

THE

BLACK LENSTM

NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

SPOKANE PROSECUTOR: "NO CHARGES"

Says Officers "Not Criminally Responsible" In Lorenzo Hayes Death

The Spokane County Prosecutor's Office has determined that Spokane officers and jail staff are not criminally responsible in the death of Lorenzo Hayes. In a statement, issued on January, 11, 2016, the prosecutor's office said: "The Spokane County Prosecutor's Office has determined that Spokane police officers, jail corrections deputies and staff that contacted Lorenzo



Hayes during the May 13, 2015 response, his trip to the jail, and those actions taken while Hayes was at the jail, were not criminally responsible for the death of Lorenzo Hayes."

Officers from the Spokane Police Department responded to a report of "domestic violence" just before 6am on Wednesday, May 13, according to the police report, and determined that there had been a no contact order in place. As a result Lorenzo Hayes was taken into custody for violation of that order. The report stated that while in route to the jail to be booked for "unlawful possession of a firearm, and felony violation of a domestic violence no contact order", Mr. Hayes became "uncooperative" and "appeared to be high".

Jail staff were notified, according to the report, "to prepare for an uncooperative male". They met the patrol car and escorted Mr. Hayes, still handcuffed, into the booking area. The report continues, "because he continued to be uncooperative, jail staff prepared to place him in a restraint chair to keep him from hurting himself or others. During that process he had a medical emergency." Jail staff tried to resuscitate Hayes and Spokane Fire Medics were called to the jail. An unresponsive Hayes was taken

to the hospital where he later died. Lorenzo Hayes was 37 years old and the father of seven children.

The Spokane County Medical Examiner classified Hayes death a homicide, determining that he was high on methamphetamine when he died and attributing his death to "choking on vomit while restrained in a prone position." An investigation was conducted by the Spokane Investigative Regional Response (SIRR) Team with the Washington State Patrol is the lead agency.

Based on the SIRR report and other evidence, the Prosecutor's Office decided not to move forward with charges, stating, "Under these circumstances, the evidence shows that SPD officers and jail corrections deputies and staff acted in accordance with their policies and procedures with a good faith belief that their actions were correct. The evidence demonstrates they acted without malice, or evil intent. Therefore, criminal charges will not be pursued."

The Spokesman Review reported in an August 6 article that the family of Lorenzo Hayes has filed a wrongful death claim against the County, writing in their claim that Hayes' death was "completely unnecessary" and "could have been easily



Lawrence H. Haskell
Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney

avoided had jail staff and officers on-scene been properly trained and supervised." The family is seeking between \$6.5 million and \$9.5 million in damages.

The death of Lorenzo Hayes mirrors another death that recently occurred in Denver, Colorado. An article titled, "Denver Jail Death Puts New Light On Common Restraint Tactic", published January 24 on the Huffington Post website, details the November 2015 death of fifty year old Michael Lee Marshall in a manner eerily similar to the death of Lorenzo Hayes.

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BLACK HOLLYWOOD DOESN'T NEED TO BOYCOTT THE OSCARS

White Liberal Hollywood Does

By Jasmyne Cannick
www.jasmyneacannick.com



COMMENTARY

Rev. Al Sharpton is calling on blacks to boycott the Academy Awards and not watch the broadcast after the mostly white and male voting members of the Academy nominated 20 white actors as giving the best performances of 2015.

While I'm not trying to rain on Sharpton's parade, as an African-American I have to ask the question, What would be the point?

First, blacks as a whole don't watch the Oscars. That's not really our thing. Sure, some of us do, but not in the numbers that would matter. If anything, we usually digest the recap online the morning after. And even if

**"Sometimes being an ally
means actually
having to do something."**

-Jasmyne Cannick

every black in the country with a television tuned out, it wouldn't make one bit of difference. Why? Because when was the last time you saw a commercial during the Academy Awards that was targeted toward black people? Exactly.

No, a better call, a much more thoughtful call to action would be to put Hollywood's liberalism to work by calling on black Hollywood's white Hollywood friends to sit this

one out and refrain from walking the red carpet or attending the event. Maybe Rev. Sharpton doesn't know this, but most Americans watch the Oscars for the red carpet first and then for the actual ceremony.

Spike Lee, Jada Pinkett Smith, and Will Smith missing in action on the red carpet is not the same as Cate Blanchett, George Clooney, and Brad Pitt not walking the red carpet. If you take away the people who all of America tunes in to see what they're wearing, you send a message while affecting the show's ratings and advertisers — and I believe at the end of the day that's the point — to effect change.

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ON MY MIND

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR



by Sandra Williams

I’m Still Black From March Through December

“I had no idea history was being made, I was just tired of giving up.”
-Rosa Parks

I always have conflicting feelings during the months of January and February. From the lead up to Martin Luther King Jr.s birthday in mid-January through the end of February, every where you look there is Black this and Black that. Stations run marathons of Black tv programs and dust off old Black movies that you can’t find any other time of the year. Colleges host African American focused events and lectures and speaker series. Libraries put up Black displays. Schools put on plays and programs where smiling faced children act out Rosa Parks sitting down or sing Black focused songs. And Martin Luther King’s “I have a dream” is everywhere.

For a little over a month every year, it’s like Black folks all of a sudden become the Kardashians for people, and like the Kardashians they are overly interested in everything about us. It’s like we really matter. It’s like in every corner and nook and cranny of this country, people really care about us. About who we are. About where we came from. About what struggles we’ve been through. About how much we’ve accomplished. And to be honest, it kind of feels nice.

But then March comes.... and things go back to normal.

Now, don’t get me wrong, I am not bashing Black History Month. I absolutely do not fall into the same category as people like Stacy Dash, who use their public platform to showcase their unfortunate ignorance about the reason that there was a need for a Black History month in the first place.

You don’t have to look any further than the recent controversy surrounding the movie industry’s inability in the year 2016 to be able to find a single person of color worthy of an Academy Award nomination for their performance in a major motion picture, to understand why there was a need to create the NAACP Image Awards. Or to understand why, despite the social media frenzy over how “racist” it was to air a show like “The Wiz” that had an all black cast, there was a need in the first place to create a show like “The Wiz”, to give young African American children who watched the Wizard of Oz year after year after year, something that they too could identify with as well.

No, I am not bashing Black History Month. Not even close. My conflicting feelings, however, come from having noticed for far too many years than I care to count, that with few exceptions, all of whoopla surrounding my Blackness, doesn’t seem to last much once the month is over. It’s as if we stop being Black in March. As if the issues, the history, and the images, that are so enthusiastically addressed and freely discussed in January and February, melt back into the much more comfortable notion of not seeing color, or as Raven Symone likes to say, “being human,” not to be talked about again....until January.

But the impact of disproportionate suspension rates on African American students does not go away the day after we celebrate Black History month. The overrepresentation of Blacks in the criminal justice system, throughout the country, and right here in Spokane, does not go away the day after we celebrate Black History Month. Neither do the economic disparities.

But I understand the need to box the awareness into a six week window. I mean, talking about disparities, and racism, and structural oppression every day of every month would become exhausting, and we can’t have that, can we? But imagine having to live it. Now-time for a nap!

THE BLACK LENS NEWS

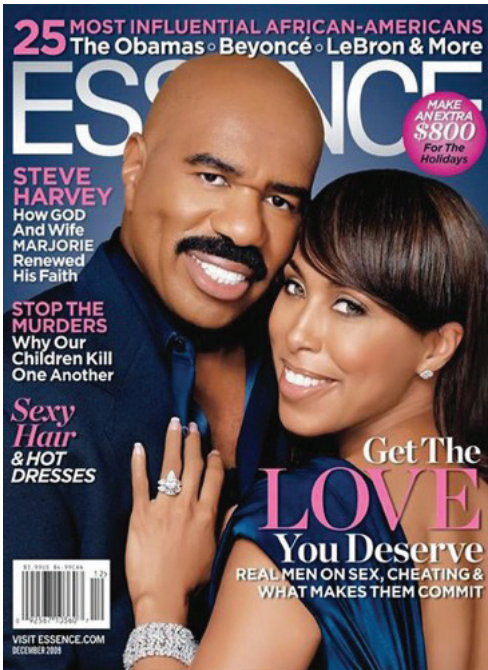
The Black Lens is a community newspaper, published on the first of each month, and focused on the news, events, issues, people and information important to Spokane’s African American Community and beyond.

Contact Information:
Square Peg Multimedia, 1312 N. Monroe St, #148, Spokane, WA 99201
(509) 795-1964, sandy@blacklensnews.com

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QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Which One is Black Owned?



Answer: None of them!
Who is speaking for us? Who decides what we know?
Source: “7 Things You Thought Were Black Owned; <http://allblackmedia.com>

INDEPENDANT
LOCAL MUSIC
AND
PERSPECTIVES

THIN AIR
COMMUNITY
RADIO
88.1 FM
92.3 FM

YOU SHOULD KNOW

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

GEORGE JUNIUS STINNEY JR.

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

George Junius Stinney Jr. was the youngest person in 20th Century America to be put to death. He was born October 21, 1929 and lived in segregated Alcolu, South Carolina, 50 miles east of Columbia, SC. George was accused of the violent March 24, 1944 murders of two local Caucasian girls (Betty June Binnicker and Mary Emma Thames), aged 12 and 7.

Suspected of the crimes authorities waited to arrest George when his parents weren't home and then interrogated him in a murder investigation without his parents or an attorney present (Miranda laws weren't in effect in 1944). Police claim he confessed to the crimes but never introduced a written confession into evidence.

Stinney's father was immediately fired from his job and the family fled Alcolu, abandoning George for fear of their own lives. Exactly one month after the girls' deaths, a "trial" was under way for first degree murder (April 24, 1944).

At fourteen years and five months old, George Stinney's jury of his peers consisted of 12 Caucasian men. His defense lawyer, Charles Plowden, was an ambitious politician who proved overwhelmingly incompetent as counsel. He never asked for a change of venue for fear of local prejudice, never presented any witnesses in George's defense, and never cross-examined any prosecution witnesses. His entire defense hinged on George's age, forget-

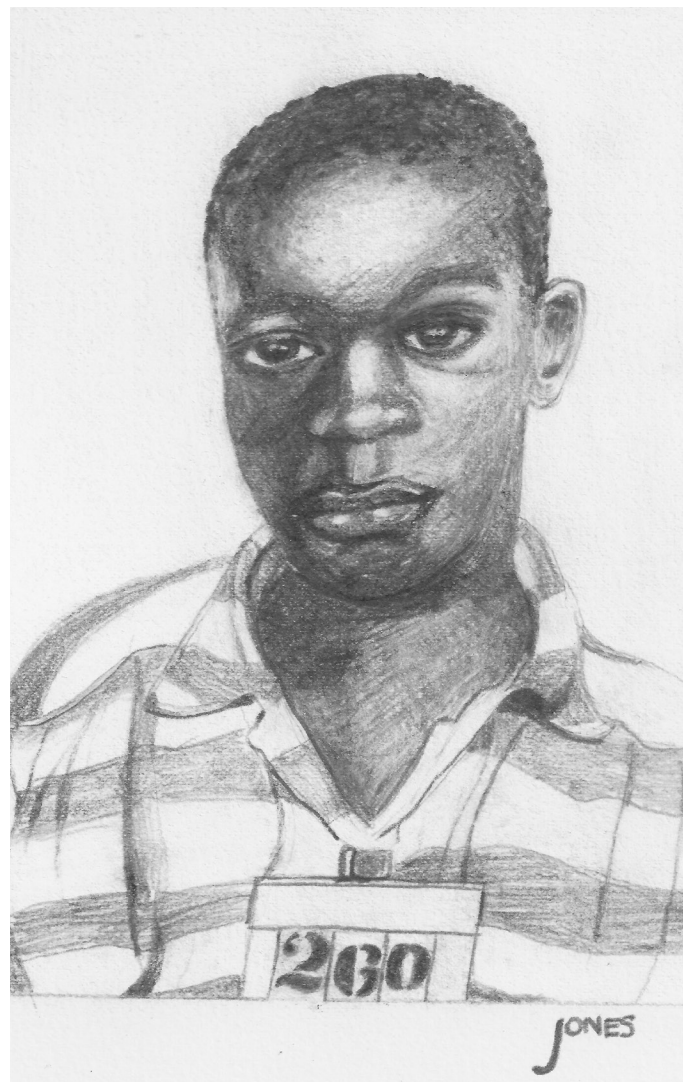
ting that at the time in South Carolina law anyone over fourteen was considered an adult.

The case began at 2:30pm and closing arguments finished by 4:30 pm. The jury deliberated ten minutes before finding George guilty. The judge sentenced him to die in the electric chair at Central Correctional Institute in Columbia, SC. The entire case lasted under three hours.

The final assault on George's Constitutional rights was his attorney's refusal to file an appeal on behalf of his client, stating that there was nothing to appeal and that his family lacked the funds for a continuance of the case. Governor Olin D. Johnston refused to intervene.

