson. And in this case, the federal government would have paid the bill. But no one said that when it might have made a difference to Darius Settles.

TriStar, like most major health systems, participates in a program through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in which uninsured patients with COVID-19 have their bills covered. It was set up through the pandemic relief legislation known as the CARES Act.

But TriStar doesn't tell its patients that upfront. Neither do other hospitals or national

health systems contacted by WPLN News. There's no requirement to, which is one of the program's shortcomings, says Jennifer Tolbert of the Kaiser Family Foundation who studies uninsured patients. (KHN is an editorially independent program of the foundation.)

"This is obviously a great concern to most uninsured patients," Tolbert says. Her research finds that people without insurance often avoid care because of the bill or the threat of the bill, even though they might qualify for any number of programs if they asked enough questions.

Tolbert says the problem with the COVID-19 uninsured program is that even doctors don't always know how it works or that the program exists.

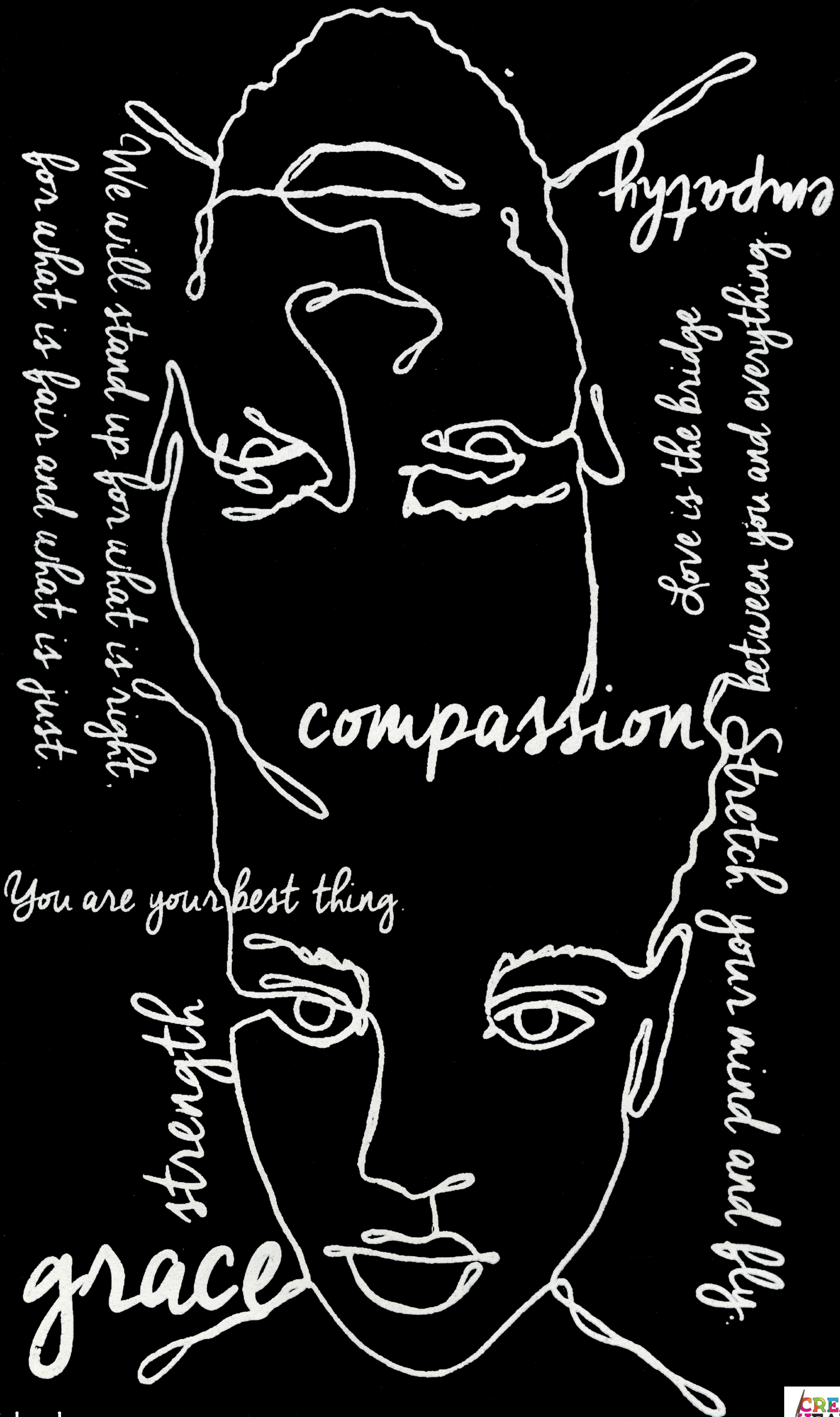
"At the point when the patient shows up at the hospital or at another provider site, it's at that point when those questions need to be answered," she says. "And it's not always clear that that is happening."

Among clinicians, there's a reluctance to raise the issue of cost in any way and run afoul of federal laws. Emergency rooms must at least stabilize everyone, regardless of their ability to pay, under a federal law known as the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act, or EMTALA. Asking questions about insurance coverage is often referred to as a "wallet biopsy," and can result in fines for hospitals or even being temporarily banned from receiving Medicare payments.

Physicians also don't want to make a guarantee, knowing a patient still could end up having to fight a bill.

"I don't want to absolutely promise anything," says Ryan Stanton, an ER physician in Lexington, Ky., and a board member of the American College of Emergency Physicians. "There should not be a false sense that it will be an absolute smooth path when we're dealing with government services and complexities of the health care system," he says. **Continued on Page 27**

10 Times More Likely: A Response to COVID



Carl Richardson



Tongues of Fire

By Beverly Spears

Faith or Fear

There's a story that's been told from many a pulpit over the years. This story has different names and some minor variations, but I call it The Drowning Man. There once was a man who lived in a two-story house near a river. There was a terrible rainstorm that had lasted without let-up for several days. The river began to rise and threatened to flood the area. As the water rose, warnings and alerts went out far and wide via radio, TV, cell phone, and Twitter. Hearing the news of the impending flood, the man fell to his knees and prayed to God. "Dear God, the flood waters will soon be upon me. I have faith that you will hear my prayer and rescue me."

The man walked out onto his front steps to ascertain the danger. Trucks and vans were driving through the area to evacuate people. A truck stopped at the man's house and the driver said, "Flood waters are rising. You're in danger. Your life is at stake. You must evacuate. Jump in my truck. Let me get you to safety." "No," the man replied from his doorstep. "I have faith. I'll be okay. God will save me." Reluctantly, the driver drove off to help evacuate other people, leaving the man behind.

The water continued to rise. Soon the man had to go to the second floor of the house. A boat was going through the area looking for people who might be in danger. It arrived at the man's house. Rescuers made every effort to convince the man to get into the boat so that his life would be saved. "You're in danger. Your life is at stake. You'll drown in the flood." "No worries," says the man. "I have faith. Everything is okay. Even though the flood waters are rising, I will be fine. God will save me."

The water became more turbulent and started to rise faster. The man was forced to retreat to the roof of his house. A rescue helicopter pilot spotted the man on his rooftop. The helicopter hovered above the man. The pilot threw down a rope ladder. Using a megaphone, the pilot tried to convince the man to grab the rope ladder which was dangling above his head. "You're in danger. The water is rising fast. You'll drown if you don't grab the rope ladder. Let me help you." "No worries," says the man. "I'll be fine. Yes, the water is rising, but I have faith. I will wait on God to save me." So, the helicopter pilot reluctantly flew away.

Soon the flood waters rose swallowing up the house. The man drowned. At the pearly gates, the man said to God: "I had faith that you would save me, and instead you let me die." To which God replied: "I sent you a truck, a boat and a helicopter. You refused them all. What more did you expect of me?"

It seems the man expected God to beam him up off his roof 'Star Trek'-style, and set him down safely on high ground without any effort on his part. He kept telling others (and himself) that he had faith in God to save him, but what he really had was a lack of faith and deep mistrust in other people – people whose only desire and motive was to help save his life. This fear and mistrust sealed his doom.

A viral pandemic is raging. More than one in every one thousand people in the US have died from COVID 19. That's over one Covid-19 related death every minute of every day. Of those that recover, thousands suffer from long-term side effects. We know that people of color are disproportionately affected. We are four times more likely to be hospitalized with the disease and three times more likely to die from it because a disproportionate percentage of people in our communities have underlying health conditions that make us more vulnerable to the virus. Many people, including me, have written about the fact that social determinants underlie these health conditions; things like healthcare, financial and educational disparities. These are all things that must be changed in order for People of Color to thrive. But we can't thrive if we don't survive this pandemic.

As I write, there are two approved COVID-19 vaccines now being administered to the public. There is talk of a possible third vaccine coming soon. I'm personally saying, thank God, but a relatively large percentage of people, most especially People of Color, are saying they won't be vaccinated. A study from the Kaiser foundation finds that 35 percent of Black Americans would probably not or definitely not get the vaccine even though it has been determined to be safe by the foremost scientists in the field and will soon be widely available free of charge. Why won't they get vaccinated? -- because of fear and mistrust. Either they don't trust the science behind the vaccine, or they don't trust the government's motives and processes in approving it for inoculation of the public. I look at this issue from three perspectives: mistrust of government, mistrust of science and medicine, and lack of ethical consciousness.

Mistrust of government by Black and Brown people particularly around vaccines is totally understandable and absolutely justified. Though not the only incident, The Tuskegee Experiment is most often cited as an example of government exploitation, and unethical and racist practices in the pursuit of a scientific breakthrough. In 1932, a U.S. Government sanctioned medical experiment in conjunction with Tuskegee Institute was run using Black men with syphilis as subjects. In exchange for taking part in the study, the men received free medical exams, free meals, and burial insurance. The men were told they were being treated for the disease when in fact they weren't being treated at all.

The experiment was to track the disease's full progression in these men. Although originally projected to last 6 months, the study actually went on for 40 years. The progress of the disease in the men was followed until they died of the disease or left the study. 40 wives contracted the disease and 19 children were born with congenital syphilis. To add insult to grievous injury, 15 years later penicillin was approved as a treatment for syphilis. None of the men in the experiment were offered the cure. The experiment went on for another 25 years.

