

THE BLACK LENSTM

NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

GUILTY ON ALL COUNTS

Former Police Officer Found Guilty of All Charges in Murder of George Floyd

By Stacy M. Brown

NNPA Newswire
Senior National Correspondent

(NNPA NEWSWIRE) - Former President Barack Obama joined the National Newspaper Publishers Association, the NAACP, the National Urban League, and others to applaud the guilty verdicts in the Derek Chauvin case.

For almost a year, George Floyd's death under the knee of a police officer has reverberated around the world – inspiring murals and marches, sparking conversations in living rooms and new legislation.

Obama noted that a more basic question has always remained: would justice be done?

"In this case, at least, we have our answer. But if we're being honest with ourselves, we know that true justice is about much more than a single verdict in a single trial," the former president stated.



"True justice requires that we come to terms with the fact that Black Americans are treated differently, every day.

It requires us to recognize that millions of our friends, family, and fellow citizens live in fear that their next encounter with law enforcement could be their last.



And it requires us to do the sometimes thankless, often difficult, but always necessary work of making the America we know more like the America we believe in."

The 44th president continued: "While today's verdict may have been a necessary step on the road to progress, it was far from

a sufficient one. We cannot rest. We will need to follow through with the concrete reforms that will reduce and ultimately eliminate racial bias in our criminal justice system. We will need to redouble efforts to expand economic opportunity for those communities that have been too long marginalized.

"And as we continue the fight, we can draw strength from the millions of people — especially young people — who have marched and protested and spoken up over the last year, shining a light on inequity and calling for change. Justice is closer today not simply because of this verdict, but because of their work."

NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., said the trade association welcomed the verdict. "The unanimous verdict is a step in the appropriate direction to dismantle American Apartheid and racism that continues to be clearly manifested by racially-motivated police brutality," Chavis added.

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But Shootings Continued Before and After the Chauvin Verdict



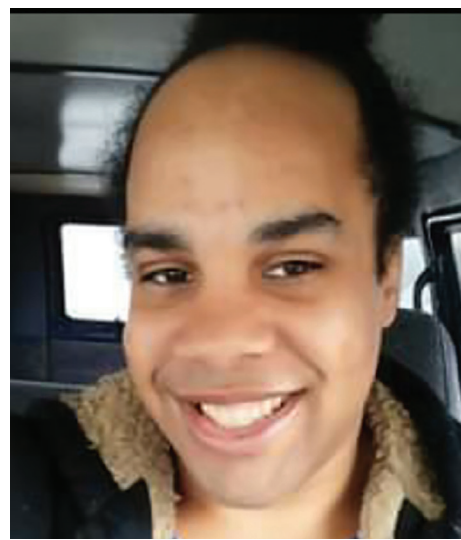
Daunte Wright (20)

Daunte Wright was shot and killed on April 11, just a few miles away from the Chauvin trial. Officers with the Brooklyn Center Police Department pulled him over, citing a minor traffic violation. According to police, Wright got back into his car after an attempt to handcuff him and a short struggle. An officer fires at him, later claiming that she mistook her gun for her taser.



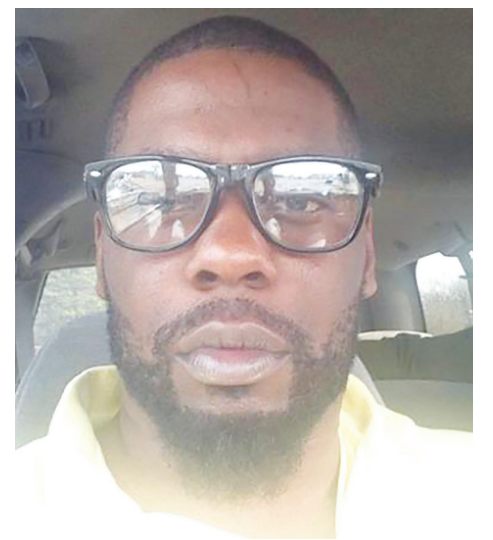
Ma'Khia Bryant (16)

Ma'Khia Bryant, a teenager in foster care, was fatally shot by a Columbus, Ohio, police officer on 4/20 who responded to a 911 call about someone armed with a knife. Body camera video shows a fight when the officer arrives. The officer draws his gun as the altercation unfolds and one girl appears to try to stab another. He fires his weapon 4 times and Ma'Khia falls to the ground.



Isaiah Brown (32)

Isaiah Brown was talking on a cordless landline phone with 911 when a Virginia deputy responding to a domestic violence call placed by the victim opened fire on 4/21. Brown was shot 10 times. The deputy, who had given Brown a ride home earlier in the day, said he mistook the phone for a gun. Brown is currently on a breathing machine and remains in critical condition.



Andrew Brown Jr. (42)

Andrew Brown Jr., a father of seven, was killed as sheriff's deputies attempted to serve an arrest warrant in Elizabeth City, North Carolina on 4/21. Witnesses said the deputies shot Brown as he attempted to drive away. An independent autopsy concluded that Brown had 5 penetrating bullet wounds, one in the back of the head. Seven deputies have been placed on leave.

ON MY MIND

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

by Sandra Williams

Tell Sen. Tim Scott What it Really Means to Be an Uncle Tom

I was irritated when I saw that Senator Tim Scott was going to be offering the Republican "rebuttal" to President Joe Biden's speech that was given to a joint session of congress discussing his first 100 days in office.

Of course he is, I thought to myself.

It was a no-brainer to assume that, amongst other things, the subject of race and racism was going to come up in President Biden's speech, given all that happened in the lead up to the last election and all that has been happening in the country since then.

So, who better to offer an "opposing" view on race but Tim Scott, currently the GOP's only Black Senator.

A view, like the one Scott offered in his rebuttal, that there is no racism in these good old United States of America, would not go over so well right now coming from a privileged white guy. But Scott, on the other hand, can make that declaration, offering it up on a silver platter to the huddled masses that are still hungry to make America Great Again.

In the aftermath of Scott's rebuttal, social media and Black Twitter erupted, and the hashtag #UncleTim predictably trended for hours, likening Tim Scott to a modern day Uncle Tom. An analogy that Scott has been decrying to anyone who will listen.

I'm not going to take Scott's bait and discuss the validity of his claims about whether or not America is actually racist. I believe that Tim Scott knew exactly what he was doing and exactly what buttons he was pushing. So, I refuse to be a rat in a skinner box, blindly responding to Scott's stimulus.

What I do want to do instead is talk about the Uncle Tom reference that has come up repeatedly in response to people like Tim Scott and so many others.

The Uncle Tom slur, which is loathed in the Black community, was based on the character of Uncle Tom in Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel, "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

According to an interview given by Patricia Turner, who was a Professor of



African-American Studies at the University of California, Davis, many African-Americans don't know the real Uncle Tom character that was in the story that Stowe wrote. In the climax of Stowe's novel, the character Tom is asked to reveal where two slave women, who had been sexually abused by their master, are hiding. Tom refuses, despite knowing that he will be beaten to death for refusing to say where the women are.

That was the real Uncle Tom. Subsequent stage and film depictions of Tom, however, not wanting to glorify Tom's actions, excluded that part of the story.

The character that was created and handed down, instead, is a man who will do quite the opposite of what Tom did in the novel. Instead of the heroism that it took for a Black man to sign away his life to save the lives of two Black women, Turner says, the Tom that was presented to the public was a man who would sell out another Black man in order to curry the favor of a white employer, a white master, a white mistress. "It's that distorted character that is so objectionable to African-Americans."

Tim Scott is a man who, according to the Associated Press, has described being pulled over 18 times while driving, has described being stopped by a U.S. Capitol security officer who "didn't recognize him" even though he was wearing a senator's lapel pin, and who said in a 2016 Senate speech, "I have felt the anger, the frustration, the sadness and the humiliation that comes with feeling like you're being targeted for nothing more than being just yourself." Yet, despite all of that, when the political opportunity presented itself to curry favor with the GOP, Scott declared on their behalf that America is not racist.

So, if the true nature of the original Uncle Tom character was a man who gave up his own life rather than betray his own people, then I think, maybe, we should stop calling Tim Scott and others like him, Uncle Tom.

THE BLACK LENS NEWS

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

Contact Information:

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

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YOU SHOULD KNOW

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

ART AND HISTORY *by Bertoni Jones Bey*

History of the Moorish Enslavement of Europeans

The slave merchant called out “Fresh load of Christians for sale!” The eager crowd moved in to examine the new merchandise. Their teeth were examined and their thighs were firmly grasped for sturdiness of body, as they were led off with their new masters.

It is estimated that between the span of 1500-1800 there were 1.2 million European slaves in North Africa. There were slave ports all along the Barbary Coast at Algiers, Tripoli, and Tunis, but the most famous ports were in Morocco, called Meknes and Salé.

European slaves had two forms of status – private slaves and government slaves. Private slaves were either galley slaves, living terrible lives, rowing for years, or slaves for private families, who “...were treated as members of the family...as is the natural inclination of Moslems towards the slaves of their own religion; others were cursed and beaten, justly or unjustly, and lived a dog’s life.”

The worst lot went to government slaves, property of one of the most wicked, and violent rulers in history – Sultan Moulay Ismael (reign: 1672-1727). The Sultan enjoyed insulting the Christian faith, torturing, killing, and using his European slaves as political leverage and ransom against the nations of Europe. The men labored fifteen hours a day, moving heavy loads and mixing lime and earth, pisé, for building the Sultan’s vision of the grandest palace the world had ever seen - Dar Kbira. It was to be a sprawling palace of opulence stretching for miles, all crafted from slave labor.