On June 16, 1944 at 7:30pm, 14 year old George Stinney Jr., standing all of 5'1 inches tall and weighing 95 pounds, was led to the execution chamber. Since the chair was not built for children, they placed a stack of books on the seat for him to sit on. The guards had a hard time strapping his small frame in with the electrodes and his death mask didn't fit properly.

When they threw the switch the force of the electricity dislodged George's death mask allowing the entire audience to see George's face in his last painful minutes of life. From the day the girls' bodies were found until George's execution day, was a total of 83 days, an American record. For fear of vandalism, George Stinney Jr.'s family had him buried in an unmarked grave somewhere in South Carolina.



Sources:

Carolina Skeletons – David Stout

South Carolina Killers: Crimes of Passion (Ch. 5) – Mark R. Jones

cnn.com/2014/01/21/us/george-stinney-hearing/index

83 days (Movie – Starring Danny Glover)

Carolina Skeletons (Movie – Starring Louis Gossett Jr.)

BLACK PARATROOPERS FIGHT SECRET WAR IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

by Robert L. "Bob" Bartlett

Late spring 1945, a military troop train carrying three hundred Black Army paratroopers arrived in Pendleton, Oregon. Their orders were marked highly classified. L-5 Spotter planes, C-64 cargo planes and troop carrier C47s arrived in support of their classified mission. Eight Spotter planes and one cargo plane and their crews were stationed here in Spokane at Geiger Field and C47s were stationed in Walla Walla and Hamilton Field, CA. The men of the 555th Triple Nickle (spelled correctly) Parachute Infantry Battalion (PIB) hoped they were being sent west only temporarily before shipping out to join the war in the Pacific.

They had already made military history as the first all-black infantry troops to earn the coveted silver airborne jump wings at

Fort Benning, Georgia, home of the 82nd Airborne. They were all handpicked volunteers, well trained, and exceptionally led by black officers and noncommissioned officers all eager to prove themselves in combat. Unfortunately, the enemy they had trained to face on foreign soil proved not to be their direct objective. Their classified orders read:

Permanent Change of Station Orders
HEADQUARTERS 55th PIB
General Order Number 7, 22 June 1945
FIRE FLY PROJECT SOP
"... the destruction or demolition of Japanese balloon bombs and/or the suppression of forest fires ..."

Known only to the Military, the Japanese had successfully discovered the jet stream and had designed, developed and launched thousands of hydrogen filled balloons from

Japan with explosive payloads. Their intent was to strike fear into the hearts of Americans especially those living along the western coastline. The balloon bombs were designed to kill and to start fires. Their plan was to burn the entire west coast from Los Angeles to



Seattle. The military called it Operation Firefly and the men of the 555th would be sworn to secrecy.

The military plan also included keeping Japan from learning that their balloon bomb campaign actually worked. Balloons landed in 17 US states and as far inland as Iowa and Michigan. One balloon landed and exploded outside the town of Bly, Oregon killing five and another landed in power lines at the Hanford Reserve causing a temporary power outage.

Soon after the 555th arrived at Pendleton Field they learned that they were there to stay and that their mission was Operation Firefly. A different kind of training was now required and their first trainers were smokejumpers with the United States Forest Service out of Missoula, Montana. After nine intense days of training in how to jump into and fight forest fires in the heavily forested regions of the PNW, they were taught by Army bomb disposal experts

on how to deactivate, detonate or retrieve these deadly balloon bombs. The men of the 555th again made history.

After their training was complete 200 would stay in Pendleton and 100 were sent to Chico, CA. These black men became the first and last Airborne Infantry firefighters, they became smokejumpers. They would jump forest fires regardless of their cause. The smokejumper program, which began in 1939, found itself with a shortage of young able bodied men during the war years. The threat of a particular bad fire season in the west combined with the threat of more balloon bombs in 1945 came at just the right time for the Army to test the men of the 555th.

By the end of the fire season the men of the Triple Nickle fought fires in seven western states and southern Canada. Most fires they jumped were in the mountains of Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and California.

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BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Emergency Declared In Flint, MI After City Is Poisoned

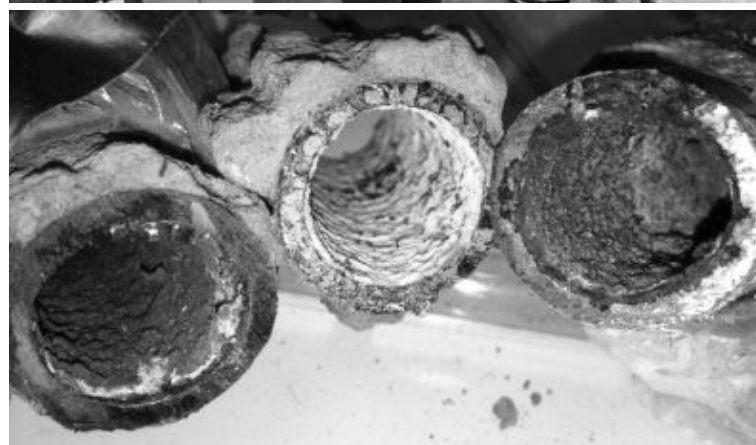
(Source: African Globe; www.africanglobe.net)

Following a request from Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder that the president declare a federal emergency in Flint over an ongoing and dangerous water crisis, President Barack Obama announced an emergency declaration that would allocate \$5 million in federal aid to assist the city.

The announcement came after the National Guard was deployed in the city to deliver bottled water door-to-door. Obama “ordered federal aid to supplement state and local response efforts due to the emergency conditions in the area affected by contaminated water,” a White House release states.

The ongoing water crisis in the predominately Black city of Flint, Michigan has left thousands of households without safe drinking water. In a cost-cutting effort, the city switched its water supply source from Lake Huron (treated by the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department) to Flint River water, a contaminated source that initiated the ongoing scandal.

Studies have shown that the majority of children living in Flint may suffer permanent brain damage from lead contamination.



Wells Fargo Donates \$1 Million To The African American History Museum



(Source: Robert Stitt, <http://financialjuneenth.com>)

Wells Fargo helped found the National Museum of African American History and Culture which will open in September 2016 on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The company is striving to inspire diversity in keeping with an 1888 pledge, which says, “Proper respect must be shown to all — let them be men, women, or children, rich or poor, white or black.” Joining with them in the tribute to African American heritage is Oprah Winfrey and the United States Congress, which came up with half of the money, making the museum a joint public-private venture.

Wells Fargo’s Lisa Frison, Vice President African American Segment, noted, “African American history is American history.... We embrace the arts as a vehicle to highlight history and culture, and feel deeply honored to support the Smithsonian in bringing the African American story to life in such a significant way.”

The museum is being constructed on five acres next to the Washington Monument. It will stand as the 19th museum of the Smithsonian. The building has been undergoing preparation and construction for the last 10 years. During that time, a collection has been built along with the design of “11 inaugural exhibitions covering major periods of African American history from its origins in Africa and continuing through slavery, the civil rights era, the Harlem Renaissance, the great migrations north and west and into the 21st century,” according to the Network Journal. The museum will be home to more than 40,000 objects telling the African American story.

Next-generation Navy Ship to be Named After Civil Rights Leader Rep. John Lewis



(Source: <http://www.navytimes.com>; Photo: Jacquelyn Martin)

WASHINGTON — The Navy has announced it will name a new ship after civil rights leader and U.S. Rep. John Lewis.

With Lewis in attendance, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus on Wednesday named the first ship of the next generation of fleet replenishment oilers the USNS John Lewis during a ceremony held at the Cannon House Office Building in Washington. Mabus says other ships in the class will be named after fellow civil right activists.

Lewis, a Georgia Democratic congressman, is an Alabama native who worked closely with Martin Luther King Jr. He was the first speaker during the 50th anniversary of the Selma-to-Montgomery march last year.

“As the first of its class, the future USNS John Lewis will play a vital role in the mission of our Navy and Marine Corps while also forging a new path in fleet replenishment,” Mabus said during. “Naming this ship after John Lewis is a fitting tribute to a man who has, from his youth, been at the forefront of progressive social and human rights movements in the U.S., directly shaping both the past and future of our nation.”

The Defense Department says a contract will be awarded for the ship this summer, with construction expected to begin in 2018.

Texas State Trooper Who Arrested Sandra Bland Indicted on Perjury Charges



(Source: Stehen A. Crockett Jr., <http://www.theroot.com>)

The Texas trooper who arrested Sandra Bland has been indicted on perjury charges. According to the Houston Chronicle, Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Brian Encinia was indicted by a Waller County grand jury Wednesday. If found guilty of the Class A misdemeanor, Encinia could face a \$4,000 fine and up to a year in jail.

The perjury charge resulted from a statement in his arrest report in which he claimed that he pulled Bland from her car July 10, 2015, to continue an investigation. Encinia claimed that after numerous commands for Bland to exit the car to “further conduct a safe traffic investigation, Bland was removed from the car but became more combative. Bland was placed in handcuffs for officer safety. Bland began swinging her elbows at me and then kicked my right leg in the shine [sic].”

Bland was found hanged in her jail cell three days after her arrest. Jail officials claim that Bland, 28, who had just moved back to the area to start a new job, hanged herself after becoming despondent that her family wasn’t going to be able to immediately bail her out. Her family argues that she wouldn’t have committed suicide and that the woman police have claimed her to be is not the woman they knew.

The Bland family has filed a wrongful death lawsuit in federal court against “Trooper Encinia, Department of Public Safety, Waller County and county jailers Elsa Magnus and Oscar Prudente. A trial date is set for January 2017,” the Chronicle reports.

BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Portland Community College To Host Whiteness History Month



(Source: Andrew Theen; <http://www.oregonlive.com>)

Faculty members and staff on the college’s North Portland campus came up with the idea of a Whiteness History Month as a way to change the climate of racial justice on campus. “The Project seeks to challenge the master narrative of race and racism through an exploration of the social construction of whiteness,” according to the organizers’ website.

Whiteness History Month has been discussed as a possible event at PCC since Dec. 2014, officials said Monday, inspired by groups such as the Black Lives Matter movement’s actions both on and off campuses nationwide.

In contrast to Black History Month and other heritage months, Whiteness History Month won’t be a “celebratory endeavor,” organizers said. Whiteness History Month won’t focus on whites as a group of people, according to PCC spokeswoman Kate Chester. The discussions will center on “whiteness as a social construct.”

Organizers created a website last August and plan events for this April to foster more discussion on campus about ways to find solutions to “community issues and social problems that stem from racism.” PCC officials say they expect an agenda of events, speeches and discussion sessions at each of its four campuses to be announced in the next few weeks.

For more information visit: <http://www.pcc.edu/about/diversity/cascade/whiteness-history-month>

Marine Corps Authorizes Twist and Lock Hairstyles for Female Marines



(Source: Hope Hodge Seck, <http://www.military.com>)

The Marine Corps has approved two new hairstyles for female Marines, citing a request from a staff sergeant that prompted the change.

According to a Marine Corps administrative message, two-strand twists and thin locks are now approved for wear in uniform. The decision to approve both hairstyles was made by the Marine Corps Uniform Board in October, according to the message.

In a video released by the Marine Corps in conjunction with the message, Marine Staff Sgt. Cherie Wright of II Marine Expeditionary Force is credited with prompting a review of female hairstyle regulations. Wright submitted a recommendation letter to the Marine Corps Uniform Board asking for the change, officials said.

“For some, this change is culturally liberating, has financial benefits and is simply convenient,” Wright said in a statement released by the Corps.

China Wows African Leaders at Africa-China Confab in Johannesburg, S. Africa



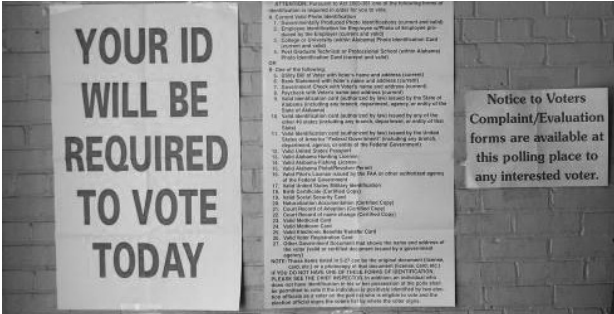
(Source: <http://www.tricedneywire.com>; Special to the Trice Edney News Wire from Global Information Network)

At the recently concluded Forum on Africa and China Cooperation, Chinese President Xi Jinping appeared to be everywhere – shaking hands, holding one on ones, watching cultural shows and last but not least, approving generous grants.

As the conference in Johannesburg drew to a close, 48 African countries had received pledges, promises and development deals from Asia’s principal financial giant. They also received commitments to assist with peace-keeping missions and \$60 million towards the building of the African Union’s new 25,000-strong multinational standby force to respond to crises across the continent.

In the announcement that China would double its last major aid package – from \$30 billion to \$60 billion – priority programs were identified, including industrialization, infrastructure and agricultural development. Also, poverty eradication and the green economy. South African president Jacob Zuma said the continent fully supported this higher level of engagement.