This degenerate history must be remembered and acknowledged. No excuses. However, what many people probably don't know is that In 1995 President Bill Clinton invited the surviving men who were test subjects, along with their descendants to the White House. In a public ceremony, Clinton apologized to the men, their families, and the country for the government sanctioned scientific experiment.

Twenty-two years before Clinton's apology, reparations were made. In 1973, a class-action lawsuit was filed on behalf of the study participants and their families. In 1974, a \$10 million out-of-court settlement was reached. As part of the settlement, the U.S. government promised to give lifetime medical benefits and burial services to all living participants. The Tuskegee Health Benefit Program (THBP) was established to provide these services. In 1975, wives, widows and offspring were added to the program. In 1995, the program was expanded to include health as well as medical benefits. What is not often spoken about are the protections that were put into place as a result of this horrendous experiment. The Office of Human Research Protections was established, as were independent data and safety monitoring boards with People of Color as members.

Let's look at medical/scientific mistrust. There are a segment of people opposed to any vaccine for any disease. They're known as "Anti-vaxxers." That's a whole separate issue, and not one I'm addressing here. I'm talking about COVID-19 vaccines. Yes, these vaccines were developed quickly. Is that reason enough not to trust the science behind them? Here's where education and critical thinking come in. While the onus falls on the medical community, the scientific community, and public leadership to educate people about the vaccine, it's also our responsibility to educate ourselves. Don't just listen to what so-'n'-so said, or rely on what people post on Facebook. It's as simple as a thorough Google search to find out how the vaccines were developed.

This may help reassure you. A Black woman, Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, PdD, was the key developer of the scientific approach in development of the Moderna vaccine, one of the two COVID-19 vaccines shown to be effective by more than 90 percent. Dr. Corbett is a research fellow and scientific lead at the National Institute of Health. In a statement Dr. Corbett said, "I want to make it clear that the work that we have been doing for so long, I personally stand by it, essentially with all of my being."

A significant number of the test subjects in the human trials were People of Color who volunteered and were given full knowledge of the particular purposes, procedures and possible side effects of testing. These are brave sisters, brothers and others who knowingly risked their health in the hope of saving millions of lives.

A Black woman, Sandra Lindsay, an intensive care nurse at Long Island Jewish Medical Center in Queens, was the first person to receive the coronavirus vaccine. She received the vaccine publicly in a news conference. Ms. Lindsay said she was not trying to make history but had volunteered in an effort to appeal directly to men and women of Color who are skeptical of vaccinations in general. Nurse Lindsay said, "It [the novel coronavirus vaccine] is



rooted in science, I trust science, and the alternative and what I have seen and experienced is far worse," she said. "So, it's important that everyone pulls together to take the vaccine, not only to protect themselves but also to protect everyone they will come into contact with."

The third perspective is one of ethics and morality. If I had the power, I'd personally arrest every coronavirus denier; everyone who refuses to comply with wearing a face mask and practice physical distancing; and everyone who chose to travel by plane or train or bus during the holiday season in order to attend a large family gathering at Thanksgiving and Christmas. I'd march them into the ICU of any hospital overflowing with COVID-19 patients and make them witness the pain and suffering their selfishness, willful ignorance, and stupidity may have caused. They'd have to look at doctors and nurses and other front-line health care providers stretched beyond their physical and emotional limits but pushing through their exhaustion to save the lives of people in their care. They'd have to navigate their way past patients struggling for every breath, lying in beds set up in what was once the cafeteria or the lobby, or the linen closet of a hospital.

Honestly, I don't know what else might convince them. I couldn't live with myself if I were responsible for giving anyone, but especially someone close to me this virus, because of my selfish stupidity, or lack of self-control. There is no such thing as being too careful. The unfortunate truth is we may think we're doing everything right and get it anyway. I personally know very conscientious people who have no idea how they contracted the virus, but somehow, they did.

For those of us trying to live through these times doing everything we personally can to stem the spread of the virus, with whatever endurance, strength and hope we can muster – I hope we see the COVID-19 vaccine for the gift of Divine Nature that it is.

Our health and possibly our lives are being threatened by a world-wide viral pandemic. As a person of Faith, I pray for an end to the pandemic, but I don't expect God to wave a hand and make it disappear. God works through us. Divine Nature has inspired health care professionals to put their lives on the line to save the lives of others; inspired the best scientific minds in the world to develop vaccines to combat this disease; Inspired ordinary people to put their own health in jeopardy, volunteering to be test subjects for a vaccine. God-Nature has given us minds capable of critical thinking, and hearts capable of compassion.

God has sent the truck, the boat and the helicopter. What more do we expect? Will we be governed by fear and false faith, or will we trust in the Divine Nature at work in the world through all of us?

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Rev. Beverly Spears is an ordained American Baptist minister, teacher and preacher of Evolutionary Christianity.

LOOKING BACK at 2020

BLACK LENS 5TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

January 2020 www.blacklensnews.com Vol. 6, Issue No. 1 Spokane's Black Community News Source



Income Inequality and the Racial Wealth Gap

By Charles Crowell
(Chief Executive Officer) The Black Lens 5th Anniversary Issue is a special double issue that highlights the economic challenges facing the Black community in Spokane. The issue features a special report on income inequality and the racial wealth gap, along with a special report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Black community. The issue also includes a special report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Black community, along with a special report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Black community.

The Spirit of the Emancipation Proclamation is Under Attack Again Today
By Charles Crowell
The Emancipation Proclamation is a cornerstone of American history. It is a document that has inspired generations of Americans to fight for freedom and justice. However, in recent years, the spirit of the Emancipation Proclamation has been under attack. This is a dangerous trend that must be stopped. The spirit of the Emancipation Proclamation is the spirit of freedom and justice. It is the spirit that has inspired generations of Americans to fight for freedom and justice. It is the spirit that has inspired generations of Americans to fight for freedom and justice.

January

January was the 5th Anniversary of the Black Lens and I reflected on that in my 'On My Mind' column. In national news we covered that for the first time Miss USA, Miss America, Miss Teen USA, Miss Universe and Miss World were all Black Women. The Black News Channel Network launched, and African Descendant of Slaves (ADOS) held their first national conference to discuss reparations. In local news, the Spokane Links, Inc. gathered Christmas presents for their Bahamas Chapter, former Miss America Vanessa Williams visited Spokane to perform at the Fox Theater with the Symphony and spent time with local high school and college students from across the city, and efforts were underway to revitalize the 5th Avenue area of Spokane's East Central neighborhood.

February

February 2020 www.blacklensnews.com Vol. 6, Issue No. 2 Spokane's Black Community News Source



A CHANGE HAS FINALLY COME

November Election Brings Historic Changes to Spokane School Board and City Council
It's been a long time coming, but I believe my change is gonna come. Oh, yes it is. The results of the November 2019 local elections brought with them historic changes to the Spokane School Board and City Council. For the first time, the Spokane School Board and City Council are both more representative of the community they serve. This is a historic moment for the Black community in Spokane, and it is a testament to the power of the Black Lens and the Black community in Spokane.

February

On the cover of the February issue we celebrated the appointment of Betsy Wilkerson to the Spokane City Council, making her the first African American to serve on Spokane's City Council in two decades. I also celebrated the election of Nikki Lockwood and Jenny Slagle, both women of color, to the Spokane School Board and the selection of Jerrall Haynes as the School Board President. In the news, basketball great Kobe Bryant and his daughter, Gianna, along with seven others, were killed in a helicopter crash in L.A., and Washington legislators created the first statewide Office of Equity. Calvary Baptist Church celebrated its 130th anniversary, the Links hosted their annual mammogram party and Spokane celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a march and community program.

IN THIS ISSUE

May 2020 www.blacklensnews.com Vol. 6, Issue No. 5 Spokane's Black Community News Source



Dying to Work

Forced to Choose Between Safety and Paying the Bills
By Mel Reeves
The COVID-19 pandemic has forced many Black workers to choose between safety and paying the bills. This is a dangerous trend that must be stopped. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced many Black workers to choose between safety and paying the bills. This is a dangerous trend that must be stopped. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced many Black workers to choose between safety and paying the bills. This is a dangerous trend that must be stopped.

Black Lens Launches Weekly Facebook Live Program

Spokane's Black Lens has launched a weekly Facebook Live program. The program is a weekly Facebook Live program that features a panel of Black community leaders discussing current events and issues affecting the Black community in Spokane. The program is a weekly Facebook Live program that features a panel of Black community leaders discussing current events and issues affecting the Black community in Spokane.

May

The May issue continued the coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic and the struggles of workers forced to choose between their health and paying their bills. In response to the pandemic, The Black Lens launched a weekly Facebook live program called 'Conversations in Black' that featured guests, including former Health Officer Dr. Bob Lutz, discussing the impact of COVID-19 on the community. We highlighted Principal Ivan Corley of Grant Elementary and the food and support that they provided to families in need and the creation by the Department of Commerce of a Small Business Resiliency Program to provide assistance to Minority Businesses. We also celebrated the appointment by Gov. Inslee of Judge G. Helen Whitener to the WA State Supreme Court.

IN THIS ISSUE

June 2020 www.blacklensnews.com Vol. 6, Issue No. 6 Spokane's Black Community News Source



EWU Eliminates Diversity Office

Students Say They Were Blindsided By President's Decision
By Sandra Williams
Eastern Washington University (EWU) has eliminated its Diversity Office, a move that has sparked outrage among students and faculty. The Diversity Office was a key part of EWU's commitment to diversity and inclusion, and its elimination is a setback for the university. Students and faculty are calling for the reinstatement of the Diversity Office and for greater transparency in the university's decision-making process.

George Floyd: "I Can't Breathe!"

George Floyd's death has sparked a global movement for racial justice. The video of George Floyd's murder has been viewed by millions of people around the world, and it has inspired a wave of protests and activism. The Black Lens is proud to be a part of this movement and to provide a platform for Black voices in the fight for racial justice.

June

In June the Black Lens reported on the death of George Floyd who was choked to death on May 25 by a Minneapolis Police Officer as he pleaded for his life. The released video of George Floyd's murder, as well as the murders of Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor, which were covered in the news, prompted protests around the world. The Black Lens also broke the story about efforts by Eastern Washington University to eliminate their Office of Diversity and eliminate the position of Dr. Shari Clarke, the Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion. The story prompted a public outcry. We also covered a campaign that was launched by the NAACP entitled #WeAreDoneDying, which was aimed at exposing the inequities embedded in the American healthcare system and the country at large.