European slaves were offered Islam daily and beaten for their refusal to convert. Their diet was water, moldy bread, and rotten, maggot-filled porridge which even dogs rejected. Their beds were dirt and waste in underground cells with no light.

As for the women, the pitiful old women made their masters money by selling water carried by mules. Luckier women were barmaids, handmaidens, and servants to noble families, and the most youthful and

prettiest were reserved by the Sultan’s agents to be one of his 2,000 concubines. It would appear, from examining migration and historic timelines, that the great grandmothers of many of the Caucasian women who later came to America served in Moorish harems.

Earlier accounts of European servitude come from a French Trinitarian friar named Pierre Dan (1580-1649). Father Dan formed the Order of Redemption to liberate French slaves in North Africa.

Upon witnessing a 1631 slave auction of kidnapped Irish villagers he noted: “for they parted the wife from the husband, and the father from the child; then, say I, they sell the husband here, and the wife there, tearing from her arms the daughter whom she cannot hope to see ever again. Many bystanders burst into tears as they saw the grief and despair of these poor Irish.”

Although the Trinitarians were known to exaggerate, by 1634 Father Dan estimated that there were more than 25,000 European slaves in the city of Algiers alone. Escape was dangerous and rare, yet many Europeans slaves chose to stay in Africa, knowing that life back home meant being a pauper or street beggar.

For the most part, this important chapter of history has not been included in mainstream school curriculums. However, the uncomfortable fact is that Moors were enslaving Europeans before the American Colonies were yet established.

It seems that all of the nations of the Earth have fallen short in civilization principles. Both Moors and Europeans enslaved each other for the exact same reason – commercial gain, which means none of us has any business trying to corner the market in victimhood.

If the Nations of the Earth are to evolve to the highest standards of civilization principles, then we must all learn from our shared past that bondage and human trafficking, in any form, have no place in civilized nations anywhere on Earth.



Sources:
Barbarian Cruelty – Francis Brooks.
Christian Slaves, Muslim Master – Robert C. Davis.

The Story of The Moors After Spain – Stanley Lane-Poole.
White Cargo – Don Jordan/Michael Walsh.
White Gold – Giles Milton.

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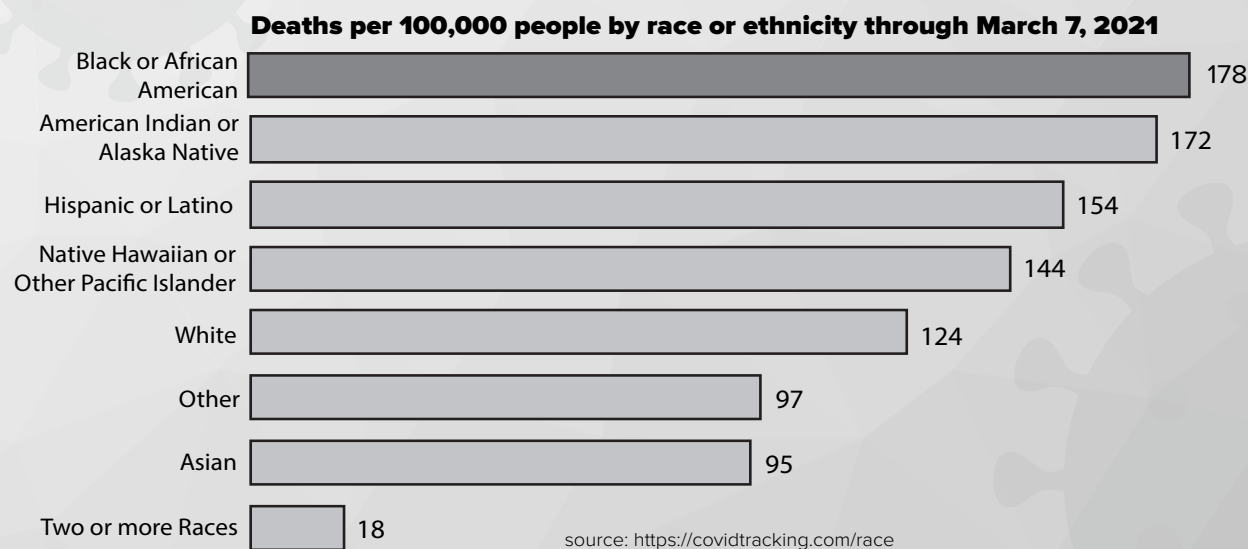
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COVID-19 HAS DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED THE BLACK COMMUNITY

(insert issue *this* time)



We are trying to share the message:

If your family has lost a loved one to COVID-19, you may be eligible for reimbursements for those costs.

Who is Eligible?

-  The death must have occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.
-  The death certificate must indicate the death was attributed to COVID-19.
-  The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after January 20, 2020.
-  There is no requirement for the deceased person to have been a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien.

COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Line:

844-684-6333
TTY: 800-462-7585

Hours of Operation:
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Central Time



Our Mission is to identify and address racial disparities through a variety of community efforts which include education, advocacy, research, community engagement, policy impact, and challenges to the existing organizations and structures.

Spokane Community Against Racism was started on May 13th, 2017 after an appeal was made to the Spokane Community when (earlier in the week) a white man was found not guilty of shooting a black man in the back after claiming self-defense. All 12 jury members were also white.

"In only 3 years, this group has been active in the development of the Carl Maxey Center, the Court Observer Program and, in collaboration with 24 other Spokane organizations, created the Spokane Platform For Change"

-2020 Spokane Human Rights Award Winner Announcement

We are constantly trying to support the Spokane community and impact positive policy changes. If you are interested in learning more visit:

WWW.SCARSPOKANE.ORG

BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Judge Reverses Black Cop’s Firing 15 Years After Trying To Stop Officer from Choking Handcuffed Black Man

Source: Bruce C.T. Wright, newsone.com

Black former police officer in upstate New York who was fired more than 14 years ago after she tried to stop a fellow cop from choking a handcuffed Black man has had her termination annulled. A judge’s landmark ruling in April will allow Cariol Horne to not only have her pension reinstated but also be entitled to collect back pay from the Buffalo Police Department.

“My vindication comes at a 15-year cost, but what has been gained could not be measured,” Horne said in a statement following the ruling. “I never wanted another police officer to go through what I had gone through for doing the right thing.”

State Supreme Court Judge Dennis Ward wrote in his decision that his ruling was at least partly influenced by one current case involving similar allegations of excessive police force against an unarmed and handcuffed Black man who was also purportedly being restrained with a chokehold, the Buffalo News reported.

“Recent events in the national news, including the death last year in the City of Minneapolis of George Floyd, who died from unreasonable physical force being applied for over nine minutes, have sparked national outrage over the use of his practice,” Ward wrote. “One of the issues in all of these cases is the role of other officers at the scene and particularly their complicity in failing to intervene to save the life of a person to whom such unreasonable physical force is being applied.”

The ruling was a long time coming for Horne, who was fired in 2006 after she said she tried to stop Buffalo Police Officer Greg Kwiatkowski’s chokehold on Neal Mack. She told CBS News last year that “Neal Mack looked like he was about to die. So had I not stepped in, he possibly could have. He was handcuffed and being choked.”



According to the New York Times, Kwiatkowski pit himself as the victim and told officials that Horne hit him in the face, “pulled him backward by his collar and jumped on him.”

An internal investigation ultimately cleared Kwiatkowski of any wrongdoing and led to a 4-day suspension for Horne, who declined her punishment. That prompted two hearings, one in 2007 and another in 2008, both of which found that Horne was the one guilty of using excessive force against her fellow officer. Horne was fired in May of 2008, one year shy of the 20 years of employment required to fully collect one’s pension. On Tuesday, after years of fighting for her just due, Horne was finally granted it.

“Her conduct should have been encouraged and instead she was fired,” one of Horne’s lawyers, W. Neil Eggleston, told the Times. This is America.

New HBCU Executive Leadership Institute Founded at Clark Atlanta

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

Clark Atlanta University has announced the launch of the HBCU Executive Leadership Institute. The institute aims to serve as an incubator for recruiting and developing the future presidents of the more than 100 historically Black colleges and universities in the United States.



HBCU Executive Leadership Institute
CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY

The curriculum will immerse qualified candidates in the various components of effectively leading an HBCU. This includes operations, budgeting, alumni relations, fundraising and development, as well as board governance and human resource management. Participants will also receive coaching and ongoing mentorship from former HBCU leaders. The program seeks to identify qualified candidates to fill vacant HBCU presidencies and other executive leadership positions.

“HBCUs have a clear value proposition and continue to be the standard-bearers of Black excellence across every sector of business and society. Through ELI, we are committed to identifying dynamic leaders who can advance the growth and sustainability of our institutions of higher learning,” said George T. French Jr., president of Clark Atlanta University. “We invite leaders of industry – from Silicon Valley and Wall Street, to non-profits, government, higher education, and the creative class – to submit their applications and be a part of history.”

The effort is supported by the Rich Foundation, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Microsoft, Toyota, Educational Credit Management Corporation, and a distinguished group of business leaders, educators, and philanthropists.

For more information visit: <https://www.cau.edu/school-of-education/HBCU-Executive-Leadership-Institute>

Hill Harper Launches First Black-Owned Digital Wallet & Cryptocurrency Exchange App in North America

(Source: Njera Perkins, afrotech.com; Photo: Dominik Bindl)

Actor Hill Harper has announced the launch of **The Black Wall Street App** as a means to empower Black and Latinx investors and contribute to closing the racial wealth gap in America. Harper's app is the first-ever Black-owned digital wallet and cryptocurrency exchange platform to exist in the U.S.