Alabama Closes Then Reopens 31 Satellite DMV Offices in Counties Where 75 Percent of Voters Are Black



(Source: Breanna Edwards, <http://www.theroot.com> and and Brian Lyman; <http://www.governing.com>)

One year after Alabama’s voter photo-ID law took effect, the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency announced that 31 satellite state Motor Vehicle Division offices would no longer have access to driver’s license examiners as a result of budget cuts, meaning that residents would have to travel to other counties.

John Archibald, a columnist with AL.com, wrote “take a look at the 10 Alabama counties with the highest percentage of non-white registered voters. That’s Macon, Greene, Sumter, Lowndes, Bullock, Perry, Wilcox, Dallas, Hale, and Montgomery, according to the Alabama Secretary of State’s office. Alabama, thanks to its budgetary insanity and inanity, just opted to close driver license bureaus in eight of them. “Every single county in which blacks make up more than 75 percent of registered voters will see their driver license office closed. Every one,”

In a change of course, however, Gov. Robert Bentley announced that the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency would return driver’s license examiners to 31 rural counties. A statement from the governor’s office said an examiner would spend at least one day each month in each of the counties slated to lose part-time examiners under budget cuts announced by ALEA at the end of last month. The schedule and timetable of the return was not immediately clear. Gov. Bentley pledged to work with the Black Caucus on the closures

Black Media Company Releases First Animated Series That Teaches Children Authentic African American History



(Source: <http://blacknews.com>)

Baltimore, MD — School age children are learning in the age of technology, i.e. internet, wireless devices and multi-dimensional imagery. Major conglomerates such as PBS Kids, Disney and Nickelodeon have met success with engaging children in programming for entertainment or educational purposes. However, there are few educational shows that address the cultural and historical needs of children of color.

EdAnime Productions, co-founded by a host of African American teenagers and young adults, was created to address the aforementioned deficiencies. Their flagship animated series, Meltrek, is a collection of lessons designed to teach children about the history, culture and contributions of African Americans from 3000 BCE to 2008. using hip hop music as a teaching tool. The first animated lesson of Meltrek, “Exploring Ancient Africa”, teaches children about the birthplace of humanity, Africa.

Meltrek is sold in twenty-four states in the United States and six countries around the world. Meltrek themed products such as DVDs, coloring books, and unit plans for educators are available for purchase at www.edanime-productions.com.

Penn State Partners With the National Football League Players Association to Offer Educational Opportunities for Former Players



(Source: Journal of Blacks in Higher Education; jbhe.com)

The World Campus of Pennsylvania State University has entered into an agreement with the National Football League Players Association that will present educational opportunities for former players who did not complete their degrees while in college.

Players who have accumulated credits from another university and want to complete their degree will be advised on transferring those credits to an online degree program through the World Campus of Penn State. Or players who want to start on a new undergraduate or graduate degree program will have the opportunity to choose from 125 online academic programs. Under the agreement, former NFL players will have access to tutoring and career counseling.

Craig Weidemann, vice president for outreach and vice provost for online education, stated “Penn State is excited to welcome the NFL Players Association as a partner, and the university is committed to helping these players complete their college degrees so they can be successful in their careers off the field.” The agreement is of particular importance to African Americans. Blacks make up two thirds of all players in the National Football League.

NAACP UPDATE:

SPOKANE
NAACP
<http://www.SpokaneNAACP.com>

HE MADE A DIFFERENCE

Contributors: Dr. Jeanne Ashton Baynes, Spokane NAACP Education Committee; Dr. Scott Finnie, Director, Africana Studies Dept, EWU; Naima Quarles-Burnley, Spokane NAACP President

Mr. Carl Maxey had been the catalyst for important changes in the racial climate and in the anti-discrimination laws in Washington. Today, when students of Gonzaga Law School enter the law library, they pass by a bronze bust of Carl Maxey. The inscription reads: "He made a difference."

Indeed, he made a remarkable difference. Carl Maxey fought discrimination as a champion of social justice and supported the NAACP serving as legal counsel. He was the first black person from Eastern Washington to pass the state bar examination. Maxey became a fixture in civil rights and highly publicized criminal cases, concentrating on criminal defenses for more than four decades.

Rising from humble beginnings, as an orphan, he became a giant in civil rights, the law, sports and politics in Spokane. Maxey was adopted as an infant and brought to Spokane by Carl and Caroline Maxey, but by the age of 2, he ended up in the Spokane's Children's Home where he spent his childhood during the Depression. In 1936 when he was 12, Maxey and another boy were kicked out of the orphanage, which said it wouldn't take any more "colored" children. As a teen, he was placed at the Sacred Heart Indian Mission, in Desmet, Idaho.

Maxey returned to Spokane and attended Gonzaga Prep, where he lettered in football, basketball and track. He was hired at the Spokane Club for 25 cents an hour as a busboy. He was promoted to waiter and then to bartender, but bristled at the segregation in the private club, which wouldn't accept Black members.

When World War II broke out, Maxey joined the Army and served as a medic in the segregated military. After the war, he attended the University of Oregon and Gonzaga University, becoming a collegiate boxing standout. Undefeated in college boxing, Maxey tried out for the 1948 Olympic boxing team, but lost his first bout. Two years later, he won the NCAA light heavyweight boxing championship by defeating the captain of the 1948 Olympic team.

After a short but brilliant college boxing career, he went on to fight wrongs in the courtroom and promote civil rights. He worked his way through Gonzaga Law School as a busboy and a bartender at the then segregated Spokane Club. Graduating in 1951, he later successfully challenged the state liquor board's licensing of clubs that discriminated on the basis of race or religion.

In the 1960s, the civil rights movement blossomed and the young attorney used his law degree as a springboard to political activism. With two other lawyers, he traveled to Selma, Mississippi in 1964 to join the civil rights fight after a young

Black man and two Jews from Philadelphia were murdered by racists. He stated "It was the first time both Black and white worked hand-in-hand as a matter of humanitarian concern – the right to vote and the right to live."

Later, as the anti-war movement began, Maxey represented conscientious objectors and was one of the community's first voices of opposition to bloodshed in Vietnam. Maxey served as state co-chairman of Jesse Jackson's presidential campaigns, and received awards for his efforts on behalf of poor people. Fighting for civil rights became his hallmark in Spokane, too.

He sued Spokane public schools after the district refused to hire a Black teacher. When a Spokane barber shop wouldn't cut a Black man's hair, Maxey sued the shop and won. The barber quit. In another case, he sued the city of Spokane for conducting closed City Council meetings. He also sued and won when city officials refused to broadcast the first Muhammad Ali-Joe Frazier fight on closed-circuit television at the Coliseum.

He earned a reputation as a flamboyant trial lawyer who took on controversial clients and causes. He raised two sons, who went on to practice law with him in an office on West Broadway. His life's goal was to have all people - regardless of age, race, creed, sex or economic circumstance - enjoy life, liberty and pursuit of happiness.

Dr. Scott Finnie, Director of the Africana Studies Department at Eastern Washington University, was deeply impacted by Carl Maxey. He remarks, "His heart to serve others and his wisdom to unravel the complications of injustice for the voiceless left a lasting impression upon my life and career in higher education." King County Executive Ron Sims, who grew up in Spokane, called Maxey "larger than life. He was forceful, sometimes controversial. He was incredibly talented and gifted. He was one of the last great civil rights icons in Spokane," Sims said.

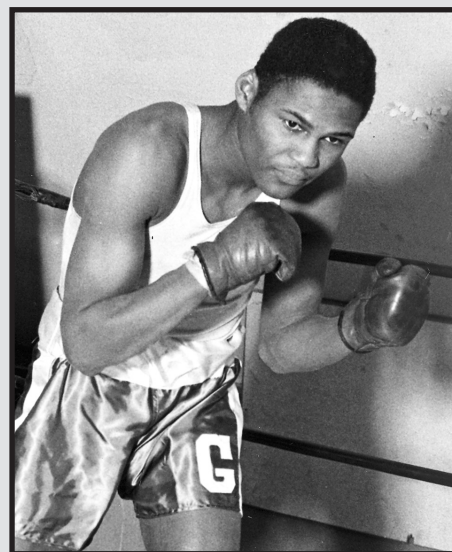
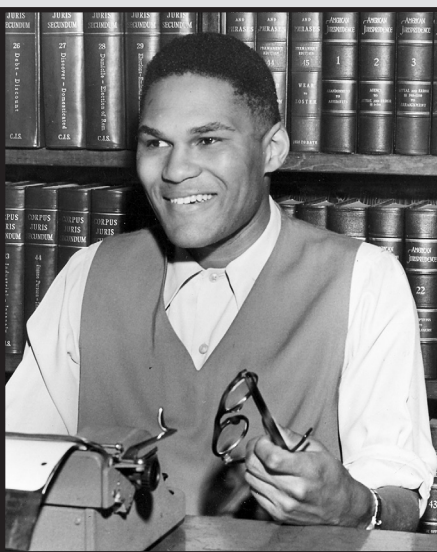
Carl Maxey used his legal skills to contest inequities. He was a "pioneer for equality." He touched the lives of many people in all walks of life. He was "a lion for justice. He made a difference.

Sources: Community.Seattletimes.nwsources.com; BlackSpokane.com; Spokesman.com/stories/1997/jul18/Spokane-loses-a-chion-carl-maxey; <http://lmba.nef/Carl-Maxey>; BlackPast.org

NAACP Documentary Screening: The Spokane NAACP will be hosting a screening of the KSPS documentary, "Carl Maxey: A Fighting Life", followed by a community conversation in late February. Please check the NAACP website or Facebook page for information about the date and location, and join us in celebrating the life of one of the legends of the Spokane community.

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

CARL MAXEY: A FIGHTING LIFE A KSPS Documentary



KSPS Public Television is proud to announce the production of another locally produced documentary entitled *Carl Maxey: A Fighting Life*. Based on local historian Jim Kershner's book by the same name, the film will premiere at the Bing Crosby Theater on February 18, 2016.

Carl Maxey was, in his own words, "a guy who started from scratch—black scratch." He was sent, at age five, to the scandal-ridden Spokane Children's Home and then kicked out at age eleven with the only other "colored" orphan.

Yet Maxey managed to make a national name for himself, first as an NCAA championship boxer at Gonzaga University, and then as eastern Washington's first black lawyer and a renowned civil

rights leader who always fought for the underdog.

During the tumultuous civil rights and Vietnam War eras, Carl Maxey—called a "Type-A Gandhi" by the New York Times—fought to break down color barriers in his hometown of Spokane and throughout the nation. He expanded his commitment to justice and antiwar causes to the political arena, running for the U.S. Senate against powerhouse senator Henry M. (Scoop) Jackson.

The documentary explores the sources of Maxey's passions, as well as the price he ultimately paid for his struggles. The result is a moving portrait of a man whose personal misfortunes spurred his lifelong, tireless crusade against injustice.

Documentary Premiere - February 18, 2016

Bing Crosby Theater, 7pm, 901 W Sprague Ave, Spokane, Tickets: \$50 per person

Television Premiere: KSPS Public Television, Spokane Channel 7, 7pm

Tickets: <http://www.kspis.org/community/maxey-doc/>, or call 509- 443-7700, 1-800-735-2377

AFRICAN AMERICANS AND EDUCATION

Looking Back in Order to Move Forward:

A Seven Part Series By Lawrence Burnley, Ph.D.

Part VI: “The Cost of Learning: Anti-Literacy Laws and Violent Opposition to Black Education” - The Southern Experience

Given the reality of chattel enslavement and the near universality of anti-literacy legislation for free or enslaved Blacks throughout the South, formal schooling for enslaved Africans was largely nonexistent until after the Civil War. Exceptions to this reality would include apprenticeship opportunities for a limited number of persons within the plantation system. Clandestine underground schools run by Africans, and some Whites, were also maintained throughout the South.

Some examples of such schools include one that operated from 1818 to 1829 in Savannah, Georgia, which was founded and operated by a man from Santo Domingo named Julian Froumontaine; a school operated by a woman known as Deveaux from 1833 to 1865, also in Savannah; the Pioneer School of Freedom in New Orleans in 1860; the Sisters of the Holy Family school founded by Henriette Delille, a free Black, in 1842 also in New Orleans; and a school run by Mary Peake in Hampton, Virginia, which began operating in the open in 1861.

The story of Mary Peake is an excellent example of how opportunities given to mulattoes were used to benefit Blacks who were denied access to any form of schooling.

Mary Peake was born Mary Smith Kelsey in Norfolk, Virginia, to a free Black mother and a White father. At age six she was allowed to attend a “select” school for free Black children for ten years in Alexandria, Virginia. Upon her return home to Norfolk, Mary started a Baptist-affiliated organization called the Daughters of Zion “to aid the poor and ill.” The enrollment at Peake’s school rose to more than fifty free and enslaved African children.