IN THIS ISSUE

September 2020 www.blacklensnews.com Vol. 6, Issue No. 9 Spokane's Black Community News Source



Rest in Power King T'Challa

'Black Panther' Star Chadwick Boseman Dies After 4 Year Battle with Colon Cancer
By Renika Williams
The death of Chadwick Boseman, the star of the movie 'Black Panther', has shocked the world. Boseman was a talented actor and a dedicated professional. His death is a loss to the entertainment industry and to the world. The Black Lens is proud to have covered Boseman's journey and to provide a platform for his family and friends.

Senator Kamala Harris Makes Herstory

First Woman of Color to Run as VP on a Major Ticket
By Charles Crowell
Senator Kamala Harris has made history by becoming the first woman of color to run as Vice-President on a major ticket. This is a historic moment for the Black community in Spokane and for the United States. Harris is a powerful leader and a role model for Black women. The Black Lens is proud to have covered Harris's journey and to provide a platform for her family and friends.

September

In September, the Black Lens reported on the death Chadwick Boseman, who lost a four year battle with colon cancer. He portrayed the beloved character King T'Challa in the record breaking film 'Black Panther'. Senator Kamala Harris made history when she was selected as the first woman of color to run as Vice-President on a major ticket. The Spokane Health Board declared racism a "public health issue," and a group of 38 Black-led organizations & 300 individuals joined forces to launch Washington for Black Lives (W4BL), a new coalition to combat police violence. We also shared a personal story about the impact of Sickle Cell, featured a local artist, spotlighted Little Scholars Early Learning Center and discussed COVID-19 becoming the 3rd leading cause of death for Black Americans.

Election 2020

October 2020 www.blacklensnews.com Vol. 6, Issue No. 10 Spokane's Black Community News Source



A Letter From Spokane's Black Clergy

To Spokane's White Clergy in Response to a Request for Forgiveness
By Charles Crowell
The Black Lens is proud to have covered the request for forgiveness from Spokane's white clergy. This is a historic moment for the Black community in Spokane and for the United States. The Black Lens is proud to have covered the request for forgiveness from Spokane's white clergy. This is a historic moment for the Black community in Spokane and for the United States.

October

The October issue was the Black Lens Election issue. The issue featured questions and answers from Congressional candidates, as well as State Senators & Representatives, County Commissioners, and candidates for Superintendent of Public Instruction. The front page featured the response from Spokane's Black Clergy to a request for forgiveness from white clergy. We introduced Lisa Gardner the new Director of Communications at the City, covered the lack of charges brought against Officer Brett Hankison in Breonna Taylor's killing, indicted not on murder charges but on three counts of "wanton endangerment" for bullets that went into the white neighbor's apartment, and we celebrated WA Supreme Court Justice G. Helen Whitener who received the "Passing the Torch Award."

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Carl Maxey Center Update

Rental Assistance, Student Support & Cash Grants. Oh My!

Like many other non-profit organizations, the Carl Maxey was very very busy in the lead up to the end of the year, and we have been extremely excited about the opportunities that have been presented to us to offer support and resources that could be focused specifically on Spokane's Black community.

The Carl Maxey Center had the opportunity to partner with the Emmanuel Family Life Center and Jesus is the Answer to participate in a rental assistance program that was being offered by the City of Spokane and Spokane County through SNAP. We were able to assist over 100 families with up to three months rent in an effort to prevent evictions during the COVID-19 pandemic. The partnership proved to be a very effective one and it is one that we hope to continue if/when additional funds become available.

Additionally, we were able to partner with Comcast to create a student tech fund so that we could offer families participating in the rental assistance program access to technology and supplies to support remote learning. Students having access to the supplies that they need has been a barrier for success, particularly in communities of color. The student tech fund is just the first of what we hope are many efforts directed at mini-

mizing the negative impact that remote learning is having on Black students.

The Carl Maxey Center also partnered with the Spokane NAACP and the Spokane Ministerial Fellowship to apply for an All in for Washington grant that was to be administered by the Seattle Foundation. The purpose of the grant was to provide emergency cash assistance to individuals and families impacted by COVID-19.

We were elated when we received word that our coalition had been awarded \$150,000 to provide cash grants to families in Spokane's African American community. The Carl Maxey Center, the NAACP and the Ministers Fellowship all reached out to our respective networks to identify families in need and we have been able to provide cash assistance to over 100 families so far and counting. What a way to start the new year!!!

We are also excited to say that our staff is growing by leaps and bounds. We hired Briana several months ago part-time and through grant funding we have been able to increase her hours to full time, YAY! We have also added our amazing bookkeeper, Dorothy, to keep us in line. I don't think she knew what she was getting herself in to. Smile. Additionally, we have three interns now. Anesu, who is starting this month, and came to us through a partnership with Mark & Kara Odegard at Measure Meant (thank you) and Chauncella and Brianna who are Whitworth University students working on a Black History project for the Center, that we will be able to include as a display in the Center as well as a curriculum to share with area schools.

Because of all of the financial support that we have received this year, including funding from the Dept. of Commerce, Group Health Foundation, Washington Census Alliance, Innovia Foundation, Better Health Together, BECU, All in for WA/Seattle Foundation, U.S. Bank and Gesa Credit Union, we are still moving forward with the remodel of the Carl Maxey Center building. Fingers crossed that we will be able to complete the first phase of the remodel by this spring or early summer. Maybe for Juneteenth??? Stay tuned.



Comcast Black Employee Network & Carl Maxey Center Create New Technology Program for Black Students

Earlier this year, Comcast committed to investing more in communities of color across the country to help create a more equitable society. The commitment includes a multi-year plan to allocate \$100 million to fight injustice and inequality directed against any race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, or ability.

As a part of these efforts, Comcast is working with organizations focused on eradicating injustice and inequity nationwide, and partnering locally with community-based organizations across Washington state to support their mission.

While grants and funding are a part of this work, Comcast is even more passionate about the new programs that are being created with local organizations through collaborations with the Comcast Black Employees Network (BEN).

The Comcast BEN team is comprised of employees of all levels and functions and is designed to provide a supportive and collaborative environment for those who identify with Black communities or for those who seek to be active allies, as well.

The Black Employees Network is one of several employee groups Comcast has created. The company also had groups focused on supporting Asian Pacific Americans; people with disabilities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer employees; Hispanic/Latino employees; veterans; women; and young professionals.

The Comcast Washington BEN team has identified organizations in communities across the state that are creating impactful solutions to advance people of color that could benefit from grant assistance, as well



as a deeper collaboration with local employees who are active in their community.

In Spokane, the BEN team reached out to the Carl Maxey Center and its Executive Director Sandra Williams. The Team instantly connected with Williams and the Maxey Center's goal of building a new, sustainable and technologically innovative cultural center on 5th Avenue in Spokane's East Central neighborhood that will be committed to changing lives and improving the well-being of Spokane's African American community. BEN members also connected with the Maxey Center's goal of helping to expand educational opportunities for local Black youth.

Comcast's resources and background in connecting families and students to internet and technology resources seemed like the perfect addition to support the efforts of The Carl Maxey Center, the Emmanuel Family Life Center and Jesus is the Answer who were partnering to provide rental

assistance to Spokane families through a partnership with Spokane County and the City of Spokane.

After extensive planning and collaboration, Comcast is unveiling a new program designed to equip and empower Black youth in Spokane – **the Comcast Student Tech Fund**, a program which will provide technological resources and supplies to students who are facing barriers to remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Williams believes this partnership will have an impact on the people the Carl Maxey Center serves and also hopes this is the beginning of a lasting partnership with the Spokane Comcast team and the Black Employee Network. "This new program is something we are very excited about because we know there are families and students within Spokane's African American community that can truly benefit from these resources," Williams notes. "The pandemic has had a devastat-

ing impact on students from communities of color, and access to technology and resources can play a supporting role in helping to bridge this gap. We appreciate the Comcast Black Employees Network for connecting with us on this partnership and look forward to working with them to help students and families and to create a lasting impact on our community."

Through this new program launching in 2021, any families with students in Spokane County School Districts, who received benefits from the Carl Maxey Center's rental assistance efforts, or who are facing financial challenges, can apply to receive remote learning equipment and technology to support distance learning. Over the next year, Comcast and the Carl Maxey Center hope to impact more than two-dozen students and families through this program.

In addition to the Student Tech Program, Comcast is working with the Carl Maxey Center to support the community by providing things like low-cost internet connectivity, subsidized computers and other hardware, and more, via our **Internet Essentials program**, which will allow Comcast to work with the Center to connect as many folks to needed internet resources as possible.

The goal is to ensure that as many families across Spokane as possible can be supported by giving them tools, technology, and resources that support successful remote learning.

For more information about the Comcast Internet Essentials Program contact the Carl Maxey Center or visit <https://internet-essentials.com/apply>.

How Score is Helping Black Small Businesses Combat COVID Obstacles

By Jeffrey McKinney
Reprinted from Black Enterprise (blackenterprise.com)

COVID-19 keeps producing more turbulence for Black entrepreneurs, arguably the worst hit among small business owners by the pandemic.

Black proprietors are feeling the crisis in multiple ways not disclosed before. Those snares include being greater encumbered by remote work requirements, less likely to gain extended lines of credit or outside funding, and facing more difficulty attracting investors.

The discoveries are revealed in *“The Megaphone of Main Street: The Impact of COVID-19,”* a data report done by SCORE, which calls itself the nation’s largest network of small business experts. The report includes an examination of Black-owned businesses, using data from a diverse group of roughly 3,500 U.S. small business owners, including Black entrepreneurs.

Simultaneously, SCORE aims to help businesses. It plans to launch a Black Business Owners Hub in February to provide more specialized resources for Black entrepreneurs. The effort will be similar to the Hispanic Business Owners Hub SCORE rolled out recently.

Touching on the new findings, SCORE Vice President of External Relations Betsy Dougert provided this email statement to Black Enterprise:

“During the pandemic, Black-owned businesses have been more likely to seek—but less likely to receive—both private and government funding, pointing to alarming systemic inequalities that have been baked into the financial system for years. Black small business owners are more than twice as likely as White small business owners to report they do not have a strong relationship with a community bank, and they are more likely to report lower credit scores, both of which put them at a disadvantage when accessing capital. SCORE is here to provide all entrepreneurs with free guidance and support to overcome these roadblocks and thrive, despite the odds.”