Harper hopes to create the world’s largest investment and financial literacy curriculum/toolkit for communities of color to use across the diaspora.

“Our technology seeks to replicate the brick and mortar Black Wall Street, as a digital ecosystem that will galvanize the financially excluded and directly stimulate the economic growth and spending in marginalized communities everywhere,” Harper shared in a statement.

“With the Black Wall Street technology, we seek to make obsolete payday lenders and other financial predators plaguing our communities, while simultaneously creating cross generational wealth transfer, for people who have historically been taught to work for our wages instead of making our wages work for us...because Black Cash Matters.”



The Black Wall Street app is both named after and inspired by the legacy of the Greenwood district in Tulsa, Oklahoma that was once considered the epicenter of thriving Black businesses.

The new digital platform will acknowledge the 100-year anniversary of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre with a monumental, 30-market financial literacy campaign and bus tour starting in Los Angeles, CA and ending on Greenwood Avenue in Tulsa, OK from May 31 to June 1.

The tour will visit some of the most disenfranchised communities across the country and introduce financial literacy as well as cryptocurrency in an effort to celebrate the Greenwood legacy, which is considered the most successful Black economic community in U.S. history.

“What the Black Wall Street was in Tulsa and the Greenwood district is just very empowering,” Harper told CNBC. “There were three pillars that created the wealth that was created in the Black Wall Street

[in Tulsa],” he notes with the first two being institutional ownership and institutional trust by the community.

“Pillar number three was the movement of money or capital within the ecosystem where dollars changed hands 60 to 100 times within a year before it left that Black community,” he adds.

The Black Wall Street’s Crypto-curriculum and DigitalWallet campaigns will be led by Harper in partnership with world-leading cryptocurrency exchange expert, Najah Roberts. The ultimate goal of The Black Wall Street is to offer Black and Brown communities a fighting chance to get involved in the transfer of wealth through cryptocurrency and decentralized finance.

The time for communities of color to regain their financial independence is now and Harper hopes to use his new platform to pave the way for better financial futures for generations to come.

Hill Harper is an entrepreneur, award-winning actor, best-selling author, and humanitarian. He also holds a Master's in Public Administration, with honors, from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and seven honorary Doctoral degrees.

For more information about *The Black Wall Street*, visit www.TheBlackWallStreet.Com.

BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Rapper DMX Dead at Age 50

(Source: [news.sky.com](https://news.sky.com/story/rapper-dmx-dead-at-age-50-10168448); [Tonja Renée Stidhum thegrapevine.the-root.com](https://www.tonjarenée.com/); Photo Credit [mpi04/MediaPunch/IPX](https://www.mpi04.com/))

Grammy nominated Rapper DMX, whose real name was Earl Simmons, died on April 9, one week after suffering a "catastrophic cardiac arrest", according to his family.

The 50-year-old was admitted to intensive care in New York on Friday April 2 and had been in a coma following a heart attack that was caused by a reported drug overdose. He was initially placed on life support, while family, friends and fans held a vigil outside the hospital..

A statement from his family said: "We are deeply saddened to announce today that our loved one, DMX, birth name of Earl Simmons, passed away at 50-years-old at White Plains Hospital with his family by his side after being placed on life support for the past few days. Earl was a warrior who fought till the very end. He loved his family with all of his heart and



we cherish the times we spent with him. Earl's music inspired countless fans across the world and his iconic legacy will live on forever."

DMX was signed by Columbia Records in 1992 and released his first album, *It's Dark And Hell Is Hot*, in 1998. The album debuted at the top of the Billboard 200 albums, and featured hits such as *Ruff Ryders' Anthem*, *Stop Being Greedy*, and *Get At Me Dog*.

DMX followed that album up with four more chart-topping albums in a row - *And Then There Was X*; *Flesh Of My Flesh*, *Blood Of My Blood*;

The Great Depression; and *Grand Champ*. In all, DMX released seven albums and received three Grammy nominations throughout his career, and collaborated with artists including Jay-Z, Ja Rule and LL Cool J.

During the course of his life and career, DMX battled drug addiction and was repeatedly arrested and jailed. In 2019, DMX cancelled a 32-date tour to mark the 20th anniversary of the release of *"It's Dark And Hell Is Hot"* and voluntarily checked himself into a rehab facility for substance abuse to focus on his ongoing road to sobriety.

The memorial service for DMX was held in New York on Saturday, April 24. A big-wheel, monster truck, with the words "Long Live DMX" painted on the side, carried his casket from Yonkers to Brooklyn. Thousands of motorcycles also made the journey, with thousands of people watching from the streets. The service was open only to family and close friends but was streamed on YouTube for members of the public.

4 Black Women Scientists, All HBCU Grads, Launch New Podcast About Science Behind Healthcare



Source: blacknews.com

Chicago, IL — Four Black scientists, Drs. Myla Patterson-Smith, Shuntae Williams, Charletha Irvin Joseph, and Elethia Tillman, whose motto is to "make data simple", have partnered to create the **Black Scientist Cooperative** ("BSC") Podcast.

The mission of BSC is to empower the Black community to make informed, science-based decisions on health and wellness. The Podcast covers a broad range of topics including the science behind the COVID-19 vaccines and the origins of health disparities, and regularly features subject matter experts from around the world to help educate the Black community.

Dr. Myla Patterson-Smith holds a Ph.D. in Biomedical Science (Cardiovascular Physiology and Cell Signaling) and an MBA in Strategy. **Dr. Shuntae Williams** holds a Ph.D. in Biomedical Science (Microbiology and Infectious Disease) and an MS in Regulatory Science. **Dr. Charletha V. Irvin Joseph** holds a Ph.D. in Biomedical Science (Microbiology and Genetics) and a Master's in Healthcare Administration. **Dr. Elethia Tillman** holds a Ph.D. in Biomedical Science (Cardiovascular Physiology and Cell Signaling) and a certification in Medical Writing.

For information about the Black Scientist Cooperative visit their social media pages on Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram.

Fastest Growing Black-Owned Online School Launched by Two Educators Who Merged Their Academies

(Source: [Arthia Nixon](https://www.arthia-nixon.com/), blacknews.com)

Nationwide — LaTishia Jordan and Aquarius Cain are the founders of Achieve Success Tutoring, one of the fastest-growing Black-owned online schools for students of all ages.

Initially, each had independently-owned tutoring academies but decided to merge their companies together during the pandemic to better handle the demand of parents seeking more Black-inclusive curriculums for their children.

LaTishia is based in Nashville, Tennessee, and Aquarius is based in Atlanta, Georgia. They are both are members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc, which is part of what helped them to form such a successful and historic partnership.

Both are also educators, who have served as teachers, adjunct professors, and department deans over the past 20 years, and they both agree that in order for children to function, especially with the social component taken away because of the pandemic, they have to be individually assessed.

"The ultimate goal in life is to be truly happy and I've reached the ultimate goal as I continue to educate others, and there's nothing else I can see myself doing," said Aquarius. "I'm excited about merging because we're able to grow and expand in ways that I just could not do alone. This collaborative journey of making decisions and sharing responsibilities with someone I trust and respect is amazing. I expect nothing but greatness and excellence as we build this business together."

LaTishia agreed and noted that many fail to realize that tutoring is not simply homework support. "Our goal is to figure out the student's learning gaps, fill those gaps allowing the students to move forward in their academic matriculation," said LaTishia. "Outside of that, we also have test prep for SAT and ACT."



LaTishia said she's received some rave reviews and was touched to know they were able to give many students an opportunity to study with educators who not only took time to understand them but who also looked like them.

Both women are specialists in STEM areas and have developed ways in which they can understand individual learning styles to motivate students.

LaTishia received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Bennett College and a Masters degree in Information Technology from American Intercontinental University and is currently the COO of Achieve Success Tutoring. She is also the author behind the bestselling *The Adventures of Bella Noelle* series and has 26 years of education experience serving as an adjunct professor, dean of education, and tutor.

Aquarius has been teaching since 2004 and eventually founded Dream In STEAM, which offers camps, workshops, and subscription boxes to inspire a love of science in all youth. She is also an author.

For more information about Achieve Success or to register for the school or camp visit: AchieveSuccessTutoring.com

William Walker Sworn in as 1st Black Sergeant-At-Arms for the U.S. House of Representatives

Source: [GoodBlackNews.org](https://goodblacknews.org)

Former National Guard General William Walker was sworn in as House of Representatives Sergeant-at-Arms by Speaker Nancy Pelosi on April 26, making him the first African-American person to hold the post.

Pelosi selected Walker for the position in March in the wake of the January 6 Capitol insurrection and the resignation of former Sergeant-at-Arms Paul Irving. Timothy Blodgett served as temporary Sergeant-at-Arms until Walker officially took over the position.

"His historic appointment as the first Black American to serve as Sergeant-at-Arms is an important step forward



for this institution and our nation," said Nancy Pelosi in a statement.

An officer of the House whose history extends back to the First Congress, the Sergeant-at-Arms is the chamber's principal law enforcement official, charged with maintaining security on the floor and for the House side of the Capitol complex.

The modern Sergeant-at-Arms serves on the Capitol Police Board and the Capitol Guide Board along with the Senate Sergeant at Arms and the Architect of the Capitol.

The Sergeant-at-Arms also enforces protocol and ensures decorum during floor proceedings.

Kim Godwin Named President of ABC News

Source: [Brian Steinberg, Variety.com](https://www.briansteinberg.com)

Kimberly Godwin, a veteran of local and national TV-news operations, will be the next president of ABC News — and the first Black executive to run a broadcast-network news operation.