Her dedication and commitment to the education of Black children is reflected by her refusal to cease her teaching duties while she fell deathly ill. Lewis Lockwood, an AMA official, penned the following observation of this educator’s selfless dedication: “It was beautiful, though sad, to see her...when too sick to sit, lying on her bed, surrounded by her scholars, teaching them to read.” Mary Peake taught until she died.

An example of the price one could pay for learning to read and write is provided by Mr. Lewis Favors, who was born in 1855, in Meriwether County, Georgia, near Greenville. Asked if he knew of anyone on his plantation who could read or write, Mr. Favors said, “They was all afraid to even try [to learn to read or write] because they would cut these off.” According to the interviewer Mr. Favors pointed to his thumbs and index fingers as he said this.

Ms. Annie Price, who was born in 1855 in Spalding County, Georgia, shared that “If any of us were ever caught with a book, we would get a good whipping.”

Anti-literacy legislation existed as early as 1740 with Georgia and South Carolina being among the first to pass such laws law prohibiting anyone from teaching enslaved Africans to write or from utilizing enslaved Blacks as scribes. South Carolina’s legislation and Georgia’s—given that it shares a border with South Carolina—was in response to the Stone Rebellion in September 1739. This insurrection was led by a



man named Jemmy (sic) and resulted in the deaths of twenty Whites.

In 1800 the law was expanded to include free Africans, and was perhaps influenced by a planned insurrection in Virginia in 1800 by Gabriel Prosser. Prosser’s plan was aimed at the massive liberation of enslaved people and the establishment of a Black state. His attack was delayed by a violent storm and Prosser was betrayed and eventually hanged.

According to historian Deborah Gray White, “within weeks, slaveholders as far west and south as what was then the Mississippi Territory cautioned each other to beware of suspicious behavior on the part of Blacks.”

Continued on Page 18



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GOVERNMENT / POLITICS



HUNDREDS ATTEND OLYMPIA MLK RALLY- GOVERNOR SPEAKS

(Charlotte Kerney/Sandra Williams, Commission on African American Affairs)

Over 200 individuals from across Washington state converged Monday, January 18, on the state capitol in Olympia for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday. The march and rally, which was a first in the state, according to organizers, was sponsored by the Washington State African American Coalition, and began with a caravan that travelled from 23rd and Jackson Streets in Seattle to the Washington Sate Capitol Rotunda.

Participants called for an end to police brutality targeting African American males/females, improvements in K-12 education, work training for African American youth, reforming Washington State’s deadly force statute, equitable economic opportunities for persons of color, and a repeal of Washington’s I-200 Affirmative Action Law.

Syndicated radio talk show host Warren Ballentine was the keynote speaker and Governor Jay Inslee, Senator Pramila Jayapal and Representative Jim Moeller addressed the crowd. “Our calls for equality will not be drowned out by any noise, by anybody,” said Inslee.

SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL VACANCY NAACP VICE PRESIDENT ONE OF TWENTY-TWO APPLICANTS

Phillip Tyler, Vice President of the Spokane branch of the NAACP, joined twenty-one other applicants vying for a seat on the Spokane City Council that was vacated by former Council representative Jon Snyder, who left after he accepted a position as Governor Jay Inslee’s Policy Advisor for Outdoor Recreation and Economic Development.

The City of Spokane posted an announcement on January 12 to fill the seat, which represents south Spokane, including the East Central neighborhood, and accepted applications through January 19. Councilmembers had until January 27 at 5pm to review all applications and interview candidates as they wished, then to rank their top five applicants and submit their top five names to City Council President Ben Stuckart by 5 p.m. on January 27.

A committee of three Councilmembers reviewed and compiled the Councilmem-

bers’ rankings and determined which applicants would be interviewed by the full Council. Selection of applicants for interviews by the full City Council were set to happen by January 29.

Interviews of the top candidates by the full City Council will be open to the public and will take place Wednesday, February 3, from 2-4pm in the City Hall Council Chambers, lower level (808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd). While the interviews are open to the public, the public will not be able to comment or ask questions. Councilmembers will ask the same questions of each candidate. The Council will vote to fill the Council vacancy at the February, 8 City Council meeting.

Phillip Tyler, an Air Force veteran who worked with the Spokane County Sheriff’s Office for 15 years and currently President of Wisdom in Words, which is a consulting company that focuses on man-

agement consulting, including executive and strategic on-board coaching, communication skills and relationship building, acknowledges that applying for the city council is a bold step, but he adds, “fortune favors the bold.”

The other applicants for the City Council seat include: Randy J. McGlenn II, George McGrath, Blaine Stum, John Waite, Anthony L. Kiepe, Rae-Lynn Barden, Todd Beyreuther, Breean L. Beggs, David W. Lucas, Ryan M. Oelrich, Alexander Scott, Grant Keller, Charles Otto Greenwood, Kyle Reavis, Terry L. Black, Patricia A. Hansen, Ed.D, Asher Ernst, Stephanie Regalado, Robert A. Gilles, Jess R. Ponikvar, and LaVerne D. Biel.

When asked what he is looking for in a candidate, Council President Stuckart responded, “I personally am looking for a council member who has a clear vision of what they want to see Spokane become in



the future.” The best way to comment,” he added, “is to email council members.”

Here are a list of their e-mail addresses: bstuckart@spokanecity.org; awaldref@spokanecity.org; mfagan@spokanecity.org; lkinnear@spokanecity.org; cmumm@spokanecity.org; kstratton@spokanecity.org.

For information on the Spokane City Council visit: <https://my.spokanecity.org/citycouncil>



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It Takes a Village

NURSE BRYN: PURSUING A DREAM

Ministers Plan February 21 Fundraiser

Spokane ministers are joining together to support the dream of Bryn Martin-Williams. Bryn is currently attending Seattle University's College of Nursing and the ministers have planned a variety-show style fundraiser to help cover her educational expenses.

The program, which will be emceed by Pastor Happy Watkins of New Hope Baptist Church is scheduled for **Sunday, February 21 from 4-6pm at Holy Temple Church of God in Christ (806 W Indiana Ave, Spokane, WA 99205)** and the community is encouraged to come and show their support.

Bryn's story is an inspirational one, which is why so many people are coming together to offer their support. For as long as she can remember, Bryn Martin-Williams has always wanted to be a nurse. It has always been her dream. In fact, Bryn says, "it's almost as if being a nurse is ingrained in my DNA," and she has been doing everything in her power to make that dream a reality. But despite our best efforts, sometimes, dreams can be elusive things, as evidenced by Bryn's post on the fundraising website gofundme.com, that her friends convinced her to set up.

"Unfortunately, I have come to another road block in my journey," she wrote. "I have searched and explored all options proposed: scholarships, private loans (I do not have a co-signer), financial aid (I do not qualify due to being a post-baccalaureate student), and speaking with the nursing department and financial aid office." She continued, "it is now clear that I won't be able to get the necessary resources through the avenues I have attempted thus far."

After a lot of thought and frustration, Bryn said, "and quite a bit of nudging from my peers," she decided to share her story and to ask for help. From her community.



It was Bryn's story and her determination to persevere, that touched the Spokane ministers, and many others in the Spokane community.

"I was raised in a single-parent household: my mother, my older sister, and I," she shared. "We were regular Sunday church attenders and actively involved at Holy Temple C.O.G.I.C. As a young girl in elementary school I received many academic excellence awards, Student of the Month, and made the Honor Roll. In middle school, I participated in sports and became Vice President of the ASB (Associated Student Body). In my senior year, I began the running start program at Eastern Washington University."

Bryn's choice for college was the University of Washington in Seattle, because of the quality of their nursing school, and initially she was a pre-nursing major, but she was not offered admission into the nursing school. "Though this was an unexpected setback," she said, "I prayed and decided to obtain my Bachelor of Science degree in Public Health, becoming the first in my family to graduate college." Bryn's choice of Public Health was a strategic one, she says, "because I knew that this would be an asset in helping me to be more attuned to providing well-rounded, holistic care as a nurse." Bryn also coupled her Public Health degree with a minor in Spanish, "because I wanted to expand my capacity to serve diverse patient populations."

After graduation from college, Bryn worked as a barista at Starbucks in Seattle Children's Hospital, until she was able to secure a CNA position in the Acute Care Float Pool before transferring to the Emergency Department as a CNA/Technician. Last year Bryn's determination to attend nursing school paid off, and she was admitted into Seattle University's College of Nursing, class of 2017.

Bryn's dream, however, is not a free one, and in order to cover the expenses for her current quarter of school, Bryn needs to raise \$5,000 by March. She is currently at \$3,500. The Spokane Chapter of the Links, Inc, have already pitched in. Moved by Bryn's story, they used their annual Christmas Giving project to raise \$1,200 in one night. Now the minister's have decided to help as well.

"Despite facing adversity along my journey," Bryn says, "prayer and belief in God's plan for my life, and my commitment to this profession has remained steadfast. In fact, these experiences have only intensified my drive and belief that nursing is my calling." **It takes a village!**

Gonzaga University's Black Student Union Presents...



A Night in Harlem

February 27th, 2016

5:30-8:00 p.m.

Cataldo Hall, 1200 N. Addison

\$10 for students, \$12 per person

contact gonzagabsu@gmail.com for TICKETS

\$80 per table

OUR COMMUNITY

PEOPLE
SERVICES
PROGRAMS

MLK EVENTS LAUNCH MLK CAPITOL CAMPAIGN



The Martin Luther King Jr. commemorative events, attended by hundreds in Spokane each year, held a dual purpose this year. In addition to celebrating and paying a much deserved tribute to Dr. King for his lifework and accomplishments, the Prayer Breakfast, sponsored by the Spokane Minister's Fellowship, the Community Celebration, which was held at Morning Star Baptist Church, and the annual MLK March and Resource Fair, were all a part of the kick-off of the capitol campaign for the the Martin Luther King Family Resource Center.

Photo Credit: Dennis Mitchell



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Rev. Walter J. Kendricks, Pastor

3909 W. Rowan
Spokane, WA

Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday Worship: 11:00am

509-534-4878

OUR COMMUNITY

PEOPLE SERVICES PROGRAMS

OPERATION HEALTHY FAMILY

OHF Partners with Catholic Charities to Offer Dental Care

Operation Healthy Family (OHF) is a 501(c)(3) faith-based non-profit organization serving Spokane's lowest income neighborhoods. Husband and wife team, Tommy and Paula Williams, co-founded OHF in 2010 because they felt "inspired by their faith and their passion for social justice to use their gifts and talents to strengthen our community's most vulnerable youth and families."

Their mission, they say, "is to honor God, follow Christ, and serve our community by offering support, services, and programs that strengthen the family unit through collaboration and partnerships with other like-minded nonprofit organizations and local

business." But they emphasize, that while their mission is rooted in their faith, OHF provides services to all community members regardless of their faith background."

OHF programs include **Reactor Nation**, which focuses on bullying prevention; **Brush for the Future**, which is a school based Oral Health Education program with a student leadership focus; **Dental Access Partnership Clinic**, which is a partnership with local private dentists and creative funders to offer dental access to the community; and the **Ballers Basketball Club**

Recently, OHF partnered with Catholic Charities to expand

Dental Access to low income Medicaid patients. The Dental Access Partnership (DAP) Clinic is designed to increase access to affordable, high-quality restorative dental care in a dignified setting. The DAP Clinic model integrates OHF's dental care team (Hygienists and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries) with private dentists, providing time-consuming restorative services in a cost-effective manner.

Catholic Charities funded a small scale pilot that partially covered the costs of OHF's dental care team for six clinic days. Patients were identified from Catholic Charities' clients, including people served by St. Margaret's Shel-



ter, the Bridges Project, House of Charity, as well as residents of Catholic Charities' affordable housing apartments. Thirty-two patients received exams, x-rays, diagnostics, and comprehensive dental plans.

Each person served through the pilot program needed a different care plan to fulfill the goal of restoring teeth and supporting overall health.

The cost of restoring teeth is high, but the impacts are equally high. For example, restoring people's smiles can mean the difference between them working or being unemployed.

The model that OHF uses in their Dental Access Partnership is innovative and promising, in that it addresses both the cost of dental care, which can be prohibitive,

and access to the needed services. The DAP model lessens the financial burden placed on the dentist by reducing staffing costs by bringing in an outside care team that is paid for through creative funding sources, (i.e., churches, foundations, etc.).

But despite its promise, the issue for OHF, as it is with most non-profit organizations, no matter how effective their programs, is identifying a sustainable source of funding. Operation Healthy Family is in the process of applying for a Medicaid Waiver, to be issued in the state of Washington, that will help fund the Dental Access Partnership Clinic and will help sustain and duplicate the program in other communities.

For more information about Operation Healthy Family and DAP, visit <http://www.ohfspokane.org>.



BRIMO'S STORY

Non-Profit Started to Bring Water to Village

(Excerpts from *From My Life Journey* by Brimo Nyinkuany)

As a young boy I grew up on a farm in South Sudan with four siblings. At the age of 13, I never thought my family would be caught up in religious and political wars, and separated for years. But it happened in the summer of 1987, when Sudan Islamic government troops attacked our villages and killed many people, burned houses, and kidnapped children.