Some of the report’s top findings include:

COVID-19 and other health concerns disrupt Black owners far more than White business owners. Black business owners are about 91% more likely to have a direct relationship—family, staff, or themselves—with someone diagnosed with the virus.

Racial disparities with federal loans are stunning. The SCORE data showed that around 53% of Black-owned businesses applied for PPP loans, and 20% received the full amount. Conversely, nearly 48% of White-owned businesses applied, and about 64% got what they sought. The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) helped run the program for PPP loans. The disparity is telling as SBA data show over \$525 billion of loans were made since PPP started in April and closed in early August.

COVID-19 has walloped the bottom line at Black-owned firms, with only about 9% reporting profitability and growth. That figure was nearly 15% for White businesses.

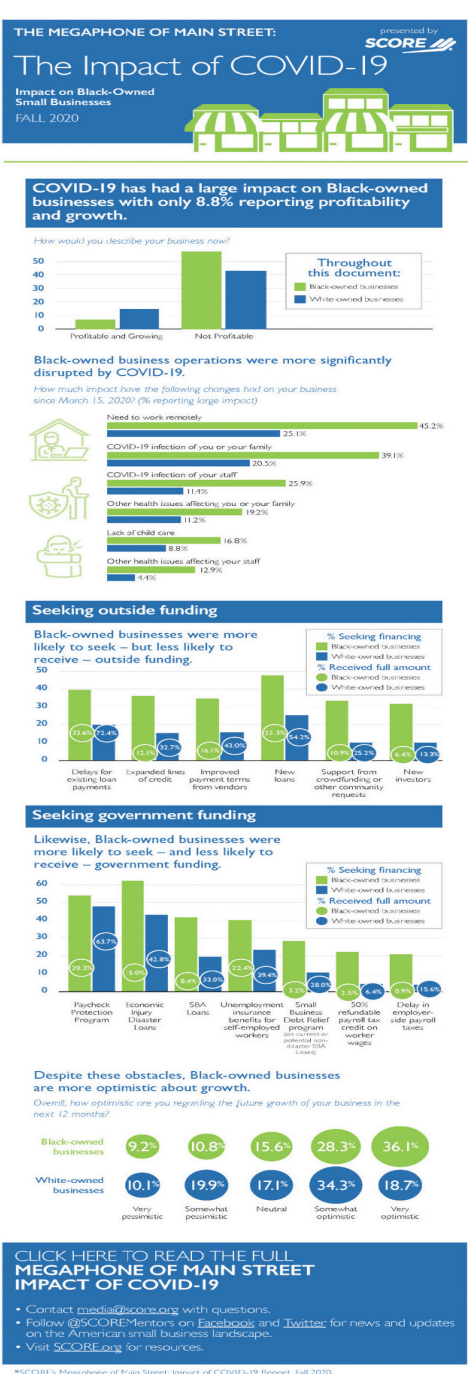
The pandemic smacked Black businesses harder operationally. Some 45% of those firms found the need to work remotely since mid-March, versus 25% for White-owned firms.

Black businesses suffered other difficulties. They included being two times less likely than White businesses to get extended lines of credit. Black firms were over twice as likely to have staff infected by COVID-19 than White firms.

See more findings here: <https://www.score.org/resource/infographic/megaphone-main-street-impact-covid-Black-owned-small-businesses>

On the support front, small business owners can also visit **SCORE.org** to connect with a free, expert mentor who can help with financing, and help make their marketing strategy effective for the new year.

Entrepreneurs can find more free help at the Small Business Resilience Hub (score.org/recovery/small-business-resilience). Check out the SCORE on-demand webinar for re-strategizing your business plan to prevail during the pandemic (score.org/event/re-strategize-your-business-planning-prevail-pandemic).



Spokane Black Business Directory



- ▶ Search.
- ▶ Find.
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Welcome to:
BlackSpokane.com

The Carl Maxey Center is excited to share Spokane's Black Business Directory at www.BlackSpokane.com. The businesses are listed in alphabetical order and searchable by category.

This is just the beginning. Our goal is to eventually make this a comprehensive snapshot of Black Spokane, including Black businesses, organizations, professionals, churches and events.

If you are an African American professional or a business that is at least 51% Black owned and would like to be included in the directory, please contact the Carl Maxey Center at carlmaxeycenter@gmail.com.

To add your business call 509-795-1886.



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Your Voice is Needed

January 3, 2021



Dear City of Spokane Resident,

I am pleased to share with you under the leadership of City Councilor Betsy Wilkerson with the support of the Empire Health Foundation, Councilor Wilkerson has chosen to embark on an assessment of the experiences of African Americans residing in the City of Spokane.

You are receiving this communication because you are a vital and important part of the Spokane community.

The assessment of African American experiences in Spokane will provide a snapshot of the daily realities of African American lifestyles, successes, barriers, and challenges. This information will inform Councilor Wilkerson and the members of City Council by providing quantitative research that focuses on the collection and analysis of data, narratives collected through interviews, events and stories, personal insights, and observations.

There are two options available for you to participate:

- 1) You may participate in an **anonymous** survey. The link is below
https://ollusa.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dhzgeQdysSXwdQV
- 2) You may opt to participate in a virtual zoom interview with Dr. Clarke (names of participants will not be shared or used in the writing of the assessment findings).

To schedule a Zoom interview, please contact my Assistant, Marilyn Dreis, at marilyndreis77@gmail.com or (509) 559-9323.

I hope you will add your voice to this assessment process. The strength of Spokane is in its diversity.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. I am available at sjc.culturalconsultant@gmail.com or 509-319-5234.

I eagerly look forward to speaking with you.

Warmest Regards,

Shari Clarke

Shari Clarke, PhD
Principal Consultant



Scan Code to Access Survey

Lilac City Legends

Spokane will soon be home to an ABA Basketball Team



SPOKANE, Wash. – Starting in 2021, the Lilac City Legends will begin their inaugural season playing in the North Region of the Pacific Division of the American Basketball Association (ABA). The team plans to play games on Saturdays and Sundays against opponents which include the Seattle Transformers, the Quad City Flames and the Idaho Outlaws.

Michael Bethely is the team’s president and is excited about what the Legends can provide to the community.

“We want to honor, encourage, inspire and create legends within our community,” said Bethely, a Hoopfest 2017 Toyota Shootoff winner himself, who currently lives in Spokane. “We are dedicated to serving the Spokane community through an engaging, entertaining, and enhancing basketball experience. Plus, we want to highlight the value of community, and show how it is so much bigger than basketball.”

The Lilac City Legends are one of the latest additions to the ABA, which has over 100 teams spread across six divisions.

The ABA was established in 1967 before it merged into the NBA in 1976. The league disbanded but re-launched

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in 1999 and has been growing as a minor league outlet for players ever since. Some of the past ABA notable players were Julius Irving (Dr. J), George Garvin (The Iceman), Ricky Barry, Moses Malone along with many others, that came to be NBA players. The ABA still uses a colorful red, white and blue ball, instead of the traditional orange ball.

Paul Butorac, who formally played basketball for Eastern Washington University and professionally abroad, will be the Legend’s head coach.

“We want to use the mutual love for the game of basketball as a change agent for the community,” said Butorac. “The Lilac City Legends will provide a new and fun way for the community to connect with each other.”

And, with the talent hanging around the area, expect the Legends to put on an entertaining product. In anticipation of expanding the Lilac City Legends team, tryouts will be hosted in January 2021 to expedite the team formation process.

For more information about team news, future events, and fandom opportunities; as well as sponsorship opportunities for businesses, please visit LilacCityLegends.com.

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In First Act of New Congress, Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee Introduces Reparations Bill

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire
Senior National Correspondent
@StacyBrownMedia

With the start of the 117th Congress this week, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas), a senior member of the House Committees on Judiciary, Budget, and Homeland Security, has reaffirmed her quest for legislation that could eventually provide reparations for slavery victims.

On Monday, January 4, 2021, Jackson Lee re-introduced H.R. 40, a bill that would fund a committee to explore whether Black Americans should receive reparations for slavery.

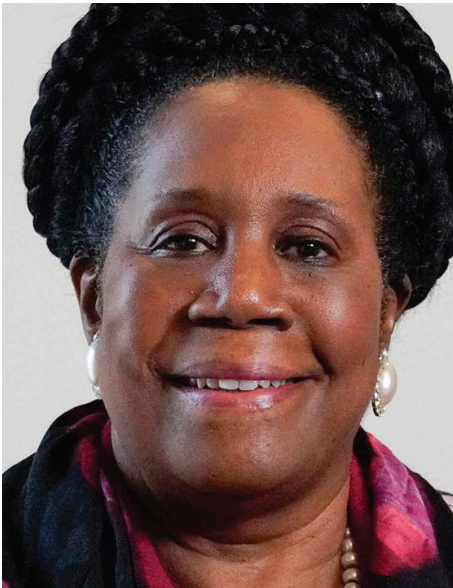
While it does not directly introduce payments, the Commission would study racial inequities and policy solutions.

“In short, the Commission aims to study the impact of slavery and continuing discrimination against African-Americans, resulting directly and indirectly from slavery to segregation to the desegregation process and the present day,” stated Jackson Lee.

The Congresswoman also serves as the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

“The commission would also make recommendations concerning any form of apology and compensation to begin the long-delayed process of atonement for slavery.”

Under H.R. 40, the Commission would



comprise members appointed by the White House and both Congress chambers.

The bill has had increased support with 147 co-sponsors in the House, all Democrats.

Because Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky) and Republicans in the Senate have indicated strong opposition to taking the measure up in that Chamber, the Georgia runoff elections count as a huge step toward getting the bill passed.

Two Senate seats are at stake in Georgia, with Democrats Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock squaring off against Republicans Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue.

“The impact of slavery and its vestiges continues to affect African Americans and indeed all Americans in communities

throughout our nation,” Jackson Lee remarked.

“This legislation is intended to examine the institution of slavery in the colonies and the United States from 1619 to the present, and further recommend appropriate remedies. Since the initial introduction of this legislation, its proponents have made substantial progress in elevating the discussion of reparations and reparatory justice at the national level and joining the mainstream international debate on the issues.”