Disney confirmed that Godwin, who has been with CBS News since 2007, will take over the role most recently held by James Goldston.

Godwin, who will join ABC News in May, will be charged with main-



taining the status of two of ABC News' mainstays, "Good Morning America" and "World News Tonight," both of which are the most-watched programs in their category, along with shows like "The View," "20/20" and "This Week."

She will also have ultimate say over the news unit's increasingly frequent steps into live-streaming, audio and special programming.

Godwin's new role is the latest in a parade of changes at the senior level of some of TV's biggest news operations. Rashida Jones started earlier this year as president of MSNBC, making her the first Black executive to oversee one of the nation's biggest cable-news networks.

AFRICA NEWS

News Highlights From and About the Continent of Africa

African Countries Commit to Cut 32% of Emissions by 2030

Source: africanews.com

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari in April confirmed his nation's commitments to the Paris Agreement at the U.S.-led climate summit.

Speaking virtually to the White House, President Buhari said that Nigeria had undertaken "major environmentally sound and climate friendly programs" since 2016 and that "institutional frameworks have been made to cut emissions by 2030."

Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta also laid out the African nation's targets for clean energy and reducing carbon emissions at the climate summit.

"In our journey to the 2050 target, Kenya intends to complete its transition to renewable energy. And clean energy already accounts for about 90% of total electricity supply in Kenya, and we intend to increase this to 100% by the year 2030", Kenyatta said.

South Africa's president Cyril Ramaphosa used his address to urge developed nations to assist developing nations to meet climate targets. He said poorer countries who typically contribute less global emissions, "often suffer the most from the devastating effects of climate change".



Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari

"We call on developed economies which historically bear the greatest responsibility for emission to meet their responsibilities to developing economies. This will be vital to restoring the bonds of trust between developed and developing economies", said Ramaphosa.

Africa has committed to cut 32% of emissions by 2030. The continent is currently developing a strategy for greenhouse gas emissions to be presented to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change before COP 26 in November, Kenyatta added.

Twitter Chooses Ghana as African HQ

Source: [Tage Kene-Okafor, techcrunch.com](https://www.techcrunch.com/2021/04/07/twitter-chooses-ghana-as-african-hq/); [Ijeoma Ndukwe, bbc.com/news](https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-56844444)

Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey announced via tweet last month that the company would be setting up a presence in Africa. "Twitter is now present on the continent. Thank you, Ghana and Nana Akufo-Addo," he said.

Twitter indicated that its decision was based on shared values - Ghana supports "free speech, online freedom, and the open internet".

In a statement, Twitter said it is now actively building a team in Ghana "to be more immersed in the rich and vibrant communities that drive the conversations taking place every day across the continent."

Twitter indicated several roles, from product and engineering to design, marketing, and communications, for job openings in the company. However, individuals will fill these roles remotely as Twitter makes plans to establish an office in the country later.

"The choice of Ghana as HQ for Twitter's Africa operations is excellent news. Government and Ghanaians welcome very much this announcement and the confidence reposed in



our country," said Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo.

"As I indicated to Jack in our virtual meeting on 7th April 2021, this is the start of a beautiful partnership between Twitter and Ghana, which is critical for the development of Ghana's hugely important tech sector. These are exciting times to be in and to do business in Ghana," he added.

Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo was quick to retweet the news, saying it was the start of a "beautiful partnership" and critical for the development of Ghana's tech hub. "These are exciting times to be in, and to do business in Ghana."

U. N. Finds France Culpable for Deadly Attack on Wedding Party in Mali



(TriceEdneyWire.com/GIN) - Major combat operations by French troops in Mali have drawn fire from local officials who accuse the French military of killing civilians including at a recent wedding. Nineteen wedding guests and three armed men died in the strike in the village of Bounti, central Mali.

Now, a scathing report by the U.N.'s mission in Mali, known as MINUSMA, concurs with Malian authorities and upholds the claim that the victims were protected under international law. The French defense ministry rejects the report's findings.

Those killed at the party were civilian males aged 15 to 20, and they were hunting birds with one gun among them, local officials said.

"I know all these young people. Some are from my family," Mohamed Assaleh Ahmad, mayor of the nearby village of Talataye, told Reuters by telephone. "We have seen these airstrikes in the past here. We have never said anything, but this time, it's 100% an error."

The newly released report by the U.N. raises the stakes for France whose military footprint has grown to 5,100 from 3,000 since the start of their anti-terror operations in Mali. At the same time, opposition among Malians is growing against the former colonial power.

Anti-French demonstrations have been taking place since 2013 on a regular basis, according to the French newsmagazine "Libération" in an article titled "A Rejection of Colonialism."

Yvan Guichaoua, a Sahel expert at the University of Kent's Brussels School of International Studies said of the French: "(They) want to stay influential in their former colonies and have leadership in this sort of global division of labor" by major powers.

"But the longer you stay, the greater the chance that you become part of the problem," he warned in an interview with the Associated Press.

According to Africa specialist Marc-Antoine Perouse de Montclos, French authorities have ignored local realities, like inter-communal vengeance and armies operating brutally with impunity to promote the narrative of jihadis with direct links to Iraq and Syria. As a result, a future French exit strategy may be as elusive as victory.

French Defense Minister Florence Parly insists that the military strike on Jan. 3 was legit and rejects the U.N. probe's methodology, calling the investigation based on unreliable sources.

Some 7,000 people have died in what has been called France's "forever war", according to data by the Armed Conflict and Location Event Data Project.

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A Different View

with 



Photo Credit: Maddie Pearson

Betsy Wilkerson, Spokane City Council

Is it just me or does time feel like it is flying by? Challenges and opportunities keep coming fast and furiously at me and probably the same for you too.

Before I go on I want to take a moment and join you in sighing a breath of relief for the “guilty” verdict of former Officer Derek Chauvin. If you were like me, I was holding my breath regardless of the outcome. In this case justice was served and a measure of comfort was provided to the Floyd Family and the Black Community as a whole. May George Floyd now rest in peace.

During the month of January, in partnership with Dr. Shari Clarke, we undertook our first survey of the African American experience in Spokane.

The number of responses that we got back were not what we had hoped for. I think many of us were surveyed out...online. But the survey still gives us a baseline to build on and the results that we did get were interesting. To the right are some of the significant finding.

What I found most interesting is the data on income in the Black community. This really puts the narrative of “low-income,” “poverty stricken” on the table.

Yes, many of us are still financially not where we want to be, however with a large military retirement community, higher education professionals and the social services community in which many folks of color work in, we have a thriving local Black Middle Class. This means economic power folks!!!!

There are other factors that we know around health and safety in our community. But here is a snippet and thank you to all who participated and allowed us to see this snapshot of our local Black Community.

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

AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCES IN SPOKANE

Significant Findings from the January 2021 Survey

Infographic by:
Gina C. Clarke, PhD
SJC Cultural Consultant & Associates, LLC.

The following information has been extracted from the study examining quality of life experiences and health outcomes of African American residents of Spokane, Washington. Results were compiled in February 2021.



Longer term residents have higher rates of diabetes.

As the number of years living in Spokane increase, so does the rate of Type II Diabetes.



Higher income earners have higher rates of diabetes.

The greater the income reported, the higher the incidence of Type II Diabetes.



Higher income earners and long term residents continue to experience daily racism.

- Reports of daily experiences of racism increase with years of living in Spokane.
- Respondents earning higher incomes also experience high rates of daily racism.



Newer residents do not feel safe in Spokane.

- Black residents of Spokane for fewer than 12 years (37%) reported feeling unsafe.
- Not feeling safe was also significantly related to experiencing racism daily.



Potential career growth is significantly associated with positive quality of life experiences.

Access to education, healthcare, and safe spaces are all positively related to higher ratings of positive feelings of career growth within current roles.



Access to education is significantly associated with positive quality of life experiences.

Access to healthcare, fresh food, career growth, and safe spaces are all positively related to higher ratings of easy access of education.

Not everything that is faced can be changed, but **nothing** can be changed until it is faced.

-James Baldwin

SJC Cultural Consultant & Associates, LLC.
Dr. Shari Clarke
Principal Consultant
(509) 319- 5234
sjc.culturalconsultant@gmail.com

For questions related to the survey, contact Dr. Gina Clarke via email: gcc.culturalconsultant@gmail.com



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





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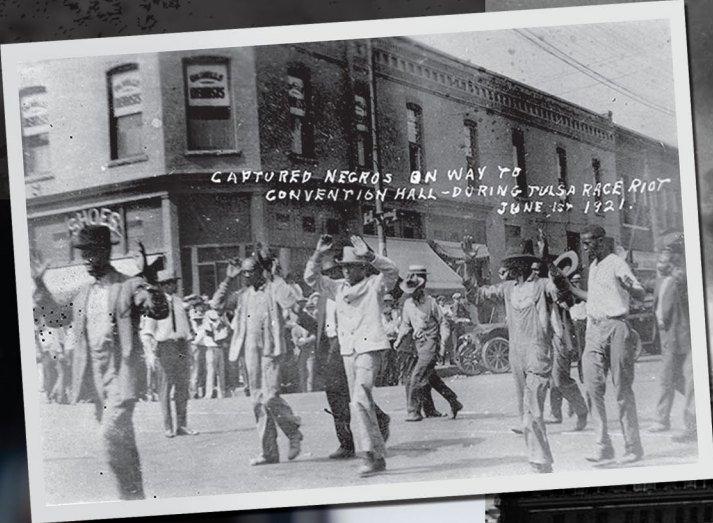
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TULSA

THE FIRE AND THE FORGOTTEN





One of the worst incidents of racial violence in American history occurred 100 years ago, May 31-June 1, 1921. Known as the Tulsa Race Massacre, a mob of white residents set fire to “Black Wall Street”—hundreds of Black-owned businesses and homes in the Greenwood district of Tulsa, Oklahoma—killing an estimated 100-300 Black residents and leaving an estimated 10,000 Black residents homeless. The new documentary ***Tulsa: The Fire and the Forgotten***, examines this deadly assault on the 100th anniversary of the crime in the context of other racial massacres and police killings.