I fled to a neighboring country to seek refuge. However, to reach the refugee camp, I had to walk a long distance on foot for three months.

My journey took me through deep mountain valleys, rivers and desert regions. We went through the valleys of Mt. Tumorous with cliffs of 120 feet elevation on both sides.

Along the way I encountered many dangerous species of animals, such as crocodiles, hippopotamus, lions and tigers. I saw many people drown, and animals



killed some, while others died of thirst and diseases.

However, I kept going and after we passed the wildest jungle, we faced hungry crocodiles and hippopotamus in the Nile River. I was terrified because I was too young and weak to swim. The first group decided to swim across, and as soon as they jumped into the river, they were attacked by crocodiles and hippos, and many people were killed. Others were swept away by the strong current and drowned.

Luckily, we were rescued by a local fisherman, who was fishing nearby. He let us enter his boat and started paddling away. While the fisherman was paddling us to

the other side of the river, a huge crocodile showed up and came very close to our boat. I could have even touched it with my hand. As our boat was approaching the river bank, we were again attacked, this time by two male hippopotami. They were trying to capsize our boat by making a huge water surge and I almost jumped in the water, but the fisherman yelled "don't move," and he started striking them with his paddle. It was a terrifying moment.

The long journey to the refugee camp was dangerous and death defying. My only sustenance was fruit and water. I was hungry, thirsty and exhausted, and I came to the point that I didn't even feel like proceeding, but I kept going.

I was determined to overcome the present situation that would consume my life and threaten my existence. The journey taught me the true meaning of commitment, determination, and that if you believe in something enough, it is possible to achieve it.

Continued on page 13



IN THE SPIRIT

REVEREND WALTER KENDRICKS Spokane Minister's Fellowship Elects New President

In December, Reverend Walter J. Kendricks, Pastor of Morning Star Baptist Church, was elected the new President of the Spokane Minister's Fellowship. Kendricks replaces Rev. Roberta Wilburn, who made history when she was elected the first woman President of the Minister's Fellowship.

The Fellowship, which meets monthly at the Emmanuel Family Life Center and represents fifteen local churches, is a gathering of Christian ministers, mostly (but not exclusively) African American, that exists, Rev. Kendricks says, "to unite Spokane area Pastors and Ministers for the purpose of support, fellowship, understanding, and goodwill among and between Churches of all denominations."

Rev. Kendricks, who has been Morning Star's Pastor since 2013, is emphasizing the "uniting" part of the Fellowship's mission as he steps into his new role as President, stating that his goals and vision for the Fellowship and for the Black community are one and the same, "to unite the African American community in Spokane so that we speak with a single message, even though that message may come from various people and organizations within the community, our message is the same."

The single message that Rev. Kendricks is talking about, is that "our community will no longer be ignored and marginalized by those in authority. We seek justice and honesty for our community in all facets of life, with a focus on education for our children." The vision of the Minister's Fellowship, he adds, "is to improve the quality of life for all those whom we serve."

The Fellowship, Kendricks says, is interested in the issues that are impacting African Americans in

Spokane. "We are appalled by the suspension rates for children of color in our local school system. We are disappointed by the lack of diversity amongst teachers and staff in that same school system. We are concerned about the interactions between members of our community and local police, and by the treatment that people of color receive within the criminal justice system. We seek to improve and increase opportunities for minority candidates in city and county employment."

"We ask not for anything to be given to us," he added, "we ask only that we be treated the same as others and that we are offered the same opportunities as others for life, liberty, and happiness."

Rev. Kendricks, a transplant to Spokane, was born in Lorain Ohio, 20 miles west of Cleveland. He was a PC (a preacher's kid). His father was a Pastor, and his mother, a home maker. In high school, Kendricks sang the choir and was Senior Class President, before graduating from Clearview High in 1974. He worked for United Airlines and traveled around the country before being called by GOD into Ministry and licensed to preach in 1994. He was ordained in 1997 for prison ministry by Rev. Dr. Leon C. Jones (now deceased), and served as Associate Minister at Eastside Baptist Church of Tacoma, WA, until being called by GOD again to Pastor Morning Star in November of 2013.

In describing himself, Rev. Kendricks offered, "I'm another Man who has first heard the call of GOD, then answered his call to serve first Him, and then His people with all I have to give him." He says that he sums up his calling in the words of a song; "I give myself away, I give myself away, I give myself away, so you can use me".



The other officers elected by the Spokane Minister's Fellowship in December were Vice President Donnie Stone, Secretary Dycelia Weiss, Treasurer Luke Jasmin and Chaplain Delories Shack. For more information about the Spokane Minister's Fellowship or to reach Reverend Kendricks, contact Morning Star Baptist Church at (509) 534-4878.

WORD OF FAITH CELEBRATES NEW CHURCH

Because of the faith of his people, God has opened a new door



Pastor Otis Manning and First Lady Jaretta Manning

Pastor Otis Manning and the congregation of the Word of Faith Christian Center were joined by the Spokane church community on Sunday, January 9, as they officially celebrated moving into their new church space, located at 9212 E. Montgomery Avenue, Building 402, Suite 400.

The lively celebration featured praise and worship from Word of Faith's Voices of Faith, followed by musical selections from Whitworth University's Exceptional Praise Team, the Holy Temple Church of God in Christ Choir, and the Morning Star Baptist Church Choir.

Words of encouragement were offered to Pastor Otis Manning and his congregation by Superintendent Ezra Kinlow of Holy Temple Church of God in Christ, Pastor Lonnie Mitchell of Bethel A.M.E. Church and Rev. Walter Kendricks of Morning Star Baptist Church.

Spokane NAACP President Naima Quarles-Burnley also joined the celebration by presenting Pastor Manning with a Community Partner Award for the important educational work that he is doing with his television ministry, Living By Faith. Pastor Manning's television audience was also included in the celebration as he broadcast his sermon to his viewers, sharing the message, "All you need is a word from God."

Congratulations to Pastor and First Lady Manning and the Word of Faith congregation on this and many more blessings to come.

For more information about Word of Faith Christian Center or to contact Pastor Manning call 509-891-5253 or visit www.wordoffaithspokane.org.



Photo Courtesy: The Talent of Memories, Min. Robert Lee Robinson Jr.

New Hope Baptist Church Pastor Happy Watkins

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



THOUGHTS FROM A GRANDMOTHER

What Do You Really Know About Black History Month

By Evelyn Anderton

What do you really know about Black History Month? During my research for this article, I realized just how little I knew. Here are a few details I would like to share.

Even though Blacks have been in America at least as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a respectable presence in the history books. A historian named Carter G Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History announced the second week of February to be "Negro History week" in 1926.

The month of February was chosen because it coincided with the birthday of Abraham Lincoln on February 12 and Frederick Douglass on February 14. Both are dates which Black communities have celebrated together since the 19th century.

The first Negro History week was met with a lukewarm response. Despite this far from universal acceptance, the event was regarded by Woodson as "one of the most fortunate steps ever taken by the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History" and he planned for a repeat of the event on an annual basis.

Woodson also believed that "If a race has no history, it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world and it stands in danger of being exterminated."

The Black churches and Black press played a significant role in the distribution of literature in association with Negro History Week and the Black press aided in the publicity effort.

I am in agreement with Mr. Woodson who also condended that the teaching of Black history was essential to ensure the physical and intellectual survival of the race within a broader society.

Forty-three years later the expansion of Negro History Week to Black History Month was first proposed by the leaders of the Black United Students in Ohio, at Kent State University in February 1969. The first celebration of Black History Month took place at Kent State one year later in February 1970.

Finally In 1976, as part of the United States Bicentennial, the expansion of Negro History Week to Black History Month was finally officially recognized by the US government. President Gerald Ford spoke in regards to this urging Americans to "Seize the opportunity to honor the too often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our History". Black History month is also an annual observance in Canada in February and in the United Kingdom in October.



Black History Month still today sparks a debate about the continued usefulness and fairness of a designated month dedicated to the history of one race. However, I personally believe that Black History is American History and let's just celebrate it for twelve months.

BLACK PARATROOPERS *Continued From 3*

Total fire jumps 460-470 with an average of 38 jumpers per fire.

Unfortunately, the first smokejumper to die on a fire jump was a member of the 555th Triple Nickle. PFC Malvin L. Brown was a trained combat medic. He died on a fire jump near Lemon Butte in the Umpqua mountain range, 38 miles northeast of Roseburg. Over their six months on fire duty, more than 30 Triple Nickle suffered injuries--broken leg above the knee, dislocated knees, crushed chest and a spinal fracture. PFC Malvin Brown is listed as Killed in Action. Two days after VJ Day, September 2, 1945, the 555th were busy suppressing a fire south of Spokane in Whitman County, WA.



When bombs rained down on Pearl Harbor the Nation and the military were both racially segregated. Black troops like the 555th served in all black units led by white officers and black troops fought wars on multiple fronts. They lived and served under Jim Crow laws prevalent throughout the country and fought racist and racism both in society and inside the military. The military records involving the men and the mission of the Triple Nickle and Operation Firefly were only declassified by request in 2014. Their stories and experiences during the 1945 fire season in the PNW involves much more than the space here allows. Theirs is a story of race, racism, patriotism and undaunted courage. Their story is our story.

Robert L. "Bob" Bartlett PhD is a Senior Lecturer at Eastern Washington University in the Sociology and Justice Study's Department and a member of Humanities Washington's Speakers Bureau. He is a member of The 555th Triple Nickle Association and the National Smokejumpers Association. Bob can be reached at 509.710.4937, at rbartlett@ewu.edu or through the Humanities Washington Speakers Bureau.

BRIMO'S STORY *Continued from Page 11*

Upon reaching my first refugee camp called Panyido in Ethiopia, I discovered the conditions were extremely horrible. People suffered from poor hygiene, unhealthy sanitation and food shortages. The main cause was dirty water and lack of medicine in the clinic. As a result, there was a cholera outbreak and many people died.

The bad conditions forced many refugees to flee the camp. I was able to withstand the situation for four years. However, four years later, we were forced again to move back inside Sudan due to a war between the government of Ethiopia and the rebels. We traveled another thousand miles to Kenya to the Kakuma refugee camp.

Life was not that easy in the camp. People were very hostile to each other. I guess it is our human nature that if you don't know each other, we fight, but I knew I was in the camp for a reason. My courage and deter-

mination came from thinking about where I had come from and what I hoped for in the future.

Regardless, of the sad and awful experienced I have had, I never loss hope simply because I am a lifelong learner. With the little knowledge I gained in the refugee camp, it opened my way to get a chance to apply for resettlement to United States of America, and one year later I was allowed to resettle in Washington State.

Currently, I am attending college and working part time at the same time. As I grew up and spent half of my entire adult life in the refugee camp, I realized that education would be my redemption. As a result of my life experiences, I have developed into a courageous, determined and proud individual.

Koyom Sanitary and Hygienic Initiative

In 2012 Brumo founded the Koyom Sanitary and Hygienic

Initiative, a 501c3 non-profit organization that is focused on providing sustainable, clean drinking water to communities in South Sudan Africa.

The organization, which is named Koyom after Brumo's home village, has a goal of raising \$105,000 to build eight wells, and Brimo is on his way to Africa to survey exactly what needs to be done over the next year in order to drill their first well by February of 2017.

In addition to providing clean water, the Kyom Initiative also plans to provide mosquito nets and water purification tablets, to raise awareness about hygiene and sanitation, and provide community programs highlighting basic issues related to water quality.

For more information or to make a donation contact Koyom Sanitary and Hygienic Initiative 509-323-0272, bkoyom@outlook.com or on Facebook at koyominitiative.org is currently being revised.

DR. FRANCES CRESS WELSING *March 18, 1935 - January 2, 2016*

By Romeal Watson

Renowned psychiatrist, race theorist, and author of the 1991 book, "The Isis Papers: The Keys to the Colors", died on January 2nd due to a stroke.

In 1962, Dr. Welsing graduated from Howard University with her M.D from the College of Medicine, specializing in pediatrics. She shook the world of behavioral sciences with her 1970 essay "The Cress Theory of Color-Confrontation and Racism (White Supremacy)", in which she explained how the "numerical shortage" and "genetic recessiveness," of the white population may have created "an uncontrollable sense of hos-



tility and aggression" towards people of color.

The essay created so much controversy (among both Black and White administrators) that Howard stripped her of tenure in 1975.

Since then, she spent over 20 years as a physician for the U.S. Department of Human Services in Washington, D.C., specializing in child psychiatry. In addition, she traveled the world, studying the origins of white supremacy from a psychological and biological perspective.

Welsing is best known for her 1991 book, "The Isis Papers", which many Black leaders and social theorist still reference today. And to that I say: Rest well Dr. Welsing, we'll take it from here.