Jackson Lee noted that some have “tried to deflect” the importance of these conversations by focusing on individual monetary compensation.

“The real issue is whether and how this nation can come to grips with the legacy of slavery that still infects current society. Through legislation, resolutions, news, and litigation, we are moving closer to making more strides in the movement toward reparations,” Jackson Lee said.

The Texas Congresswoman noted that she expects more co-sponsors during the new Congress.

“Today, there are more people at the table — more activists, more scholars, more CEO’s, more state and local officials, and more Members of Congress,” she declared.

“However, despite this progress and the election of the first American President of African descent, the legacy of slavery lingers heavily in this nation. While we have

focused on the social effects of slavery and segregation, its continuing economic implications remain largely ignored by mainstream analysis.”

Jackson Lee continued:

“These economic issues are the root cause of many critical issues in the African American community today, such as education, healthcare, and criminal justice policy, including policing practices. The call for reparations represents a commitment to entering a constructive dialogue on the role of slavery and racism in shaping present-day conditions in our community and American society.

“I believe that H.R. 40 is a crucial piece of legislation because it goes beyond exploring the economic implications of slavery and segregation.

“It is a holistic bill in the sense that it seeks to establish a commission to also examine the moral and social implications of slavery.

“In short, the Commission aims to study the impact of slavery and to address continuing disparities in the African American community and discrimination against the African American community, resulting directly and indirectly from slavery to segregation.

“After its study, the Commission would offer proposals concerning the long-term impact of slavery and bring about solutions to these ongoing disparities in the African American Community.”

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Meet the Black Women That Turned Georgia Blue

By Erin Feher
Reprinted from represent-collaborative.com

On Tuesday, January 5, Democrats won both Georgia runoff elections—and control of the U.S. Senate. Democrat Raphael Warnock defeated Republican Sen. Kelly Loeffler 50.8 percent to 49.2 percent, and Democrat Jon Ossoff defeated Republican David Perdue 50.4 percent to 49.6 percent. This was a huge win for Democrats, and a significant shift for the long-red state of Georgia, which showed it’s blue hue for the first time in November.

Why did a Deep South state like Georgia finally go blue, while others that pollsters predicted to flip stayed solidly red? Although much of the media has rightfully praised **Stacey Abrams** and the organizations she founded—Fair Fight Action, which advocates against voter suppression; New Georgia Project, which helped registered over a million new voters in just over 3 years; and Fair Count, which seeks to get communities of color, rural populations and other marginalized groups counted in the 2020 Census—for playing a crucial role in helping flip Georgia this election, she didn’t do it alone. Let’s meet (and support!) the squad that worked alongside her.

In the run-up to the 2020 presidential election, the New Georgia Project sent over 1.2 million text messages, made 2.2 million phone calls and knocked on over 370,000 doors to motivate voters to register to vote and get to the polls. And while Abrams founded the organization, it’s run by **Nsé Ufot**, who is the executive director of both the New Georgia Project and its political arm, the New Georgia Project Action Fund. Ufot emigrated from Nigeria to Atlanta as a kid, graduated from the Georgia

Institute of Technology and University of Dayton Law School and was previously an executive at Canada’s largest faculty union and a lobbyist for the American Association of University Professors. And she has been working HARD.

“The balance of power in the Senate literally rests in the hands of Georgia voters,” Ufot recently told Yahoo Finance. “We’re excited to have conversations with Georgians about how they leverage this power that they have in this moment. I think that never before have Georgians mattered more to, you know, our democracy.... Elections are compression points for us. They’re opportunities for us to test the power that we’re building and an opportunity to bring about the change that we seek, to elect champions or people who will co-govern with communities to bring about the changes that we seek.”

Another Black female leader to whom we all owe a massive debt of gratitude is **Melanie Campbell** of The National Co-

alition on Black Participation (NCBCP), which has been vigilant in helping citizens vote with minimal barriers this election. Campbell is president of the nonpartisan NCBCP and convener of the Black Women’s Roundtable, a program centered on harnessing black women’s voting power to influence policy around the issues that matter most to them. Campbell has worked for more than a decade on voter enfranchisement, community engagement, and voter registration and is recognized as one of the hardest working servant leaders in today’s Civil Rights, Women’s Rights and Social Justice Movement.

Campbell and the NCBCP work closely with the Georgia Coalition for The People’s Agenda, which is run by another game-changing Black woman, executive director **Helen Butler**. The People’s Agenda helped lead election protection in Georgia, and works to improve the quality of governance in Georgia, help create a more informed and active electorate, and have

responsive and accountable elected officials. She is especially concerned with justice reform and protecting voting rights.

Then there is **Tamieka Atkins** of Pro Georgia, ProGeorgia is Georgia’s state based non-partisan voter engagement advocacy organization—they do the work to increase the vote share of historically underrepresented and socially responsible voters in Georgia, and provide member groups with critical tools, resources, and services to enhance and improve their voter contact work. She’s also at the head of The Women of Color Initiative, which supports women of color in policy-making and leadership positions to strengthen all of Georgia. We

strive to support the self-determination and leadership of women of color in their development of statewide policy agendas.

LaTosha Brown is a co-creator of the Black Voters Matter Fund, an electoral organizing group that keys in on voter registration, policy advocacy, and organizational development and training. Their hands-on programs, like a Warrant Clinic that helps people clear warrants and fines they can’t afford and lifts barrier to employment, housing, and voting at the most fundamental level.

And let’s not forget **Deborah Scott** of Georgia STAND-UP, which played a massive role in educating voters and getting them registered to vote in this historic election. Georgia STAND-UP is an alliance of community, labor, and faith organizations that promote economic justice and smart growth strategies through research, education, and advocacy. *Continued on Page 27*



Clockwise from top left: LaTosha Brown, Stacey Abrams, Nsé Ufot, Melanie L. Campbell, Tamieka Atkins, Helen Butler, and Deborah Scott.

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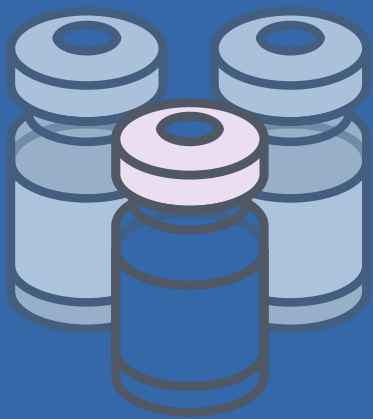
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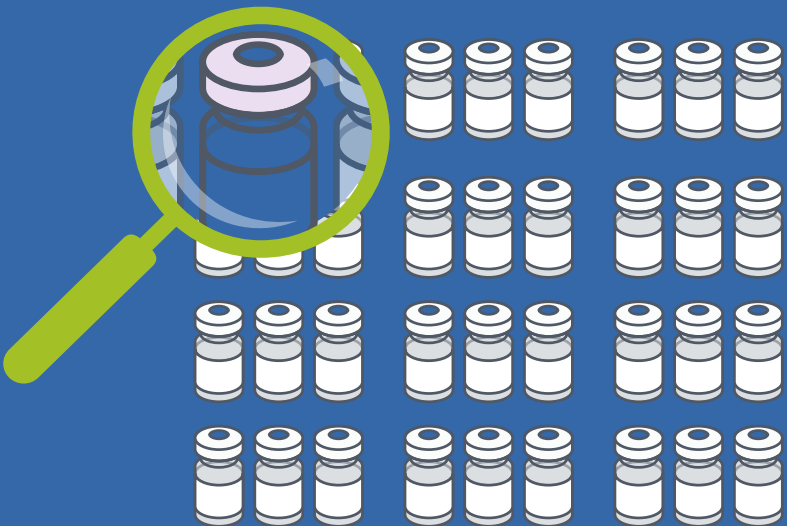
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How are COVID Vaccines Being Made?



Here are some answers to questions you may have about the COVID-19 vaccines currently being produced, tested and approved.



How are COVID vaccines being produced faster?

Usually vaccine testing and production are done as separate steps, but because of the pandemic, vaccines are being developed on parallel tracks - meaning we're still doing both steps, just at the same time.

How are the vaccines being tested?

Several different COVID vaccines are in testing right now. Each of them goes through more than one clinical trial; first with a small group of volunteers, then a couple hundred, then thousands.



How will the vaccines get approved?

Not all COVID vaccine versions that go through clinical trials will make it to the final stages of testing and approval. Produced vaccines that do not pass will be destroyed. But for those that do make it past clinical trials, a team of medical experts will examine test results and possible side effects. If the vaccine works and it's safe, it gets approved. Then it gets to you.



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Visit spokanearts.org/artists to find a full roster of working musicians, designers, visual artists, photographers and more for all your special projects, virtual lessons and unique creative needs. All creatives in the Spokane area can join the roster at spokanearts.org/join-the-roster/. This free roster is a searchable tool designed to help community members find local artists.

The Ladies that Turned Georgia Blue

Continued from Page 24

And of course, there is Stacey. If you haven't watched her new film or read her book, there is no better time. She has truly dedicated herself to winning—not her own personal political victories, but winning the elevation of the voice and will of the people.

“When I ran for governor, I did not run simply for me. We went around this state to all 159 counties, and everywhere we went we talked about the power of people to make a choice,” Abrams tells the crowd. “On November 6th, when malfeasance and incompetence and my opponent who was a cartoon villain stole the voices of Georgians when he purged 1.4 million voters and oversaw the shutdown of 214 precincts that left 50,000 to 60,000 people without the ability to vote, when Georgia had the longest lines in the nation and the highest rejection rates of absentee

ballots and provisional ballots,” Abrams continues, “It was not just about me. He was doing that to Georgians,” Abrams told the Washington Post back in May. “And the thing is, if I had fought back and said, ‘I am going to contest this election and make myself governor,’ then everyone who loved me and stood with me would have thought, ‘Well, this is about her fight.’ My responsibility was instead to focus on the right to vote and not my right to be governor. I had no right to be governor, but I have an obligation to do the work that I said I would do if I were governor.”

"We knocked on doors in pockets of communities that had never been touched. And we kept coming back," Abrams told CBS News national correspondent Mark Strassmann. "Is there anyone else in your family who needs to register? What about your neighbors?"

Hospital Bills Covered For Uninsured COVID Patients

Continued From 13

Darius Settles knew he was in bad shape. But he didn't attempt to make a third trip to the hospital. Instead of 911, he called his father, pastor David Settles, and asked his father to come pray for him.