Washington Post reporter DeNeen Brown contemplates a segment of the Arkansas River where forensic archeologists discovered anomalies consistent with possible mass graves.

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NAACP: Uniting Our Region



Trust Must Be Earned



By Kiantha Duncan
Spokane, NAACP President

We cannot let our guards down, but we must be open.

My great grandmother's name was Matilda Harris. She was a sharecropper in Arkansas who later migrated North during the great Black Migration.

Matilda was tall. As I remember her standing over me, her presence was that of a giant. My great grandmother's hands were large enough to hold a watermelon, seemingly gripping all sides with ease. Matilda's shoulders were broad, mirroring those of a hardworking man. Her hands were worn, and her feet were calloused, but her voice was soft, and her words vibrated.

Matilda shared a message to us that had been passed down to her from the generations before her. While the message was told in only a few words, it carried the weight of a Psalm in the bible.

Matilda whispered, "never let your guard down or take a blind eye to white skin because they will always hurt, trick and kill us when it comes down to it".

These messages of safety have been shared in Black families for generations and likely go back to the middle passage and the slave trade. For Black folks' white skin has always signified power and danger. Danger that has often ended in our deaths in the United States of America.

As we've evolved, we have learned that white skin is also the skin of many of our allies. Those who helped to abolish slavery, those who have supported us as a people during our fight for racial and social justice, and many of whom have become our close friends.

Yet there seems to be some truth to what Grandma Matilda and so many of our foremothers and fathers told us, we are not safe, and we cannot let our guards down as we continue to be murdered by hands with white skin.

How do we tune out the voices of our ancestors and work with our white allies when they are connected

to the very skin that daily threatens our safety in this country?

How do we trust when we are re-traumatized by the very hands Matilda forewarned us of?

This question seems critical as the NAACP Spokane seeks to strengthen partnerships with white allies and white led businesses and organizations in the Inland Northwest. As we grow our organization, we need to heavily rely on the Black community to take the lead and invite our white allies to support our work in transparent and authentic ways.

We must also be prepared to and commit to holding our allies accountable when our trust has been breached.

The reality is, trust is earned and until it has been earned, we cannot let our guards down. As an organization we must proceed with caution and yet be open to allyship when it is authentic.

We can't do it alone and we can't do it without trust, that trust cannot be simply given, it must be earned.

For more information about the Spokane NAACP visit: naacpspokane.org

American Corporations Forced to Take Sides in Voting Rights Battle

By Barrington M. Salmon

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Battlegrounds are being drawn across the country between those who oppose the voter suppression tactics exemplified by the Georgia legislature and voting and Civil Rights activists fighting against these draconian measures.

Last week, 72 Black executives signed an open letter challenging their corporate counterparts across the country to join the fight against a Republican-led campaign to pass a slate of laws that would restrict voting access in as many as 47 states.

Kenneth Chenault, managing director and chairman of General Catalyst, a venture capital company and former CEO of American Express, said in a CNBC interview that what he and his Black colleagues had heard from corporations was what he characterized as "general statements about their support for voting rights and against voter suppression."

"But now we're asking, put those words into action," said Chenault, one of the organizers of the executive letter.

"Corporations have to stand up – there is no middle ground," he and his colleagues said in the letter. "This is about all Americans having the right to vote. But we need to recognize the special history of the denial of a right to vote for Black Americans. And we will not be silent."

In interviews on CNN and CNBC, Chenault went further: "Fundamentally, if you can't oppose this legislation – that's the lifeblood for Black Americans, the right to vote. We can't be silent, and corporate America can't be silent. And if they can't speak out on this issue, what can they speak out on?" he said.

Corporations have been awakened. Last Friday, April 2, executives from about 200 companies stepped up to support the effort to protect voting, not just in Georgia but in the other states trying to suppress and manipulate the vote.

The companies released a statement that said in part: "... our elections are not improved when lawmakers impose barriers that result in longer lines at the polls or that reduce access to secure ballot drop boxes ... there are hundreds of bills threatening

to make voting more difficult in dozens of states nationwide," said the statement by ViacomCBS, Target, Salesforce, Dow, HP and Estee Lauder among others. "We call on elected leaders in every state capitol and in Congress to work across the aisle and ensure that every eligible American has the freedom to easily cast their ballot and participate fully in our democracy."

Gov. Brian Kemp signed the law before the ink was dry on the bill sent over by the Republican members of the general assembly.

The pressure on corporations has ratcheted up since Kemp signed into law a raft of measures that has significantly increased restrictions on Georgia voters. The laws restrict absentee and early voting and restricts the ability of African Americans and other people of color to vote.

Among the law's provisions are the imposition of new limitations on ballot drop boxes that limits their widespread deployment and allows for them to be placed in voting sites; requires voters to submit their driver's license or state ID number as part of their vote-by-mail application. If they have neither, they must submit a photocopy or electronic image of an acceptable form of identification such as a passport); and criminalizing the act of providing food and/or water to voters waiting in line to vote.

But the most alarming part of the law, activists and advocates say, is the provision that gives state officials the authority to override county election board officials and allow Republicans to potentially disqualify voters in Democratic-dominated areas.

Kemp and his GOP counterparts have been defiant as criticism and actions against them increases. In addition to the prospective boycotts of Home Depot, Delta and Coca Cola, comes the announcement that Major League Baseball brass is moving the All-Star game to another venue this summer. According to one tourism official, the state stands to lose as much as \$100 million because of what Kemp and other Republicans call "cancel culture."

"I want to be clear, I will not be backing down from this fight," he said at a press conference to strike back at his critics. "We will not be intimidated, and we will not



be silenced. Major League Baseball, Coca Cola and Delta may be scared of Stacey Abrams, Joe Biden and the Left but I'm not ..."

Voting rights experts have described Georgia as the epicenter of voter suppression and Kemp's signing of the bill making the Peach State the first in the country to enact these restrictions. So far, according to the Brennan Centre for Justice, 47 states have introduced 361 voter suppression bills.

As the bills from the Georgia assembly made their way through the House and the Senate early this year, voting rights activists like LaTosha Brown and Nicole Henderson, of Black Voters Matter and the New Georgia Project respectively, began formulating and advancing strategies to fight back against the voter suppression measures.

Henderson said organizers in Georgia are definitely working together, testifying on the unjust nature of the legislation and participating in rallies to show the public the potential damage the law would be to the community at large and the African American community specifically.

"One thing we're doing is leaning on corporations which made grandiose statements after George Floyd and now are quiet," she said.

Brown and Henderson note that almost two dozen major corporations are headquartered in Georgia. They include Home Depot, UPS, Delta Airlines, AT&T, The Southern Company and the Coca Cola Company. Other major US companies who have also

funded co-sponsors of the Georgia bills to the tune of \$7.4 million include Comcast, CVS, Walmart, General Motors and Publix.

Research by Public Citizen, a consumer advocacy organization has shown that "since 2015, AT&T, Comcast, UnitedHealth Group, Walmart, and other big businesses have donated a combined \$50 million to state Republican lawmakers who are currently supporting voter suppression bills across the United States—generous political spending at odds with recent corporate efforts to rebrand as defenders of voting rights."

Brown said corporations try to have a public face that is progressive, inclusive and identify with movements for justice, especially racial justice, but often stop short of supporting true racial justice.

"Corporations have a responsibility. We work there, serve on boards and are actual consumers who consume \$106 billion, a part of Georgia's economy," she said in a television interview before the Georgia vote. "I think they have a civic responsibility. This is a prime opportunity for them to stand up, use their leverage power and push and stop deals that will push back voter access to Jim Crow times."

Brown said many corporations like Coca Cola ran campaigns last year saying they support the Black community and Black Lives Matter around racial equity. Now, she said, this is a prime opportunity for these companies to use their power.

"We think they need to respond stronger. There have been a few comments, a couple of statements. We need to see action," she said. "They have the political leverage, the ability to put pressure on the legislature. Coke, AFLAC, UPS and Southern have a tremendous amount of political access and power but we're not seeing the (requisite) type of action and pressure. Ultimately, democracy is good for business."

But in the wake of passage of SB202, when asked, Brown said she supports an economic boycott of these corporations and maybe the state of Georgia.

She said, "If they're not willing to support us, why should we support them?"

Tongues of Fire

By Beverly Spears

Lamentation



I’m breathing a sigh of relief, but I’m not celebrating the guilty verdict rendered by a jury in the trial of Derrick Chauvin. This is one case, tragic and horrific, but only one case out of thousands of unjustified killings of Black people that happen at the hands police across this country. I’m overjoyed for George Floyd’s family, but I can’t help but mourn for so many other families where justice was not served. This conviction does not change the systemic problem of police brutality and oppression. Make no mistake; white, dominant power structures will be like wounded animals; more dangerous than ever, because this verdict threatens that power.