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BUSINESS / ECONOMICS

FINANCE 101: Discovering Your Financial Fingerprint

Dycelia Weiss is a wife, a mother, and a grandmother. She has been a resident of Spokane for eleven years and “a servant of God for thirty years.” Dycelia is also a Christian Financial Educator.

“Even in this time of unprecedented access to information,” Dycelia says, “there remains a lack of financial knowledge amongst individuals and families.” As a result, Dycelia is focused on helping her clients understand “fundamental financial concepts that will give them the foundation to create a sound financial strategy so they can build a better tomorrow for themselves and for their loved ones.”

Dycelia is an independent associate with World Financial Group, Inc. (WFG), which is a national financial services marketing company with associates throughout the United States, that strives to help individuals and families that are often overlooked by the financial services industry. As an associate with WFG, Dycelia educates individuals and families on financial concepts, and offers financial products and solutions, including life and health insurance. Additionally, Dycelia is able to introduce interested entrepreneurs to the WFG business opportunity.

An entrepreneur herself, Dycelia started her own business in 2013, founding Weiss Financial Consulting, something she says, “has opened a whole new world to me.” As a part of her business, Dycelia offers monthly interactive work-

shops and seminars in the community, where she focuses on teaching the cognitive development of our financial decision making. For example: What is your earliest memory surrounding money? How was money modeled in your life?

The answers to these questions can have an impact on how we view and handle our money, and learning the answers to these questions, and others like them, which is something that is rarely discussed in the Black community, is a part of Dycelia’s monthly workshops, called: ***Finance 101: Discovering Your Financial Fingerprint***. The workshops, Dycelia says, are an opportunity, “to enjoy an evening of fun as we discover your Financial Fingerprint and learn what financial impression has been left on you.” It’s a first steps towards economic empowerment and wealth building. The workshop cost is \$10 and seating is limited.

Upcoming Workshops:

2nd Monday from March-June (3/14, 4/11, 5/9, & 6/13)
5:30-6:30pm

Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 Richard Allen Ct.

3rd Monday from January-March (1/18, 2/15, 3/21)
6-7pm

Heritage Home Loans, 1227 N Argonne Rd.

For more information or to register contact Dycelia Weiss at 509-327-0165 or dyceliaweiss@gmail.com



ELEVEN STEPS TO BETTER MONEY MANAGEMENT

By Eric Easter, Urban News Service

(www.urbannewsservice.com) Savings, bills, plans and budgets. These things rarely appear on Yuletide shopping lists. Yet the days and weeks after Christmas and into the New Year often yield a frightening wake-up call. For many people, getting their finances in order is second only to losing weight among their New Year’s resolutions

But as with dropping those pounds, somehow watching those dollars and cents rarely happens. Fortunately, experts say, it’s never too late to start improving your financial health. This is as much about changing the way you think about money as adjusting your saving or spending habits.

Urban News Service asked leading authorities Ben Carter and Guy-Max Delphin how readers can dedicate 2016 to bolstering their personal finances. Ben Carter is the host and producer of Manage Your Damn Money, a YouTube series designed to help millennials make personal economics a part of their culture. Here is what he advises:

Budget Your Time First

Consider places where you’ve been wasteful with your time, energy and resources, not just your money. Often, life can overtake us with things we’re not obligated to deal with, pay for or spend time on. Ultimately, in one way or another, that costs you money. Take the time to consider what mundane tasks might be avoidable and how you might be able

to make better use of your valuable time.

Audit Your Lifestyle

How we live determines how much we spend. So, how much does your daily lifestyle contribute to your financial health? Do you really need cable TV? Has eating out become a daily occurrence? Do you really need to go to brunch every Sunday? Do you have more invested in shoes than stock? One of the easiest ways to keep money in your pockets is to stop finding ways for it to leave in the first place.

Go Automated

Three words: automatic savings plan. One of the most effective ways to save (and invest) money is by opening an account and setting automatic debits to put money away in a separate savings (or investment) account you don’t look at often. The day after payday, a portion of your automatic deposit should be headed to this separate account to ensure consistency and saving of the largest percentage of your income possible. This trains you to get comfortable with living on only a portion of your income and makes saving a task you don’t have to think about.

Learn More/Read More

It sounds like a no-brainer, but finance confuses some people so much that even reading about it feels like a chore. Commit to learning something more about how to make your money grow. The true key to building wealth



is creating multiple streams of income. Consider committing to finding new ways to put your money to work so it can be fruitful and multiply.

Popular writers about money — such as Robert Kiyosaki, Michelle Singletary and Napoleon Hill — are popular because their strategies are sound. Reading gives you the opportunity to see your life, your goals and your finances through an alternative lens. Apply the strategies and shifts in thinking that align with your perspective and are likely to have a positive impact on your pockets.

Celebrate Small Victories

Take a weekend to get all your online accounts and account statements in one place and take a look at your victories — money you’ve earned, saved and invested, or goals you’ve met in the past year. If you’ve made contributions to your 401(k) at work, celebrate! If you were able to pay off that nagging debt, celebrate! If you were able to save \$750 for

that trip you really wanted to go on, celebrate! Looking at the big picture can be overwhelming and sometimes prevent you from recognizing small steps you’ve made toward your goals.

Add Your Financial Goals to Your Regular “To-Do List”

Many people put these things on separate lists. Write your financial goals down and put them on your list of things to do every day as a reminder of what you’re working toward.

Guy-Max Delphin is the CEO and president of Delphin Investments, a hedge fund management company based in New York that focuses on balanced investment strategies. Here are his words of financial wisdom:

Have a Money “Vision”

If you’re a small investor, be a contrarian. It can be hard not to follow the crowd around the water cooler, especially in good times. But if everybody is talking about a stock, chances are you’re too late. Have a unique vision for how you want to invest that matches what you believe in. If you’re relatively new to investing, a conservative strategy that minimizes your risk is always best. Then make small-size investments to limit short-term pain. Don’t bet the farm.

Adjust Your Plans for “Right Now”

Review and re-evaluate all of your insurance policies — homeowners, auto, rental, life and health. You may have started the

policies a while ago, but do they adequately protect the life you live now? After that, check to see whether there are new deals or new products that will save you money on your premiums while giving the same protection.

Review

If you’re a more experienced investor, review your portfolio to make changes that reflect new business trends or the current economic environment. Technology, especially, is changing rapidly. Do you think the same way about the industries you invested in as you did when you first invested?

Plan for the Worst

Nobody wants to think about dying, but the major difference between wealth in the black community today and that of other communities has almost everything to do with what we leave behind for the next generation. Make a will or review the one you have and make sure your wishes are very clear about the management of your money and belongings.

Watch Financial Television (But Only Sometimes)

In general, you should avoid taking investment advice from a TV pundit. But channels such as CNBC can be very helpful in learning the lingo of Wall Street, stocks and finance and new developments in business and finance. That comfort can go a long way to making it easier to discuss money and planning with a spouse, your family or a financial adviser.

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

POETRY RISING ON THE NORTHSIDE With Stephen Pitters

The Barnes and Noble Bookstore Social Work and Public Health and eventually moved on to the trumpet and was playing the saxophone by the age of twelve. In addition to the saxophone, Jermaine also plays the trumpet, the flute, drums and percussion, and he is learning to play the piano.

A standing room only crowd, as well as several passersby who were drawn in by music, joined Spokane poet Stephen Pitters and jazz musician Jermaine Carlton for the first in a series of poetry and music events that Pitters has put together to share his love of poetry and of music with the Spokane community.



Stephen Pitters began writing poetry in a high school English class and kept writing because he “liked words and how they sounded when they were put together.” He is a well known local poet and host of the KYRS radio program, Spokane Open Poetry Program, holds Master’s degrees in Clinical

has a teaching certificate from Gonzaga University. He has published three manuscripts, “BRIDGES OF VISIONS”, “WALKS THROUGH THE MIND” and “CURRENCIES OF LIFE- ENLISTED BEHAVIOR, ” and is currently working on a fourth, “CONVERSATION ON AN ALTERED ROADWAY,” which he read excerpts from.

Jermaine Carlton, who spends his time travelling between Spokane and Europe to visit family and perform, is a local jazz musician, who started playing the drums at the age of four, which he says was his first love. He

Jermaine shares his love of music through his work with Ready 2 Servie Ministries in the Spokane Valley, where he does outreach on Sundays.

With the success of his first Poetry and Music event, Stephen Pitters is looking forward to the remaining installments which will take place every other month throughout 2016, all at the Barnes and Nobles in the Northtown Mall, 4750 N Division St, Spokane. The dates for the upcoming events are 3/16, 5/18, 7/20, 9/21 and 11/16, and will feature a variety of poets and musicians.

For more information about this event or the KYRS radio show Spokane Open Poetry, contact Stephen Pitters at 509-979-0671 or stephenpitters@gmail.com. Jermaine Carlton can be reached at 509-979-6347 or jermaine_86@msn.com or for event information you can find him on Facebook.



YORK

See Lewis and Clark’s famous expedition from the eyes of its only Black member.

In celebration of Black History Month, David Casteal brings us the story of York, Lewis and Clark’s personal manservant and slave during their famed expedition.

The plan follows York as he travels with Lewis and Clark’s historic expedition and grows from a young slave to an outgoing frontiersman and archetypal Black American.

Written by David Casteal and Bryan Harnetiaux and directed by Susan Hardie, this performance features authentic African drumming by David Casteal, who portrays York.

FEBRUARY 11-13

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Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased at <http://themodernnews.org/2015/12/07/york/#more-3569>.

OUR VOICES

SPOKANES TAMIR RICE RESPONSE

Reflections

by Jaclyn Archer

I was on Christmas vacation, staying with my parents when I heard the news that no one would be indicted for the murder of Tamir Rice, a twelve-year-old boy who was shot down by police officers in a Cleveland park. It was December 28, and the news rippled across social media as people registered their shock, that despite the clear dishonesty of the officers involved and the video evidence proving that Rice had been given little to no warning, there would be no justice for the grieving family left behind. Within minutes of seeing the news I was in contact with Liz Moore, director of the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane. We both agreed that it was important for us to do something.

Liz believed it was important to stage a public act of solidarity that would promote the visibility of those who care about police violence in the Spokane area, and draw attention to the issue of police violence against people of color. "It's easy to feel invisible here," she said, "demonstrations let people know we are here."

I wanted to promote education about the events surrounding Tamir Rice's death, and examine the history of state sponsored violence against people color both in the United States and in Spokane in particular. So we combined our ideas, and our efforts, and brought our organizations into cooperation.

On January 12, the Black Student Union of EWU, for which I am the Community Relations Officer, the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, and the NAACP of Spokane joined together to hold signs during rush hour on the corners of Division and Main, and Main and Brown.

Between fifty or sixty of us spread out between intersections and held signs during the evening rush hour bearing the declaration "Black Lives Matter," the names of police violence victims, and other anti-violence slogans. We crossed the street with every corresponding green light, turning our signs towards the cars waiting for their turn, some protestors wove their way through the idling vehicles in an effort to confront as many sets of eyes as possible. We



could see our breath in the air as we chanted, some of us alternated gloveless hands in and out of pockets as we continued to hold our signs aloft.

We were college students, activists, organizers, and community members; diverse in race as well as age, gender, and stage of life. Many of us had never been acquainted before, but we had joined together for one common purpose: to proclaim, loudly and publicly, that Black lives matter, and to express our outrage that a black boy may be executed without trial for the crime of behaving like a careless child.

The energy was high, even though many of us had never been involved in a public demonstration before. As the cars rumbled by there were honks of support, and a few drivers who yelled insults or argument, but most frequent, on the corner I stood on, was a look of discomfort from the drivers I made eye contact with. The discomfort was by no means uniform. Some drivers seemed discomforted by my presence, others seemed troubled and pensive, others were moved.

It is a testament to the passion of the social justice and pro-Black communities in Spokane that we stood in the cold for over an hour. Sometime after six we adjourned to the Community Building for the educational portion of the evening. NAACP President Naima Quarles-Burnley, EWU Africana Studies professor Dr. Okera Nsombi, and Liz Moore gave presentations on the history of state-sponsored

racial violence in the United States and the track record and developments in our local criminal justice system.

Nationwide, Black males made up 40 percent of the nearly 1,000 unarmed people shot by law-enforcement in 2015, despite comprising only 6 percent of the U.S. population. With the stream of controversy currently facing the Spokane Police Department, it's no surprise that the Spokane area conforms to the trends of racial bias in its policing and criminal justice system. As Quarles-Burnley pointed out, Blacks interact with police at six times the rate of their community representation in Spokane.

The SPD is currently facing a crisis of public confidence and management, as the mayoral leadership of David Condon has been called into question due to the recent scandal involving allegations of sexual assault involving his hand-picked police chief. With subsequent misconduct by members of the SPD and ongoing hearings by the Spokane Ethics Commission, it is reasonable to wonder whether Spokane's most marginalized and vulnerable populations can or even should place their trust in an institution that locally, and historically, has proven itself hostile to their interests.