When the elder Settles replied that he was always praying for his son, Darius said, "No, I really need you to pray for me. I need you to get the oil, lay hands on me and pray," David Settles recalls, and so he went, despite concern for getting COVID-19 himself.

He sat by his son's side. Darius' wife made some peppermint tea, and when they put it to his lips, Darius didn't sip. They thought he had fallen asleep. But he was unconscious. At that point, they called 911 again and the operator instructed them to get Darius to the floor and perform chest compressions until paramedics arrived.

For 11 minutes, Angela Settles pumped her husband's chest, occasionally asking the dispatcher "what's taking so long," the 911 recordings show. Even after help showed up, Darius never revived.

Pastor Settles was back in the pulpit just a few weeks later, preaching on suffering and grief after the death of his son, "whom I watched as the breath left his body," he told his congregation. "The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away."

Darius Settles left behind his own son, who was 6. And his widow's head is still spinning. She says she can't shake a sense of personal guilt.

"Could I have done more?" Angela Settles asks. "That's hard, and I know that he would not want me to feel like that."

She wonders, too, if the hospital could have done more for him. And even after failing to disclose its policy for uninsured COVID-19 patients, it did send her a bill for part of her husband's care. Asked why, a TriStar spokesperson says it was sent in error and does not have to be paid.

This story is from a reporting partnership that includes WPLN, NPR and KHN.

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Strolling to the Polls



Members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. stroll near Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium to encourage voter turnout. Photo Credit: Mario Page

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‘Black Men in White Coats’ Are Inspiring Black Boys to Become Doctors Too!



Dr. Dale Okorodudu, an African-American doctor and the founder of Black Men in White Coats, aims to make an impact on the world by helping develop future leaders in medicine. He recently organized a youth summit with a goal to inspire Black boys to pursue the career of becoming a doctor as well. “Some alarming data came out that the number of Black men applying to the field of medicine was decreasing. There were actually less in 2011 than there was in 1978,” Dr. Okorodudu shared via the organization’s YouTube channel. “Our mission is to inspire the next generation of physician leaders and to diversify the field of medicine with a special emphasis on Black males.”

In hopes to do that, Dr. Okorodudu organized the first ever Black Men in White Coats Youth Summit at UT Southwestern last Sunday. It was attended by hundreds of students from third-grade level to middle and high school. They got to connect th educators, clinicians, and community leaders as well as discovered resources that would help them as they take on the path of becoming doctors.

African-American youth who attended the summit got to better understand the science behind the career. They experienced CPR training, demonstrations on how to make a splint, anatomy exploration, among others.

Parents, who were required to attend with elementary students, also benefited from the tips on how to help their children on that career path. “I think it’s good to see the representation, to see someone that looks like them who has gone through the career pathway, so that way, they know that it’s very feasible. That it’s very possible for them,” Brittany Drake, one of the parents who attended the summit with her sons, told Fox 4 News.

Most importantly, the summit encouraged Black youth that they can be anything they put their mind into. It directly showed them what they can achieve in the future, like becoming a doctor.

“Medicine is a long road but it’s a road that many people who perhaps look like them have gone through and been successful. Medicine is a rewarding and exciting and interesting field. I hardly saw any Black males when I was coming up as a resident,” Dr. Emeka Etufugh shared. “I think it’s something to see somebody that looks like you, to inspire you, to help you know that it’s possible to come through this process and be a physician.”

This article was originally published by BlackNews.com.

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Julia, age 58, Mississippi

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Spokane Police Department Seeking Your Input

The Spokane Police Department is seeking your input on our service to the community regarding trust, professionalism, community outreach and more. The results of this survey will be used in an ongoing effort to assess and improve SPD training and practices.

The survey is similar to other surveys SPD has put out since 2015, with Department of Justice assistance. Thank you for taking the time to fill out this short (approx. 5 minutes) online survey. Please do so before January 15.

You can access the survey at this link:

<https://my.spokanecity.org/news/stories/2020/12/04/spokane-police-department-survey/>

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The work that provided the basis for this publication was supported in part by funding under a grant with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD. NWFHA is solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations contained in this publication.



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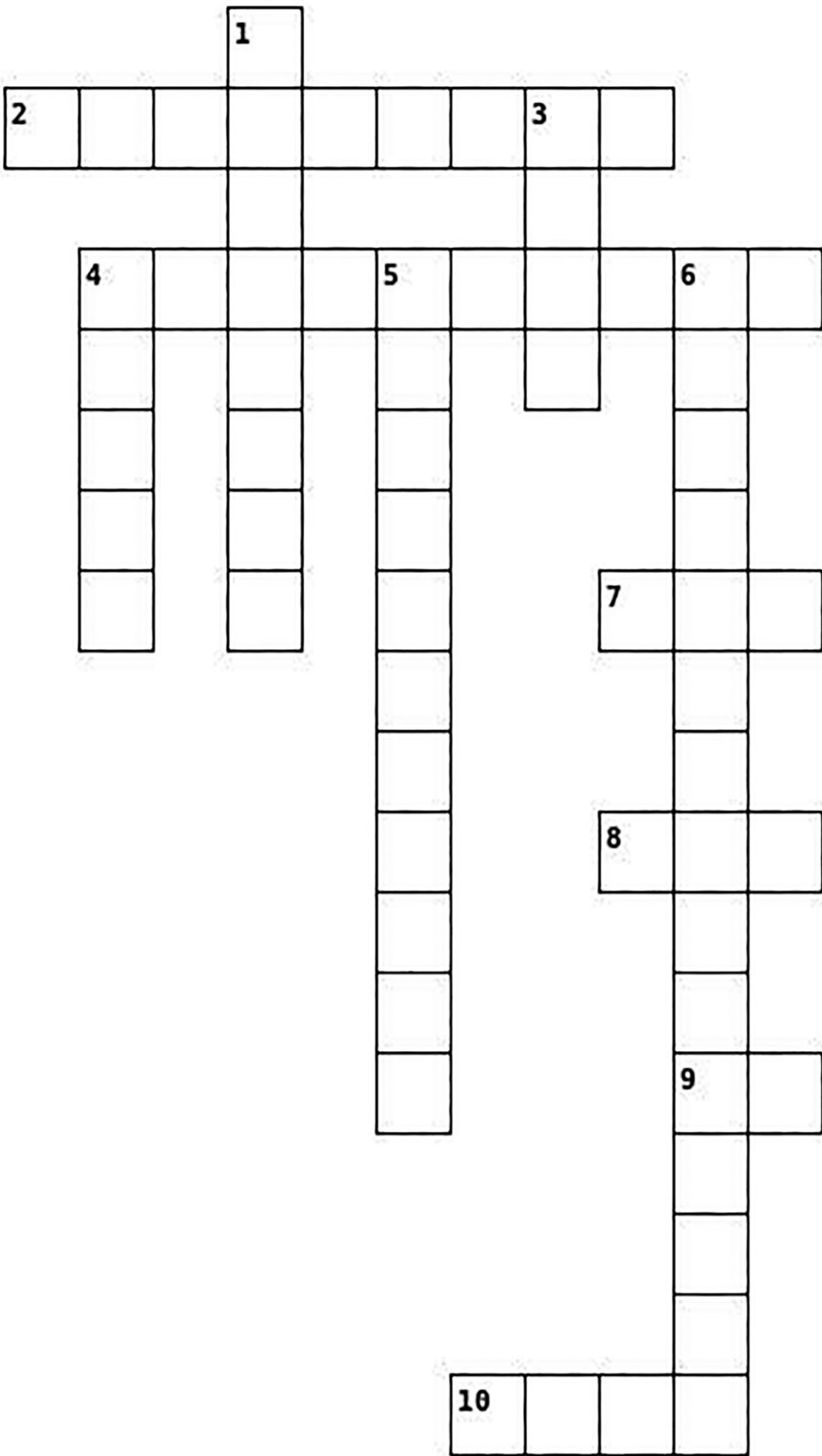
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Martin Luther King Jr. Crossword Puzzle



Down

- 1. Martin Luther King Jr. met secretly with this president to encourage a “Second Emancipation Proclamation”.
- 3. Acronym for the four-worded organization Martin Luther King Jr. led to further the civil right movement.
- 4. To which Black-led organization was Martin Luther King Jr. elected president?
- 5. Which one of Martin Luther King Jr.’s speeches has remained the most popular over time?
- 6. In 1964, at 34, Martin Luther King Jr. became the youngest person to receive a _____ (3 words) in Oslo, Norway.

Across

- 2. Martin Luther King Jr. attended his freshman year of college at _____ College.
- 4. In contrast to “By any means necessary”, Martin Luther King Jr. forged a _____ movement.
- 7. Voting rights marchers were attacked in Selma, AL marching to Montgomery in an event known as _____ (2 words).
- 8. The “March on _____” drew over a quarter million people to the National Mall.
- 9. Martin Luther King Jr. worked on the _____ People’s Campaign, to create a coalition that would advocate for economic change.
- 10. Which magazine named Martin Luther King Jr. Man of the Year in 1963?

Answers on Page 36

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OUR VOICES

A Pandemic of Vanishing Black Wealth

By Pamela J. Oakes
Source: Seattle Medium, seattlemedium.com

As a nonprofit fund development consultant, it is my job to keep my mind on the money and the money on my mind! To best serve my clients, my eyes are keenly focused on pools of wealth; how to find it, how to attract it, and how to access it. In the midst of helping clients pivot and reimagine funding in the wake of COVID19, I’ve become keenly aware of the looming financial devastation this pandemic is about to exact from African-American communities!

Let’s recap. By the official end of the Great Recession in 2009, the median net worth for African-Americans had fallen to a mere \$5,677. By comparison, the net worth for Whites was \$113,149. That’s a \$100,000+ wealth gap! The toll of the Great Recession on African-Americans was to basically wipe out an entire generation’s worth of hard work and progress!

Remember, that was barely 10 years ago and in case you were wondering – NO, that wealth loss has never been recouped! In her article for the Center for American Progress, Danyelle Solomon notes that a 2016 review of Black wealth reflected that the median was only about half of what it was right before the Great Recession whereas the median White wealth in 2016 had GROWN by almost 15%!