Before the verdict, I was explaining the trial to my 11-year-old granddaughter. I told her that a jury was about to decide whether or not Derrick Chauvin was guilty of the murder of George Floyd. She said, “What’s to decide? We know he killed him. We saw it with our own eyes.” “Yes, Baby girl,” I said, “that’s true, we saw it with our own eyes.” We saw it with our own eyes but look at the Herculean effort it took on the part of the State to successfully hold one, just one, police officer accountable for his crime. It took the whole world rallying to get justice for George Floyd.

How many videos have there been exposing police brutality and oppression? How many are yet to come? Has it made a difference? What happens when there is no video? There are states and counties and cities across America vowing criminal justice system reforms, but we would be foolish to believe those reforms will come any more easily than they would have come before the Chauvin verdict.

One of the most prophetic voices of modern times is writer, James Baldwin. Published in 1963, Baldwin’s book *The Fire*

Next Time, speaks about America and white Americans as people who “have destroyed and are destroying hundreds of thousands of lives and do not know it and do not want to admit it.” Baldwin was right then and he’s right now, but his statement is not complete. The white, dominant power culture knows full well that it is destroying thousands of Black lives, and not only will not admit it; it does not care.

Black people will still be expendable, and police will continue to brutalize Black bodies with impunity. The movement in at least 43 states to erode civil rights will continue. I would not be surprised if proponents doubled-down on their efforts. The truth is in the news headlines from just one week – the last week before the verdict.

-Black & Latinx Lieutenant Sues Virginia Cops Who Threatened to Kill Him During Traffic Stop

-Florida Poised to Pass “Anti-Riot” Bill, Criminalizing Dissent & Blocking Cuts to Police Budgets

-Police Brutalize Protesters in Minneapolis as Chauvin Trial Moves Toward Verdict

-Protests Continue in Chicago over Police Killing of 13-Year-Old Adam Toledo

-Rage Is the Only Language I Have Left: Society has become horribly desensitized to police killings of Black men.

The Prophet Jeremiah is ascribed as the author of the Old Testament Book of Lamentations. Biblical Lamentations were public rituals commemorating the humiliation, despair and suffering felt by the Hebrew people at the destruction of the city of Jerusalem and its Tem-

ple. Lamentations are loud, passionate, communal expressions of grief and loss. There is gut wrenching weeping and wailing.

We must take time to lament, to mourn our dead, to grieve for their families, to grieve for ourselves – to acknowledge our suffering. Lamentations are cathartic. They are like exuberant worship on a Sunday morning, only the exuberance is concentrated grief for what we are suffering - for who and what we have lost.

I received this from my brother who received it from his daughter-in-law. It was written and originally posted by David Gray. It is a moving and powerful lament for ourselves – for the relentless humiliation and suffering woven into the daily lives of Black people in America.

APR 16, 2021 —

"I need to drive my two-year-old to daycare tomorrow morning. To ensure we arrive alive, we won't take public transit (Oscar Grant). I removed all air fresheners from the vehicle and double-checked my registration status (Daunte Wright), and ensured my license plates were visible (Lt. Caron Nazario). I will be careful to follow all traffic rules (Philando Castille), signal every turn (Sandra Bland), keep the radio volume low (Jordan Davis), and won't stop at a fast-food chain for a meal (Rayshard Brooks). I'm too afraid to pray (Rev. Clementa C. Pinckney) so I just hope the car won't break down (Corey Jones).

When my wife picks him up at the end of the day, I'll remind her not to dance (Elijah McClain), stop to play in a park

(Tamir Rice), patronize the local convenience store for snacks (Trayvon Martin), or walk around the neighborhood (Mike Brown). Once they are home, we won't stand in our backyard (Stephon Clark), eat ice cream on the couch (Botham Jean), or play any video games (Atatiana Jefferson).

After my wife and I tuck him into bed around 7:30 pm, neither of us will leave the house to go to Walmart (John Crawford), or to the gym (Tshyrand Oates), or on a jog (Ahmaud Arbery). We won't even walk to see the birds (Christian Cooper). We'll just sit and try not to breathe (George Floyd), and not to sleep (Breonna Taylor).

These are things white people simply do not have to think about.

Author, David Gray

The Prophets of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) were constantly warning the rulers and the people of Israel that they had better straighten up and do right, or else suffer the consequences. There are always consequences, intended and unintended. It may take days, months or hundreds of years, but there are always consequences, America.

Let’s take time to remember; to weep and mourn – to scream and holler, until we are empty – empty enough to be filled again with the power, and strength, and love we need to lift each other up, to survive and thrive, and prevail in dismantling systemic racism.

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

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Deen Centric

Ramadan: It’s not all about fasting!

By Jillisa Winkler

As I write this, we are well into the month of Ramadan which began on April 13th, 2021. Many people know it as a month of fasting and reconnection within the Muslim community. Though fasting is the main focus for many, Ramadan is different for everyone with many traditions and practices to look forward to.

For me, Ramadan is a time to reconnect with family, community, and God (Allah). A yearly reminder to focus inward. The world often has us going a million miles an hour, worried about things like careers, finances, what we do and do not have materialistically. For me, Ramadan always brings a month of reflection and is a great reminder that we are enough and have all that we need through our connection with God.

Every year, the traditions I most look forward to are time spent with my family and with community. As a kid, we would get together with family and close friends for Iftar, the breaking of the fast, where we usually enjoy a treat of fresh fruit, pastries or cookies along with a glass of water.

Though we eat dinner a little later, it is always with more gratitude and renewal after a day of fasting. For those who do not or are unable to fast for whatever reason, it is common to prepare the food for those that have fasted, a way for everyone to join in the community of Iftar and care for our loved ones.

The last few years have been much smaller gatherings, just our immediate family, but still bring the same feelings of nostalgia and joy.

Ramadan is also a time for community care within our wider community through volunteering, donations, and feeding the hungry. Finding ways to not only connect with ourselves but



also with our neighbors, friends, and peers is another thing I look forward to. Outreach has been different than previous years as well, but there are still so many people working hard to care for our community and there are ways to safely assist them.

It is true that you can’t pour from an empty cup, taking the time to reconnect with self allows space to reconnect with others in meaningful ways. These are just a few of my favorite parts of Ramadan.

If you have Muslim friends, family, or colleagues, instead of only commenting on how hard it must be to fast, because trust me we know, I encourage you to ask them what are their personal traditions in Ramadan. What do they most look forward to each year? A few people might mention the fasting, but I think you’ll be surprised at how different it can be for each individual, and I’m sure they’ll appreciate you caring enough to ask.

“We All Dream”

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

Have you ever been discriminated against
Because of the color of your skin
Have you been told you are less than
Because you are a woman
Have you been berated with insults
Due to your sexual orientation
or gender identity
Can you answer yes
to any one of these questions

Have you ever been excluded
Because you are different
Have you ever tried to speak up
But no one will listen
Do you feel like to society
Your triumphs are hidden
That no matter how hard you work
You remain in the same position

You ever get the feeling
A strong disposition
Continuously met with resistance
Based on biased opinions

Are we not all human
Do we not have the same needs
Do we not thrive from love
And strive to follow our dreams

We all dream
And for some our dreams become reality

If you dream it
You can achieve it

But only if you believe it
And every goal seems so much more achievable
When you can actually see it

When those before you
Have paved the way
Affirming it is truly possible
For any and all to be great

When barriers are broken
And new heights are reached
It gives us the confidence
To truly be free
To spread our wings
And soar towards our dreams

Because we can be anything
We can do anything

We will not be denied of our destiny
We do this for the future
This is our legacy

We will no longer tolerate
Hate, injustice or exclusion
Love and respect for everyone
Defines our movement

We can go further together
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Unity is the solution
Really the only viable conclusion

Diversity and inclusion is the only way we all win
So I have one last question

Spokane are we all in?

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WHAT
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WHEN
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Phi Sigma Theta is proud to announce that Endia Wheeler, the daughter of Ben and Roaschel Wheeler of Spokane, WA has recently become a member of Phi Sigma Theta National Honor Society at Louisiana State University.

Phi Sigma Theta is a national honor society dedicated to recognizing and rewarding academic achievement in undergraduates at insititutions of higher learning.

**Congratulations
Endia Wheeler!**



12-Year Old Enrolls at Arizona State University to Study Chemistry and Engineering

(Source: blacknews.com)

Tempe, AZ — At just 12-years old, **Alena Wicker** is set to start college at Arizona State University, majoring in astronomical and planetary science and chemistry. She plans to be an engineer for NASA someday.

“I always dreamed of being an engineer because throughout my life I liked the building,” Alena told 11Alive about her goal to work at NASA.

Since she was 4-years old, it had always been her dream as she was building NASA-sized Legos.

“She just had a gift for numbers and Lego and science so I started nurturing that gift,” said her mother Daphne McQuarter. When Alena finished high school through homeschool classes, she began pursuing that dream and will be starting classes at ASU this summer. She expects to finish college at the age of 16.

“I’ll be driving in one of those future space mobiles by the time that I graduate college,” Alena said, adding that she wants to build rovers that could be sent to other planets as well. More than that, Alena is also also very active on her Facebook page where she plans to launch a podcast to share her journey.

“I’m just planning it all as I go. It doesn’t matter what your age or what you’re planning to do. Go for it, dream, then accomplish it,” she said.



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FEELING LONELY OR ISOLATED?

Check and Connect is a new program of Aging & Long Term Care of Eastern Washington that is connecting volunteers in the Spokane region to older adults and people with disabilities who are battling isolation during the pandemic.

If you, a client, or a loved one are feeling isolated or lonely, please don't hesitate to call 509-960-7281!