However, the education I received from leaders and organizers on January 12 was compelling not because of what I learned of injustice, but what I learned about the willingness and dedication of Spokane community members. Many organizations, including PJALS, Spokane Police Accountability and Reform Coalition, Greater Spokane Progress, Smart Justice Spokane, Center for Justice, the NAACP, along with racial equity workers installed in our local government are working to improve Spokane's policing and criminal justice systems so that the next violent tragedy doesn't happen here. Meanwhile, any community member can join local activists, or help influence the process of selecting a new police chief at policechiefsearch@spokanecity.org.

We cannot bring back those we have lost. We cannot reclaim the stolen potential of Tamir Rice, or any of the other hundreds of lives claimed by police violence. But we can decide what kind of community we want to live in, and invest our time into making that community a reality.

OSCAR BOYCOTT

Continued from page 1

Black America, it's time to flip the script and call on white Hollywood's liberal actors to show some solidarity with their darker-skinned counterparts and just stay home.

White Hollywood needs to sit this one out. Them not being there is a much louder and more sincere statement than their attending and saying something political in their speech about the lack of blacks as they accept their award in their fancy clothes and jewels and exit stage left to do media interviews.

Sharpton and others who want to get the attention of the Academy's voting members and create change would do better by affecting the Oscars' ability to generate revenue with the annual broadcast. If the Oscars don't have A-list actors on that red carpet and in the audience, nobody — black, white, Latino, Asian, or otherwise — will be watching. Maybe, just maybe, the Academy's mostly white and male voting bloc that didn't see any nomination-worthy performances by African-Americans in 2015 will see something wrong with that picture.

Sometimes being an ally means actually having to do something. It's time for an Oscars with no whites.

Jasmyne Cannick is a social commentator and opinion writer, featured in the Los Angeles Times, Chicago Sun Times, Los Angeles Daily News, and Ebony Magazine. Ms. Cannick's blog is located at <http://www.jasmyne-cannick.com/blog>.

RISE *By Ron Smalls (a guy from a little town called Philadelphia)*

My daughter and I are new to Spokane and Washington for that matter. Spokane has that small town feel, with just a touch of the city for good measure. Yeah this seems like a good place to raise a child, a child that may one day inspire this great nation in which we live.

Recently my daughter and I attended the celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life at the INB Performing Arts Center. As my daughter and I enjoyed the festivities, I looked around the room, seeing people of all ages, races, sexes, and I realized something that many of you probably already know. For better or worse we are in this together. What do I mean by this? Well let's just say if you sneeze or cough in a crowded room someone is likely to catch your cold. Yes, for better or worse our lives are connected in ways that are clearly evident and some not so evident.

Injustice affects all of our lives in one way or another, but you don't need me to tell you that. However the same can also be true of a positive act, such as coming out to celebrate the life of a man that hoped, no dreamed, of a better world for all people.



One of the speakers said that he believes Martin Luther King was a warrior, the Native American gentleman went on to say that "when a warrior falls the people rise and unite." I'd like to believe that's true. That a person can have such an impact on a society and its people, that should that person fall we unite and rise. Let's rise to meet the coming challenges that face us, we can do it, I know we can.

So as we remember all of those that we have lost in the struggle, all of the fallen, let's rise. As you read this sitting in the barbershop, hair salon, standing in line at the market, sitting at your computer, or as you enjoy a cup of coffee at your favorite coffee spot, share it with someone. Let's rise up and contribute in a positive way becoming part of the solution. No longer laying down, standing down, but rising to the challenge, because nothing beats a failure but a try.

Don't just point out a problem, be brave, creative and daring enough, courageous enough to rise to the occasion and present possible solutions. As I said, like it or not, we are in this together, it's in the darkest moments that a light shines the brightest. And now more than ever we need that light to shine brighter than it's ever shined before.

Shall we unite to rise and become a beacon of hope for those that shall come after us, while continuing the work of those that have gone before us? We can make this world a better place, let's rise. If not now-- when? If not us-- who? You may say I'm a dreamer but then so was Dr. King and like him I believe it's possible, and hopefully so do you. Now lets rise!

OUR VOICES

THE SOURCE OF LIFE

By Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq.

(TriceEdneyWire.com) — Previously, I’ve written about environmental racism and the untold and unpredictable impact it’s had/will have on communities of color. Common to these episodes have been motives of profit and financial gain. Additionally, there’s been a total disregard for the welfare and humanity of affected communities.

Reflecting on news from Flint, Michigan, I am struck by the severity and long-term impact of this case of environmental racism. Unless you live under a rock, you are aware of the callous and systematic poisoning of Flint residents over the past eighteen months.

Typical of the industrial Midwest, Flint is overwhelmingly controlled by elected officials affiliated with the Democratic Party. The racial make-up of its current population is 56.6% African American, 37.4% white, 3.9% Hispanic/Latino, and the remainder a mixture of Native American and Asian. 40% of Flint’s population lives below the poverty line.

Like its neighbor Detroit, Flint played a major role in the automotive industry serving as home to Buick and Chevrolet. The AC Spark Plug Company also originated in Flint. By all measures, Flint flourished because of a robust auto industry. As the industry declined, companies began to consolidate their manufacturing facilities and Flint was abandoned. Insolvency followed.

Uniquely, the Emergency Financial Manager Laws of Michigan allow Republican Governor Rick Snyder to usurp the authority of elected officials of cities in financial insolvency. Almost as an act of racial/political subjugation, Snyder has used his power to appoint emergency managers who have total autonomy over Flint. This system allows emergency managers to act independently



of any laws passed or decisions enacted by duly elected officials. By 2013, six Michigan cities and almost half of the state’s African American population were under emergency management.

This brings us to the decision to change Flint’s water supply. Prior to April 2014, Flint obtained its public water through Detroit’s system sourced from Lake Huron. In a cost-saving effort to trim \$12 Million in annual cost, the sitting Emergency Manager decided to obtain water from the Flint River. Early response to the change and current knowledge show the impact upon Flint’s public water supply to be an environmental calamity of incalculable proportion.

Simply put, Flint River water was toxic, corrosive and unfit for consumption.

In September, Flint’s Hurley Medical Center released a study that found the number of infants and children with elevated lead-blood levels had doubled. In high risk areas, it tripled. The impact of this exposure can’t be determined now, but it is estimated that, among those exposed, significant learning disabilities will result and the need for special juvenile services will develop.

Instead of a prudent and remedial response to complaints and evidence of polluted water, the Snyder administration acted with reckless disregard. Residents were told to “relax” and were assured that, despite the brown color and noxious odor, the water was “safe” to drink. Such action against Flint’s large African American population can most assuredly be called GENOCIDE.

Water is the source of life. The callous mismanagement of that essential commodity gives greater meaning to the phrase “Black Lives Matter.” It should also teach African American communities that we are our own best caretakers. We cannot continue to put full-faith and trust in government or institutions to do the right thing.

In his 1970 preface to the book, “We Charge Genocide,” Ossie Davis wrote: “We will submit no further to the brutal indignities being practiced against us; we will not be intimidated, and most certainly not eliminated. We claim the ancient right of all peoples, not only to survive unhindered, but also to participate as equals in man’s inheritance here on earth. We fight to preserve ourselves, to see that the treasured ways of our life-in-common are not destroyed by brutal men or heedless institutions.”

Dr. E. Faye Williams is National President of the National Congress of Black Women, www.nationalcongressbw.org.

UNREPRESENTED BY OUR REPRESENTATIVES

By James Clingman

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Does it really matter who wins the Presidency? How can it matter to Black folks, considering the way we “play” politics? We have no power, no leverage, and little or no influence in the political arena, and even worse it seems we are reluctant to do what it takes to gain any political clout. So why do we care so much about the upcoming election?

Having “played” this political game for more than fifty years now, getting thousands of Black folks elected to public office, and even a Black POTUS, we are still far behind and even nonexistent in serious public policy discourse and legislative initiatives. As we face yet another “most important election” of our lifetime, what are you willing to do to improve our political situation in this country? Hint: Handwringing won’t help.

Is our political strategy, “I got plenty of nothing, and nothing is plenty for me”? Or, “You got to give the people, give the people what they want”? Do we even have a strategy other than listening to flowery words from politicians and watching them give speeches and participate in de-

bates? We, the bi-polar electorate, have empowered an aristocratic class of pompous, self-righteous, lying, condescending, affluent, aloof, money-grubbing, narcissistic, insincere, unconcerned, yet powerful individuals that many of us hold in high esteem, for reasons unbeknownst to me. They play with our emotions and draw on our sympathies, the result of which is a never-ending roller coaster ride. Even sadder is the fact that many of us believe they will save us.

All the incumbents and candidates need are a few nice sounding phrases to make us think we are in high cotton. To make matters worse, Black “leaders” once again are telling us to vote, but they are not in specific discussions about who to vote for and why. Oh yeah, I forgot; the NAACP is “nonpartisan” (yeah, right) and cannot endorse or support any candidate. How convenient; and what a joke that is.

The vast majority of Black folks are already in the tank for Hillary; anyone can see that. Black organizations will feature her at their conventions, and preachers will invite her to their pulpits. On



the other hand, Bernie is courting Blacks via his Black lives matter rhetoric, and Trump is saying how much Black people love him, while the other Republican candidates are reluctant to seriously lobby the Black vote—including Uncle Ben. We are merely props for a circus act.

The day after the SOTU (State of the Union) many of our people were more interested in what Michelle Obama wore than what her husband said—or did not say. She wore a dress originally priced at \$2,095, made by Narciso Rodriguez, a non-Black, gay designer, and we went bonkers. Preced-

ed by Michael Kors, Azzedine Alaïa, Jason Wu, Barbara Tfank, Rachel Roy, and Isaac Mizrahi, I must ask if there are any Black designers’ dresses good enough for the SOTU soiree?

Where does all of this political high drama leave us? Our unemployment rate is still double that of Whites, and we are not creating jobs. Our health is the poorest in the nation, especially with illnesses like diabetes, and we don’t own a dialysis center. Our education is substandard, and we are not establishing our own schools. We are disproportionately incarcerated, but we are not selling anything to the prisons. Many economic solutions are in our hands.

And here’s a political solution: “If you want equity, justice, and equality, you must...become irritants, become abrasive. Your political philosophy must be self-ish and pragmatic. You must start with the premise that you have no permanent friends, no permanent enemies, just permanent interests.” William “Bill” Clay, U.S. Representative (Missouri)

We have set politicians up as kings and queens, the price for

which can be found in 1st Samuel, Chapter Eight:

“This is the way the kind of king [you want] operates. He’ll take your sons and make soldiers of them... regimented in battalions and squadrons. He’ll put some to forced labor on his farms, plowing and harvesting, and others to making either weapons of war or chariots in which he can ride in luxury. He’ll put your daughters to work as beauticians and waitresses and cooks. He’ll conscript your best fields, vineyards, and orchards and hand them over to his special friends. He’ll tax your harvests and vintage to support his extensive bureaucracy. Your prize workers and best animals he’ll take for his own use. He’ll lay a tax on your flocks and you’ll end up no better than slaves. The day will come when you will cry in desperation because of this king you so much want for yourselves. But don’t expect God to answer.” - The Message Bible

Unnerving, isn’t it?

James E. Clingman is the nation’s most prolific writer on economic empowerment for Black people. He has written seven books and is featured in newspapers, and magazines. <http://www.blackonomics.com>

LORENZO HAYES

Continued from Page 1

Marshall, a homeless, African American man, who was taken into custody on November 11, on a charge of trespassing, choked on his own vomit and suffocated while being restrained by deputies. He died nine days later when his family took him off life support. The death was ruled a homicide by the Denver Medical Examiner, and as in the Lorenzo Hayes case, the Denver District Attorney, Mitch Morrissey, announced that there would be no criminal charges brought against the deputies, concluding that “despite the unintended and unfortunate result, the evidence would not convince a jury beyond a reasonable doubt that the force applied to Mr. Marshall was either “unreasonable” or “inappropriate.”.

Both Lorenzo Hayes and Michael Marshall were considered resistant by jail staff and restrained by officers in the prone position, which is a body position in which one lies flat with the chest down and back up. “Experts warn” according to the Huffington Post article, that “the common but risky police tactic of restraining someone in a prone position can be lethal, especially on those with medical problems and the mentally ill, whose distress is sometimes confused with resistance.”

The article continues, stating that “the Justice Department has long warned officers about the dangers of ‘positional asphyxia’, or death because someone’s position complicates their ability to breathe.” Unfortunately there is no national data on how many people suffocate as a result of being restrained face-down, so the article concludes, “it’s impossible to say whether use of the tactic has increased.”

But deaths like those of Hayes and Marshall are prompting increasingly vocal calls for Federal investigations into jail practices and training. The Spokane Human Rights Commission, citing the deaths of four individuals, John A. Everett, Lorenzo Hayes, Scott Stevens and Tammy Sue Heinen, in Spokane County jail custody over a two and a half month period in 2015, sent a letter to the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division in August, stating that the frequency of deaths appeared to indicate systemic issues at the jail and asking for an investigation.