It should come as no surprise that a recession only exacerbates the already vicious patterns of low wealth for Black families. Yet, in an unprecedented twist of fate, never before seen in history, while we are still reeling from the economic losses of last decade’s Great Recession... here we go AGAIN! According to researchers at Brandeis University, it was estimated that half the collective wealth of African-Americans was stripped away during the Great Recession. Where do we expect to be by the end of 2020? Or 2021?

COVID19 spotlights the harm that unequal distributions of wealth have on Black and Brown communities. It is also crucial to recognize that the lack of wealth in these communities is not due to individual choices but rather 400 years of collective federal, state, and municipal harms compounded over time.

It is wealth – especially wealth liquidity (resources that can be quickly converted to cash) – that provides security and allows people to handle unexpected health, financial and life emergencies (like losing your job & benefits to a national pandemic!) Unfortunately, those who are most likely to suffer the impact of this crisis will be disproportionately non-white.

Of course, I am all for policy recommendations like:

- Ensuring access to affordable or no-cost medical care



- Ensuring paid sick, family, and medical leaves are available to all workers
- Sending cash directly to households
- Increasing access to capital for minority businesses
- Taking comprehensive action on student loan debt
- Temporarily waiving late payments for credit card and auto loan payments
- Placing a moratorium on housing evictions and home foreclosures

But, if history is any indication, Black people can wait a literal lifetime hoping for policy changes to catch up to needs in the Black community. So, let this be your wake-up call!

Take your own steps to sock away wealth; Learn how to invest (a bear market means stocks are on sale right now!); Take in a roommate or consider shared housing to cover costs; Eliminate excess spending on cable bills, phones, entertainment; Pump up your emergency fund; Take advantage of low interest rates and refinance to reduce monthly mortgage payments; Focus on your personal economy – spark your entrepreneurial spirit and learn how to generate your own income so you’re not dependent on an employer or in fear of lay-offs.

Finally, use your vote to elect policies and officials that prioritize support for Black homeowners and businesses to ensure African-Americans keep their assets and resources.

Let’s use the urgency of the pandemic to build more equitable systems that increase the long-term resilience of African- American communities and institutions.

Pamela J. Oakes, Managing Director of The Profitable Nonprofit, is a funding consultant. She specializes in Nonprofit Fund Development, helping small and emerging nonprofits achieve funding sustainability. She worked for nearly a decade with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

A POEM FOR NOVEL TIMES

By Shantell Jackson



2020, Novel CoronaVirus and the continued revolution for Black liberation. 2020, the year that by in large this nation would finally digest what I knew all along.

As a Black person living in America, I have a very close and personal relationship to the American descendants of Disproportionate birthed by non-other than racism.

As the incantations of “Black Lives Matter” echoed across the land, people were filled with revelation.

Disproportionate and Racism are real, suddenly the focus of topic.

“Covid disproportionately impacts Black Communities”

Yes, I know, we know, we have known. Perhaps new to the masses as our Milieus have not much collided before Covid.

Disproportionate outcomes are not new realities, and the data sets are not few. So much so that if there were another sacred text to come after we are long gone, there would be a book of Disproportions

Disproportions 4:2 “and it would be revealed in the hearts and minds of the masses that African Americans are incarcerated at disproportionate rates.”

Is it digested and well with your soul?

This nation has habitually given us everything except what we asked for

Thank you for plagues, commemorations and statements on why now “Black Lives Matter”

Who among you have asked what we need?

Again I ask
Is it digested and well with your soul?
Or is this nothing more than platitudes and shining a light on our Disproportions?

But at last
This time like times before the strength and wisdom of our ancestors will guide.
Some will find laughter in pain
Some will fight for justice and our collective humanity
Some will educate
Some will rage
Some will pray and sing hymns of old
Some will create
We will do what we always do
Survive

We will lean into community and save each other
That is to say we will save ourselves
It is imperative for our survival
Not because we elected to save ourselves
Our hand has been forced
We only become human in the most inhumane ways
Tuskegee
The soil is fertile for survival
HeLa
For the immortality of all humanity
We will pave the way



OUR VOICES

Black People Should Cease Claiming People Who Want Other Identities

By A. Peter Bailey

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - While recently watching a television program, “Tiger Woods: America’s Son,” I remembered a January 1992 column in which I listed my greatest wishes for that year. My first wish was that “We as a proud people would cease claiming people who don’t want to be with us.” We are not so lacking in positive, quality Black people that we must claim people who desire other identities. It’s way past time when we should identify such people however they desire.

Tiger Woods, who was described in the program as having “The blood of 4 races in his veins,” has consistently described himself as a Cablasan. Which is exactly what I call him on those rare occasions he comes up in a conversation. He lives in the same self-proclaimed racial no man’s land, as does entertainer Whoopi Goldberg, Su-

preme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and academician Thomas Sowell, all of whom were quoted in the 1992 column.

In her memoir, “Whoopi Goldberg-Book,” the entertainer declared “Call me an asshole, call me a blowhard, but don’t call me an African American. Please. It divides us as a nation and as a people and it kinda pisses me off. It diminishes everything I’ve accomplished.”

Justice Thomas was quoted in the Thomas-loving Richmond-Times Dispatch as saying, before he was appointed to the Supreme Court, “If I ever went to the EEOC (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission) or did anything directly connected with Blacks, my career would be irreparably ruined. The monkey would be on my back because I’m black. People meeting me for the first time would automatically dismiss my thinking as second rate.”

Please note that he had no critical words for those who would automatically make such an assumption.

Academician Sowell was quoted as saying “Black students with SAT scores of 1,000 should not consider going to any Black college because they will be educationally mismatched.”

The above “persons of color” should be very glad that civil and human rights warriors such as Medgar Evers, Fannie Lou Hamer, Ella Baker, C. DeLores Tucker, Lerone Bennett, Jr., Martin Luther King, Jr., Kwame Toure, Brother Malcolm X and those Black youngsters who put their lives on the line on Bloody Sunday in Selma, Alabama in 1965 didn’t share their positions.

If they had Woods wouldn’t have had an opportunity to win all of those Masters Golf Tournaments, Goldberg wouldn’t be



appearing regularly in films and on television, Thomas wouldn’t be a Supreme Court Justice and Sowell wouldn’t be glorified in the white academic world.

As we move into what can possibly be a very contentious 2021, it’s very important that serious Black folks reject such people as role models for our children.

'Good Enough' Does Not Cut It Anymore

By Brittanyana Pierro



The countdown of Trump’s days left in office dwindles down to a mere 19 days as of January 1st. Though most of us are happy to see the current residing “president” step

down from his undeserved title, there is still much work to be done in the position he occupies and in the white house in general. To put it frankly, Donald Trump was not the first racist in the white house, and he won’t be the last. As a country, we must collectively get to a point where we acknowledge that America is and always will be racist. So long as we continue to use the same systems of commerce and government that we started with 400 years ago, we will be contributing to America’s long history of white supremacy.

That being said, I believe that it is more necessary than ever to hold our politicians accountable. The Biden/Harris ticket has seemingly been given a premature hand of grace from the American public. People are already deeming Biden as the “president for all”, even though he started his career off in the 1970’s New York state senate voting for segregation laws. It’s ironic, yet unsurprising, that someone with such a dark past has suddenly become a beacon of hope and diversity for this county.

People have the right to be optimistic about the ending of an era of overt racism and fear, but we should not let that hinder us from being equally as unforgiving with the next presidency. ‘Good enough’ does not cut it anymore, not after 300,000 of our closest friends and family passed away from a complete lack of structure, guidance and support during the worst public health crisis in over a century. The infamous first 100 days of the presidency must be an unstoppable force of purposeful change in order to right the wrongs of Trump, and hopefully change the direction of our dysfunctional country.

The most essential and most obvious issue that needs to be addressed by the new administration is the devastating effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Frankly, we will be recovering from the last 9 months for decades to come. The lack of support from the federal government during this time has proven to be detrimentally life-altering for many families all over the nation. In my opinion, one of the first necessary actions to be done by the Biden/Harris administration is an extension of the pandemic eviction moratorium for at least the duration of 2021, and perhaps permanently.

The current moratorium on evictions issued by the CDC on September 4th makes it federally illegal to evict tenants due to covid-19 related issues. Unfortunately, this amendment expires on January 31, meaning that if it is not renewed immediately after the change of office, tens of thousands of families will be virtually houseless by the end of January. This will be added on top of those that have already been displaced due to a lack of knowledge of their rights as a renter during the moratorium and therefore a disadvantage in eviction court.

Biden has very recently proposed a stimulus bill that he has promised to enact immediately once he takes office. Some of the issues he’s already addressed revolve around larger stimulus checks, mandatory vaccines and other issues that rest under the umbrella of ‘COVID-19 relief’. However, he has yet to acknowledge the reality that it took over 8 months to simply negotiate for a \$600 package that still excludes many undocumented people, houseless people and other vulnerable sects of the population.

Biden has not once mentioned retroactive relief for the last year in his plans and has avoided naming specific numbers and timelines for when said aide would arrive. According to Statista.com the average rents of an American family is \$1400, and in larger cities rent rests at double this price or more. Spokane is lucky to be on the lower end of this scale, but our western neighbors in Seattle do not rest in such favor.

Speaking on the most vulnerable populations of American society, I believe that it

is imperative the Biden administration commit to taking the steps necessary to Abolish Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, completely, and free all 50,000 plus immigrants being inhumanely held in the hundreds of detention centers across the country. The organization, which had been compared to that of Gestapo, regularly uses force and illegal tactics to hunt down and imprison those deemed “alien” by the American government. The task forces of ICE unfairly target Black and Latinx communities, defying their victims’ human rights, and indefinitely imprisoning men, women and children alike.

Biden has proposed to reform our currently racist immigration policies and procedures but will not commit to ending the violent organization’s path of destruction. Rather, the president-elect has vowed to “ensure that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) personnel abide by professional standards and are held accountable for inhumane treatment,” according to his campaign website.

Biden’s website has an entire page dedicated to his plans on immigration reform, boldly stating that “Under a Biden Administration, we will never turn our backs on who we are or that which makes us uniquely and proudly American. The United States deserves an immigration policy that reflects our highest values as a nation.” I would argue our current immigration policy reflects American values exceedingly well; being that America has always proven to completely devalue and destroy non-white human life.