A trained volunteer contacts and assesses needs for their participants up to twice per week. This not only reduces the feelings that come with isolation, but also grants an opportunity to identify any additional supports needed to remain safely in their homes.

By registering for the Check and Connect program, clients have access to COVID-19 specific resources, and additional services at Aging & Long Term Care such as:

Community Living Connections support: Staff can assist with benefits applications, short term Options Counseling, local resource referrals, and Medicare counseling/fraud assistance from SHIBA (Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors).

Senior Services: Adult day services, bathing assistance, falls prevention, home delivered meals and food security, transportation, legal and minor home repair. We even offer senior online fitness classes!

Caregiver and Family Support and Medicaid services: Caregiver's can access training, support/respite services, in home care assistance, Health Homes case management, supportive housing assistance and more. We even offer Kinship Navigator supports for grandparents/seniors raising small children.

For more information, contact:
Community Living Connections
Aging & Long Term Care of Eastern Washington
1222 N. Post St. | Spokane, WA 99201
TEL 509-960-7281
action@altcew.org
www.altcew.org or facebook.com/AgingLTC



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What About Those Who Didn't Get a COVID-19 Vaccine (Yet)?

By Glenn Ellis

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - The harsh reality of COVID-19 is that everyone is not going to take the vaccine.

Don't get me wrong, this is not an encouragement for anyone to not get the vaccine. I'm just looking at the reality of what we are facing as we fight our way out of this pandemic.

While we should continue do everything we can to support the total success of the current COVID-19 vaccine campaign, if we don't fully embrace the sobering truth of both the vaccine hesitancy and the anti-vaxxers, we playing a dangerous game of Russian roulette.

Always remember, that the strategy for beating this thing centers on something known as herd immunity. I'm sure you've heard that word by now. The is when the entire population is protected from the virus because enough of the general population has either been vaccinated or previously infected by the virus and developed natural antibodies. Needless to say, with a virus as deadly as COVID-19, we certainly don't want to sit and watch enough folks get infected and hope enough of them don't die to contribute to our herd immunity goal. That means we have to rely on the success of the vaccine campaign.

Now, back to the start of this column. We know (as much as we would rather not admit it) everyone is not going to get a vaccine! A Harvard study of registered voters found that 41 percent of them said that they would not take the vaccine. That's a long way from herd immunity. We need somewhere around 80% of every man, woman, and child in America getting vaccinated.

The startling reality in these numbers is that Pew Research found that of those who don't currently plan to get a vaccine, the main reasons are concerns about side effects (72 percent); belief the vaccines were developed and tested too quickly (67 percent); and just want to know more about how well they work (61 percent). The figures for frontline healthcare workers who are planning to not get the vaccine are as high as 35 percent. All because they are scared; simply don't have enough information to make an informed decision. Sadly, like many other things in our nation, health literacy has always been a very low priority in the United States healthcare system.

Like I've been saying for years, "Information is the best medicine!" I'm not sure any of us knows how much money has been spent on the research, development, manufacturing, distribution, and administration of these vaccines.

Likewise, no one can count how little has been spent to make sure the almost 350 million people in the United States can actually follow the science?

If we aren't willing to address this dilemma in the allocation of our resources, and the accompanying priorities in addressing a public health crisis, who are we? Certainly, this is not what the wealthiest country on the planet, with the most expensive healthcare system, with the greatest advancements in research and technology is like, is it? Is this who we are?

Unless my math is off (which is possible), 30% of the people in the United States is a little over 100 million folks who are going to "spoil the herd immunity pie". As reported in STAT, by Iain MacLeod, "To vaccinate 75% of the U.S. population, ap-

proximately 248 million people — nearly 500 million doses are needed. And it means we need to be vaccinating nearly 2 million people a day so all of them are immune by the fall of 2021. As I write this, we're vaccinating only about 1 million people a day. At that pace, Reuters estimates it would take until April 2022 for 75 percent of Americans to receive at least their first vaccine dose".

It's almost embarrassing that the first concerted, national effort to scratch the surface of public health education, was a dismal \$50 million ad campaign. That pales in comparison to the more than \$12 billion Operation Warp Speed program allocated to vaccine makers: before the end of the summer! Heaven only knows what the price tag is now. This should encourage all of us, as stakeholders in this pandemic, to be prepared for a significant population-divide to emerge in 2021; those who have gotten the vaccine and those who don't.

Now comes the big issue: Should the people who choose not to get vaccinated have restrictions imposed on them? Should they bear full responsibility for the role that a basic lack of information played in the decision to not take the vaccine? Will I be able to ride the bus or the subway if I am still deciding on whether to get a vaccine? Most importantly, who decides these things?

The United States is the only country in the developed world whose healthcare system is tied to the free market. That being said, it would be naïve to think that the bottom line in this massive engagement of the entire healthcare system wouldn't be driven by economic and political decisions. It plays out in how individual states are able



to arbitrarily implement and/or relax restrictions, in response to their respective economic and political pressures.

We have to decide who we want to be, and if everyone matters.

Remember, I'm not a doctor. I just sound like one! Take good care of yourself and live the best life possible!

Glenn Ellis, MPH is a Visiting Scholar at The National Bioethics Center at Tuskegee University and a Harvard Medical School Bioethics Fellow. He is author of Which Doctor? and Information is the Best Medicine. Ellis is an active media contributor on Health Equity and Medical Ethics. For more good health information visit: www.glennellis.com

The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. I do not dispense medical advice or prescribe the use of any technique as a replacement form of treatment for physical, mental or medical problems by your doctor either directly or indirectly.



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THANK YOU NATIVE PROJECT



For COVID-19 Information: <https://covid.srhd.org>

FOR TAKING CARE OF OUR COMMUNITY

It was a partnership that brought our two communities together in a very important way.

The Spokane NAACP, Carl Maxey Center, Emmanuel Family Life Center, Martin Luther King Center and Spokane Minister's Fellowship, all joined forces with the Native Project to host a vaccination clinic that was focused on addressing the disproportionate impact that COVID-19 is having on communities of color and on the Black community in particular.

The Native Project provided the medical staff, who worked tirelessly on both clinic days, which

were held on March 13 for the first Pfizer dose and April 3 for the second.

We weren't sure what the response from the community would be, but the community showed up in full force. Over 600 people were vaccinated during the first clinic and nearly 600 returned to get their second dose.

We ate, we danced, we laughed, we cheered, and we gave away goodies, all while taking steps to keep our community safe.

Our hope is that is the beginning of many more partnerships. Thank you Native Project!!!



Find COVID Vaccine Locations in WA - <https://vaccinelocator.doh.wa.gov>

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From Homeless to Hopeful

How a Digital Marketing Degree at SFCC Helped Propel a Student Into Her Desired Career

By Jonathan Glover

Chloe O'Neill remembers the long nights. The hours huddled in the corner of a homeless shelter. The sole light-bulb overhead, illuminating textbooks and notepads, as dozens of women sleep nearby.

Some scream in the middle of the night. Others have meltdowns. O'Neill keeps studying -- because no matter what, the homework has to get done. She's graduating on time.

"It was all very difficult," said O'Neill, who last year advanced from Spokane Falls Community College with an Associate of Science degree in digital marketing. "But I feel like it went well. I was really focused on what I was doing."

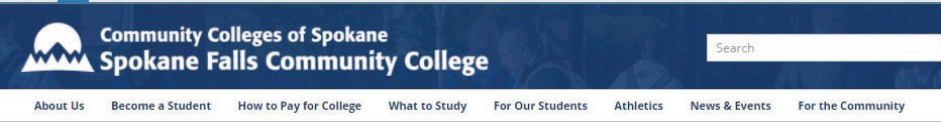
Today, O'Neill's life has much less strife. No longer battling bouts of

homelessness, she now works at Genesis Marketing, a full-service advertising agency in Spokane.

With the skills she picked up at SFCC -- such as keyword researching, social media optimization, photography, video and more -- she's now in charge of editing videos, making graphics and ensuring search engines see their content above all else.

She was hired straight away after interning for the company. Before then, like many students, she wasn't quite sure what she wanted to do -- but then she met a counselor who changed it all.

"She explained to me about digital marketing," O'Neill said. "She was talking about how it's all social media based, and it's all online and you're working with clients. It made really want to go into a career."



Digital Marketing Specialist

Associate Degree Certificate



Donna Evenson, an instructor in the program, said the area of study as it exists today began around 2017, just as more and more local digital marketing firms began cropping up in Eastern Washington.

The program has two options: a two-year associate degree -- like the one O'Neill got -- or a one-year certificate program which gives students the options to pursue the two-year degree if they'd prefer to learn more.

"We built on what would be good skills for someone to go out on their own, or join a firm, or work for a smaller business," Evenson said. "The students can go into a small business and be a huge help to someone who knows nothing about it."

Evenson said she also gets regular requests for interns at larger companies in the Inland Northwest with positions overseen by a digital marketing specialist director.

"It's nice to be part of that circle as well," she said.

And while many students go into the program straight out of high school, others return to college after years or decades working in the industry to brush up on their skills or learn new ones entirely.

For O'Neill, maybe that's an option a few tens of years from now. At the moment, she's perfectly content -- and happy -- making and curating content for a diverse group of clients.

After all -- if it didn't feel worth it, those late nights might be a regret. Instead, they're a badge of honor. Proof of the pudding.

"I feel like this is really what I want," O'Neill said. "It's where I fit in. I really fit into this degree, this program, this career."

Learn more about the Digital Marketing Degree at <https://sfcc.spokane.edu/What-to-Study/Business/Digital-Marketing-Specialist>



Canopy Credit Union's Justice Roast Fundraiser Still Brewing!