The Spokane branch of the NAACP has also expressed concerns. In response to Spokane Prosecutor Lawrence H. Haskell’s decision not to file charges in the death of Lorenzo Hayes, a statement posted on the NAACP website by President, Naima Quarles-Burnley, says “the Spokane NAACP calls for a full and complete investigation by the Department of Justice concerning the circumstances surrounding the death of Lorenzo Hayes and the three other individuals who died in police custody from May 3-July 13, 2015. This goes beyond pointing out blame or laying fault. It is about a review of our system, we need to find out what went wrong and identify what we need to change to facilitate a just system.”

The NAACP statement goes on to say, “while we recognize that the Police and jail staff that transported and booked Lorenzo Hayes into the Spokane County Jail will not be criminally charged in connection with his death, we raise the specter of negligence given the result.”

Blaine Stum, Chair of the Spokane Human Rights Commission issued a statement as well on behalf of the Commission. “We are deeply concerned about the death of Lorenzo Hayes in the Spokane County Jail, as well as the three other deaths that occurred in a relatively short time span. While the prosecutor declined to file charges related to Hayes’ death, we question whether best practices for dealing with people experiencing an opioid overdose were used. We have filed a public records request with Spokane County for all documents and files related to the case, and will continue to advocate for a more thorough, systemic investigation into jail operations to ensure that deaths such as Hayes do not happen again.”

The Black Lens has also filed public records requests with both the City of Spokane and Spokane County and is joined by the Spokane NAACP in requesting the release of the following information: Spokane County Medical Examiners’ Report; SIRR (Spokane Investigative Regional Response) Team Investigation Documents and Report; Spokane County Jail video footage; Spokane Police Body Camera Footage, in addition to all reports, evaluations, test results, notes, hospital records, and any other related information and documents concerning the arrest, apprehension, booking and subsequent death of Lorenzo Hayes.

In addition to addressing the circumstances surrounding the death of Lorenzo Hayes specifically, the NAACP statement also points out the need for comprehensive training and education for police and jail staff, “The Spokane NAACP further calls for the immediate implementation of comprehensive training of the County police and the staff of the police department that includes: consistent racial bias training and bias testing, and use of the findings to determine hiring, performance evaluations and decisions about where to deploy officers; crisis intervention, that includes an understanding of mental health and substance abuse issues; tactical de-escalation and minimizing use of force.”

The NAACP statement concludes by saying, “accountability is important. The Spokane NAACP asserts that despite the determination of lack of criminal intent in the Hayes case there are undeniable issues of grave concern that must give rise to a Department of Justice investigation when in a six week period four people lose their freedom and their lives in one jail.”

The Black Lens will be writing a follow-up article after the requested public information is received and reviewed, and will track any progress in requests for a Federal Investigation of the jail.

BLACKS AND EDUCATION

Continued From Page 7

On their tongues was the name Gabriel Prosser; in their minds were thoughts of what might have happened if Prosser had succeeded in leading Virginia slaves in revolt against slavery.”

Anti-literacy legislation became even more widespread in the South after 1830, again in response to a number of revolts by enslaved Africans, namely those led by Denmark Vesey in 1822, Nat Turner in 1831, the publication of David Walker’s Appeal published in 1829, and the abolitionist paper, The Liberator, published by William Lloyd Garrison in 1831. Walker’s Appeal, which called for open rebellion by enslaved Africans and asserted that death was a better option than slavery, caused great fear among Whites throughout the South.

This 1829 Georgia statute is an example of legislative reaction to Walker’s pamphlet and was designed to prevent literacy development among the Black population: “If any slave, Negro or Free person of color, or any White person, shall teach any other slave, Negro, or free person of color to read or write, either written or printed characters, the said free person of color or slave shall be punished by fine and whipping or fine or whipping at the discretion of the court; and if a White person so offends, he, she, or they shall be punished with a fine not exceeding \$500.00 and imprisonment in the common jail at the discretion of the court.”

An 1830 statute in Alabama stated that “any person or persons who shall attempt to teach any free person of color or slave to spell, read, or write, shall upon conviction...be fined in a sum of not less than \$250, nor more than \$500.”

Within the community of enslaved Africans, or “quarter community,” literate Blacks enjoyed “immeasurable status” because of their ability to provide information from the outside world. Learning to read helped enslaved Blacks develop a healthier sense of self and helped them deal with the emotional and psychological challenges of chattel enslavement. Thomas Jones, who secretly learned to read while living under slavery, illustrates this point. Jones wrote, “I felt at night, as I went to my rest that I was really beginning to be a man, preparing myself for a condition in life better and higher and happier than could belong to the ignorant slave” (*italics mine*).

Ironically, extreme opposition to Black education and literacy led Blacks to value it that much more, giving it almost “supernatural status.”

Next in this Series – Part VII : The Southern Experience and the Role of Religion

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FEBRUARY EVENTS

FEBRUARY 11

SPOKANE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS

The Spokane Human Rights Commission is sponsoring their second Courageous Conversations event focusing on homelessness in the City of Spokane. What is the current state of homelessness in Spokane? How should we as a community respond? What solutions should we support and implement? The meeting is open to all!

5:30-7pm

East Central Community Center
500 S Stone St, Spokane

FEBRUARY 11-13

YORK

A Play about Lewis and Clark's famous expedition from the eyes of its only Black member.

The Modern Theater Coeur D'Alene
1320 E Garden Ave, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814, (208) 676-7529

Tickets: \$20;

<http://themodernnews.org/2015/12/07/york/#more-3569>.

FEBRUARY 12

WORDS AND IMAGES OF BLACKNESS

The Black Lens is sponsoring its first community event for Black History Month. Join us as community members share their words and art.

7pm

Aunties Bookstore

402 W Main Ave, Spokane

Cost: Free

FEBRUARY 15

NAACP TOUR OF WSU HEALTH SCIENCES EXHIBIT

Join the NAACP for light refreshments and tour of the Contemporary African American Academic Surgeons Exhibit

6-7pm

WSU Sciences University-Riverpoint Student Academic Center

600 N. Riverpoint Blvd, Spokane

For more information contact the NAACP at 509-209-2425 or visit <http://spokaneNAACP.com>

FEBRUARY 15

NAACP MEETING

Join the NAACP for our monthly general membership meeting

7-9pm

Community Building - Lobby

25 W. Main Street, Spokane WA

For more information contact the NAACP at 509-209-2425 or visit <http://spokaneNAACP.com>

FEBRUARY 18

CARL MAXEY: A FIGHTING LIFE - DOCUMENTARY

Premiere Screening Event for KSPS documentary based on the life and work of Spokane's own Carl Maxey

7pm

The Bing Crosby Theater

901 W Sprague Ave, Spokane

Tickets: \$50 per person

Documentary Premiere on KSPS Television, channel 7, at 7pm; Online viewing available 2/19/16 <http://video.kspis.org>) For information contact contact Sandra Kernerman at 509-443-4417

FEBRUARY 19

PUBLIC FORUM ON RACE AND JUSTICE

10AM

Gonzaga University Law School Courtroom

721 N Cincinnati St., Spokane

FEBRUARY 23

WHY BLACK

PERSPECTIVES MATTER with Dr. Kellie Carter-Jackson 7pm

Dr. Carter-Jackson will take the audience on a historical journey and end with the modern day exclusion of Black Perspectives.

Whiworth University

Weyerhaeuser Hall, Robinson Teaching Theatre

300 W Hawthorne Rd, Spokane, WA

For more information contact: Shawn L. Washington at 509-777-4330

FEBRUARY 27

A NIGHT IN HARLEM

The Black Student Union at Gonzaga University Presents its annual banquet.

5:30-8pm

Gonzaga University

Cataldo Hall

1200 N. Addison, Spokane

Tickets: \$10 (students); \$12 (community); \$80 per table, contact gonzagabsu@gmail.com.

FEBRUARY 26-27

PEACE AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE ACTION CONFERENCE

Sponsored by the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane

To register visit: www.pjals.org/2016conference.

For more information call 509-838-7870.

FEBRUARY 27-28

YORK

A Play about Lewis and Clark's famous expedition from the eyes of its only Black member.

3pm & 7:30pm (2/27); 2pm (2/28)

Spokane Civic Theatre

1020 N Howard St, Spokane, WA

99201, (509) 325-2507

Tickets: \$20 (<http://spokanecivictheatre.com/york>)

FEBRUARY 29

BLACK LIVES AWARENESS CONFERENCE

The Black Student Union at SFCC is hosting a conversation about what it mean to be black in today's society and how we as a community can be a part of the solution rather than the problem.

11:30AM -12:30pm

Sokane Falls Community College

Student Union Bldg, Lounges A & B

3410 W Ft. George Wright Dr, Spokane

SAVE THE DATE MARCH 12

Delta Sigma Theta 2016

Founders's Day Celebration

Keynote: Mrs Sandra Phillips Johnson, Noon

Red Lion Inn at the Park, Blrm D

303 W. North River Drive, Spokane

Tickets: \$35 each

509-255-6013 or 509-928-8884

APRIL 23

African American

Graduation Ceremony

Join us for the 20th Anniversary of celebrating our graduates

1:00pm

Whitworth University Campus

Hixson Union Building (HUB)

300 W Hawthorne Road

Spokane WA 99251

OPENING DOORS

CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN AMERICAN ACADEMIC SURGEONS

This banner exhibition celebrates the contributions of African American surgeons and educators to medicine and medical education, and follows the lives of four pioneers in the field.

The exhibit is a collaborative effort between the National Library of Medicine and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture.

Sponsored by the Diversity Events Subcommittee of WSU Spokane and EWU Spokane.



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Sat: 9 AM – 5PM

www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/aframsurgeons

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Learn more at waopportunityscholarship.org.

WSOS is made possible through major funding by founding partners Microsoft & Boeing with matching contributions by the State of Washington.

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

♥

CELEBRATING OUR LOVE

♥

To: Chuck

I love you for so many reasons - for being there when I needed you the most, for being there just because. Therefore, when you see this smile on my face, I thank God for putting you in my life.



Happy Valentines Day!
My Eternal Love
Evelyn

To: Gene

You're my valentine, the one I needed to have forever by my side. My special friend, my sweetheart, and dear and loving husband.



Happy Valentines Day
Tina

To: Michael

Pure and tender,
warm and true,
you need me,
and
I need you



Happy Valentines Day
Your Loving Wife
Vickey

To: Chris

For all of the thoughtful things you have done and all that you still do. Here's a wish that is filled with love especially for you. Have a wonderful Valentines Day.



Always My Love
Linda

To: William

What God has put together....
Happy Valentines
Day to my
husband—
William Whitehead.
Love you more than
you'll ever know...
Happy Valentines
Day, Adell



Happy Valentine Day
Wayne

Wayne,
Your Lips give me many kisses,
Your love is better than wine
You fulfill all my wishes,
You stepped in right on time.

It was but a little that I passed
from them, but I found him
whom my soul loveth: I held
him, and would not let him
go.....
He whom my soul loveth.

Wifey - Faith





To: Julius

Valentines day is a time for sharing
feelings for someone very special.
Feelings that sometimes too often go
unspoken. It's a day for expressing
gratitude and love..
Happy Valentines Day
Your Loving Wife



To: OK

It's like God looked at my life and
knew exactly what I needed!
You! You! You!



Happy Valentine
Love Always
Tammie

To: Ivan

You were my college sweetheart; I still love
you. It took 10+ years to get our lives in order.
We now have Shayla, Ivanti, Oceana,
son-in-law Walter and grandson Kobe.

As the saying goes- You are the peanut butter
to my jelly, the cream to my coffee, the laces
to my tennis shoes and the beat to my heart.
Happiness is being married to your best
friend and you meet my criteria.
God in his infinite wisdom said
we were meant to be.



Happy Valentines Day
I Love You
Fannie

To: James

Happy Valentines Day to the
Sweetest Partner Ever! Trusting,
Loving, Caring and Loves to
Spoil Me...James Troutt.



Love, Peggie

To: Wallace

I needed a man who's wonderful inside
and out, a friend who knows me almost
better than I know myself and a love that
blesses me everyday. You're just what I
needed.
Happy Valentines Day!



Love, Lynne

To: Timothy

Forever my Valentine I
will love you to infinity
and beyond.. Have a won-
derful Valentines Day



Forever My Love
Bernice

To: Tom

Happy Valentines Day,
Thomas Johnson, the love of
my life. A man of Integrity,
trustworthiness and honor
that God placed in my life.
I love you dearly.



From your wife
Carolyn

It didn't take me long to realize you were
the one for me. Thank you God for
putting such a wonderful man in my life.



Forever My Love
Happy Valentine Day
Diane

To: Victor

To the man I will always love and
cherish for the rest of my life.
Thank You Lord for giving me him.



Forever
Happy Valentine Day
Stevana