One of the few issues the Biden administration has been very proactive with over the last few months revolves around their intentions to combat climate change over the next four years. Biden recently announced two groundbreaking appointments that will ideally positively impact our climate legislation in an equitable manner. Congresswoman Deb Haaland of New Mexico will be the first ever Native American to serve as interior secretary of the president’s cabinet. Biden also appointed the first African American man, Michael Regan to lead the EPA.

During his presidential campaign, one of Biden’s major platform initiatives was his promise to rejoin the Paris Climate Accords and take immediate action against the looming threat of climate change. However, once again he has chosen to lean in a more moderate position, rejecting the Green New Deal set forth by members of his same party, and creating and embracing his own Biden Climate Plan.

The Biden Climate Plan shares the aim of the Great new Deal to have all electrical production carbon free by 2035, and have a net zero carbon footprint by 2050. His plan focuses more readily on creating jobs through expanding government funded, eco-friendly initiatives, but it has a significantly weaker structure in both timeline and implementation of said initiatives. The Green New Deal has a plan to reduce America’s footprint by 60% in the next 10 years, and Biden’s plan does not.

In 2019, the United Nations reported that there was only 11 years left until climate change is “irreversible”. Meaning that by 2030, if significant decreases in carbon emissions haven’t been made, we will most likely be in an Armageddon-like situation. Seeing that the majority of my adult life will be lived during the most devastating times of both climate change and late-stage capitalism, I am more than dissatisfied with the lack of concrete change the Biden administration is willing to preemptively provide. To be frank, I can’t say I think his policies will be enough to save this country, but I am hopeful.

I trust my generation more than the ones that elected a white supremacist into office. In my lifetime I saw the first African-American president, and now I’m seeing a presidency with record-breaking representation across the board. A Black vice-president will not simply cure the ails of a country that enthusiastically disregards the lives of its Black citizens and has for generations. We are seeing our faces reflected back to us in places we never thought they would be. But 4 years of innovation, cannot compare to 400 years of ethical degradation.

EMPLOYMENT & BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Spokane Community Court is Hiring a Program Specialist



Spokane Municipal Court
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MLK Crossword Puzzle Answers

From Page 32

Down:

- 2. Morehouse
- 4. Nonviolent
- 7. Bloody Sunday
- 8. Washington
- 9. Poor
- 10. Time

Across:

- 1. Kennedy
- 3. SCLC
- 4. NAACP
- 5. I Have A Dream
- 6. Nobel Peace Prize



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Community Colleges of Spokane Spokane Community College

Community Colleges of Spokane does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation or age in its programs, activities or employment. Direct all inquiries regarding equal opportunity compliance and/or grievances to chief administration officer, CCS, 501 N Riverpoint Blvd, PO Box 6000, MS1004, Spokane WA 99217-6000 or call 509-434-5037. Direct all inquiries or grievances regarding access and Title IX to the chief compliance officer, 2917 W. Ft. George Wright Drive, MS 3027, Spokane WA 99224 or call 509-279-6012. Marketing and Public Relations. November 2020. 20-178 C

Contact us now to
determine your eligibility.

(509) 533-4600
ABEnquiry@scc.spokane.edu

“Diversity Dialogues:”

“I see you. I hear you. I feel you.”

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACE AND EQUITY



January

20

Marlon James

5:00pm



January

27

Daudi Abe

6:30pm



February

17

Kevin Young

5:00pm



March

03

Anu Taranath

6:30pm

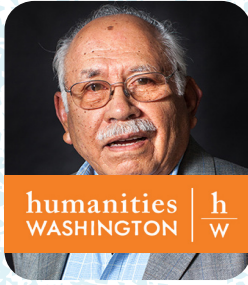


March

10

Tracy K. Smith

5:00pm



April

14

Carlos Gil

6:30pm



April

27

Angie Thomas

5:30pm



May

12

Luis Rodriguez

6:30pm



June

02

Hilton Als

5:00pm



June

09

Omari Amili

6:30pm

Learn more at scc.spokane.edu/HaganCenter

Events are open to the public and available via
livestreaming on YouTube at scc.spokane.edu/live.



I, Too

By Langston Hughes

I, too, sing America.

I am the darker brother.

They send me to eat in the kitchen

When company comes,

But I laugh,

And eat well,

And grow strong.

Tomorrow,

I'll be at the table

When company comes.

Nobody'll dare

Say to me,

"Eat in the kitchen,"

Then.

Besides,

They'll see how beautiful I am

And be ashamed—

I, too, am America.

JANUARY EVENTS

JANUARY 13

FUSE DIVERSITY BOOK CLUB

Halal If You Hear Me - Edited by Fatimah Asghar and Safia Elhillo (poetry)

Halal If You Hear Me features poems by Safia Elhillo, Fatimah Asghar, Warsan Shire, Tarfia Faizullah, Angel Nafis, Beyza Ozer, and many others. The collected poems dispel the notion that there is one correct way to be a Muslim by holding space for multiple, intersecting identities while celebrating and protecting those identities.

6:30pm-8pm

Virtual Discussion

Visit the Fuse Book Club Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/fusediversity>

JANUARY 18

NAACP GENERAL MEETING

Join the NAACP for our monthly general membership meeting. For more information please check social media at [facebook.com/spokane.naACP](https://www.facebook.com/spokane.naACP) or contact the NAACP at 509-209-2425 or visit naacpspokane.org.

VIRTUAL GROUP

A Cup of Culture

Saturdays at 12:30pm



Join Me
For A Cup
Of Culture

FACEBOOK LIVE

SHARING TIPS & INSIGHTS ABOUT DIVERSITY

Saturdays at 12:30 PM PST

Private Facebook Group
www.facebook.com/groups/racialreconciliationwithwilburn

To join the Facebook Group:
[facebook.com/groups/racialreconciliationwithwilburn](https://www.facebook.com/groups/racialreconciliationwithwilburn)

2021 Eastern Washington Legislative Conference

'Beyond Words: Doing Justice'



2021 Eastern WA Legislative Conference will be Virtual

The 2021 Eastern Washington Legislative Conference from **8:50 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 30**, on Zoom will look at issues before the 2021 Washington State Legislature. Displays by nonprofit groups are begin at 8:30 a.m. before the conference and are open at 1 p.m. after the conference.

The keynote speaker is **Walter Kendricks**, pastor of Morning Star Baptist Church, who will speak on "Beyond Words: Doing Justice" based on his involvement with the Governor's Task Force on Independent Investigations and the Governor's Commission on African American Affairs, as well as with the Spokane Ministers Fellowship, Spokane Coalition Against Racism, NAACP Spokane, Carl Maxey Center, Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center and The Fig Tree.

Four panelists will respond to Pastor Kendrick's presentation and offer reflections. Moderated by Gen Heywood, pastor of Veradale United Church of Christ, the panelists are Kiantha Duncan, president of NAACP Spokane; Phil Misner, assistant to bishop the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Northwest Intermountain Synod; Chalo Martinez, a Catholic deacon, and Margo Hill, an attorney and leader in the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women movement.

Additionally, there will be two sessions of workshops, also on Zoom, which participants may choose to attend during the time, or on recorded video later.

Those sessions are:

Jessica Zimmerle of Earth Ministry/Interfaith Power and Light will lead a work-

shop on legislation on the environment.

Paul Benz of the Faith Action Network (FAN) will discuss budget and revenue issues. The 2020 to 2023 biennial budget includes funding proposals.

Kurtis Robinson, vice president of the Spokane NAACP, will coordinate a session on policing reform.

Bob Lutz, member of the State Board of Health, will bring together leaders to discuss racism and the public health disparity.

Ben Stuckart of Spokane Low-Income Housing Consortium is collaborating with Terri Anderson of the Washington Tenants Union and the Spokane Alliance to discuss housing issues.

The **St. Aloysius and St. Ann's Immigration Committee** will present immigration issues.

Between workshop sessions is a "Legislative Briefing" on bills, led by Paul of FAN, Jessica of Earth Ministry and Donna Christensen of the Washington State Catholic Conference.

The event is organized this year by The Fig Tree, Catholic Charities Eastern Washington, the Faith Action Network, Earth Ministry, NAACP Spokane and the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia.

With the event online, participants **must register** in advance to receive the link.

To register, call 509-535-1813 or email event@thefigtree.org or see the flier at <https://www.thefigtree.org/2021LegConfFliers.pdf>

Ijeoma Oluo

Seattle Writer is Community Colleges of Spokane MLK Speaker on Jan 14



Seattle-based writer Ijeoma Oluo, author of the #1 New York Times bestseller "So You Want to Talk About Race" and the just released "Mediocre: The Dangerous Legacy of White Male America," will be the Martin Luther King Jr. speaker for the Community Colleges of Spokane on Thursday, January 14.

Her virtual 50-minute presentation is at 10:30 a.m. and can be accessed by all interested on the Spokane Community College website at: scc.spokane.live.

Oluo's work on race has been featured in the New York Times and the Washington Post, as well as many other publications. She received the 2018 Feminist Humanist Award and the 2020 Harvard Humanist Award from the American Humanist Association. She has been named one of the most influential people in Seattle by Seattle Magazine and SeattleMet.

The Reviews of Oluo's books have described her first book as more of a practical introduction to racism and her second as more diagnostic of racism and sexism in America. Her work focuses primarily on issues of race and identity, feminism, social and mental health, social justice and the arts.

Oluo's presentation is sponsored by the Black Student Union groups at SCC and Spokane Falls Community College and the Hagan Center for the Humanities at SCC as well as others.

She is one of 11 speakers the Hagan Center has lined up through Winter and Spring quarters for a series it is calling "Diversity Dialogues: Conversations about Race and Equity." The other speakers will make morning presentations for students and evening presentations for the public, all on Zoom. The evening presentations will be livestreamed onto YouTube. See page 38 for the full speaker schedule.

Send information about upcoming community events to sandy@blacklensnews.com or call 509-795-1964 with information.



SEE IT. REPORT IT.

We created an online form to collect data on incidents of hate and bias, which happen often to people who are: LGBTQ+, of various religious affiliations, people of color, people with disabilities, and any other targeted communities.

To report an incident visit **ReportHateBias.org**. These reports are not connected to law enforcement; if you are a victim of a hate crime and need the police to respond, call 911.

information@schrtrf.org
PO Box 4552, Spokane WA 99220
SpokaneCountyHumanRightsTaskForce.org



ReportHateBias.org