Proceeds from sales of Canopy Credit Union and Ladder Coffee's new coffee collaboration, the Canopy Credit Union Justice Roast, will go to support non-profit organizations in Spokane.

The Carl Maxey Center, located in Spokane's East Central neighborhood, is the first recipient of the profits from the fundraiser which goes through June 30.

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Both Canopy Credit Union and Ladder Coffee care deeply about supporting non-profits that are engaging in social justice work.

Through their two shared locations in Spokane Valley and North Spokane, Canopy & Ladder aim to provide an approachable and welcoming place for EVERYONE in the community.

Stop by and buy a bag of the Canopy Credit Union Justice Roast at any Ladder Coffee location between April 1st -- June 30th and 30% of the proceeds will go directly to the Carl Maxey Center!

30% of Proceeds go to Support the Carl Maxey Center from April 1 - June 30!



R.I.C.H. Curriculum Developed to Change The Way That Health Care is Delivered

(Source: Arthia Nixon, blacknews.com)

After viewing the viral video of Black doctor Susan Moore alleging poor and racist treatment from hospital staff before she died of COVID in December 2020, Aubynette Rolle, an internationally-recognized nurse who is also a medical attorney, says now more than ever, there must be a change in the way healthcare is delivered.

“I was heartbroken to see the videos Dr. Moore recorded before her death and she is not the only one who has experienced or has recordings or allegations out there,” said Rolle.

“I have read and seen footage so many times about Black women in the USA dying giving birth and their husbands and relatives are left with questions. In the majority of Black nations, it isn’t quite the case as infants and mothers do receive

care generally from people who look like them. Regardless of what title you hold, at the end of the day, we are all mortal and we will need medical assistance. I remind my colleagues in healthcare to remember that they can go from being the doctor or nurse to being the patient in an instant and they don’t know who may end up caring for them, especially if they are unable to speak. That is why it is so important for me to continue doing the R.I.C.H. experience training and establish the need for a culture of care across the board.”

Rolle has advocated for better care and strategies for improving quality and patient safety at regional meetings at the World Health Organization in Washington D.C., and was instrumental in working with the Public Hospitals Authority in The Bahamas following Hurricane Dorian in 2019. She also works with the Ministry of Health during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Initially trained as a nurse and midwife, Rolle has a Master Certificate in Healthcare Leadership from Cornell University, earned her law degree and Masters in Business Administration with Specialization in Risk Management from the University of London, UK, and was called to the Bahamas Bar after graduating as Best All-Around Student from the Eugene Dupuch Law School. In addition to consulting and training, she presently serves as the Director of Risk, Quality, and Patient Safety at the Public Hospitals Authority.

Rolle officially launched the R.I.C.H. Experience course in fall 2020 with a focus on policy and procedure development, leadership and team training, clinical outcomes, legal and regulatory compliance, as well as quality and patient safety management. She has also been essential in creating policies, identifying inefficiencies and developing better quality healthcare programs for healthcare organizations.

The acronym R.I.C.H., she explained, stands for Respect, Involvement in your care, Commitment of care providers, and Honesty.

The R.I.C.H Experience Workbook is designed to explore and discuss attitudes, beliefs and behaviors in healthcare and how



they affect patients. Rolle says, "the importance of autonomy, respect, education and diversity must be protected and guaranteed regardless of gender, race, age, color or socioeconomic status."

The workbook focuses on the role of patients and families partnering with the health team in the provision of safe, trusted and timely service as a priority. Healthcare involves people and not patients alone and as such “people centered care” is paramount.

“So far, my books are in hands of college professors and frontline healthcare workers in Florida and the Bahamas with people in Jamaica and Atlanta, Georgia expressing interest as well,” noted Rolle.

“Healthcare, emphasis on care, is universal and as such, health professionals must remember the importance of patients being heard and being able to trust that they are being treated with dignity.”

For more information, please visit AubynetteRolle.com



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From Broke in the U.S. To Purchasing A Farm in Rwanda

By Parker Diakite
(Reprinted from travelnoire.com)

Jai Essence felt she was working hard but getting nowhere. So, she packed up and moved to Rwanda.

She thought she did everything she was taught to do by graduating from college and getting a great job, but even with her accomplishments, she couldn't get ahead.

"Things were just not working in the U.S. for me and I couldn't figure out why because I was getting good jobs," she told



Travel Noire. "I felt like I was in the same cycle of frustration trying to make things work."

Essence was in the mindset of saving for retirement and having enough to support herself and her aging parents. Fearing that she would end up struggling to make ends meet years later in retirement, she began making a game plan to save money, which involved moving abroad to make her income stretch a bit further.

She moved to Dubai after landing a job as an administrator in education. That allowed her to check off her first goal of paying down debt.

"I went to Dubai for two years and that's where I saved to pay off debt," she said. "It is not easy to pay off your debt on American soil."

While in Dubai, she started to hear more about African countries, including Rwanda.

"I was hearing that Rwanda has a visa for people who are retired, people were buying businesses, purchasing land, and even how safe it is. It's one of the safest countries in the world. With all the growth and development, I kept thinking about how this is what I want my life to be."

After applying for a job, she made her dream to live in Africa happen. Now, she lives in Rwanda where she purchased a farm – a purchase she didn't think she could afford in the U.S., let alone Rwanda.

"I was broke and broken in America," said Essence. "I literally could not make my



money meet for the next month. I felt there was always a situation and never breathing room. I was frustrated because I was doing all the financial guidelines from groups I was in, budgeting— everything felt like to gain more I had to restrict myself more. I was tired of the conversation about you have to do more to get more, including seven side hustles."

Essence's advice for anyone considering a move abroad is to just trust your instincts.

"If the word 'consider' is in your vocabulary that means it is something in your spir-

it and your gut. That means there's going to be a time down the line, where you're either going to have a regret that you did do it or you didn't," she said. "If you're considering it, then what's wrong with following that train of thought? For me, I was broken. My love for life and hope was dying, and I couldn't see a way out. I left America and found those things again."

You can follow Jai Essence on her YouTube channel, *Jai Essence Journey*, at <https://www.youtube.com/jaiescencejourney> or visit her website at <https://jaiescence.com>.

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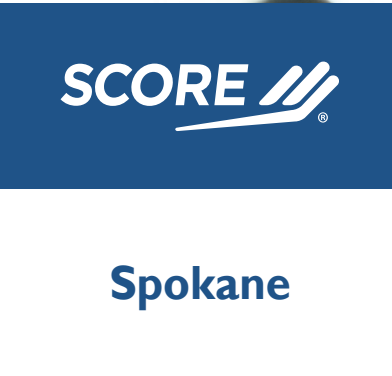
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The Elder Law Clinic at Gonzaga University Clinical Legal Programs has been passionately serving the legal needs of elders in the Spokane community since 1981. Our clinic proudly provides free legal services to individuals aged 60 or older, living in Spokane County.

We are a general practice clinic that offers various civil legal services including, but not limited to:

- Estate Planning – Will, Power of Attorney, Healthcare Directive
- Probate
- Social Security
- Long-term care Planning
- Adoption
- Guardianships
- Vulnerable Adult Protection Orders
- Real Estate Issues

The Elder Law Clinic at Gonzaga is comprised of second- and third-year law student interns and experienced supervising attorneys. If you would like to apply to the Elder Law Clinic, please email LeAnn Blair at blairl@gonzaga.edu or call us at 509-313-5791.



Questions and answers about planning for the future:

Planning for the future? A Power of Attorney can give you peace of mind.

You may think you do not need estate planning documents, but everyone needs to plan for the unexpected regardless of their financial or martial status. One important way to protect yourself, your loved ones and your cherished items and assets is to get a Power of Attorney.

What is a Power of Attorney?

While no one likes to think about someone else making choices for

them, sometimes tragedy strikes. A Power of Attorney (POA) is a legal document that allows you to designate someone you trust (called your Agent) to handle healthcare and financial decision-making on your behalf, if you become incapacitated or unable to make decisions on your own. For example, Agents can do things like pay your bills or get you qualified for long-term care.

There is no court involvement to create a POA and the document is easy to complete. If something happens to you and you do not have a POA, your loved ones may not be able to help you without court involvement.

How Do I Choose an Agent?

It is important to pick someone that you trust to act as your Agent in your POA. The powers given in a POA are broad and may include the ability to buy and sell real estate, give gifts, and to write and sign checks on your behalf.

For health care decisions, your Agent’s power can include authorizing surgery, medication, or other forms of medical treatment, only if you are unable to make those decisions. While a POA allows someone to step into your shoes, make sure it is someone you know will make the decisions you want.

How Long does a POA Last?

This document will remain valid until the time you pass away or should you decide to revoke the POA. If you need to make changes, you can draft a new POA.

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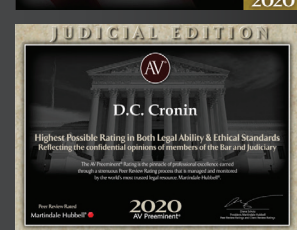
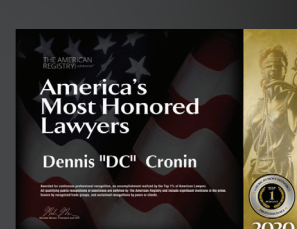
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GOVERNMENT/POLITICS

Black Leaders Force Historic Wins In WA Legislative Session

Source: *Seattlemedium.com*, photo courtesy *BLM Alliance*)

As Black people across the United States continue to be brutalized and killed by police, Black leaders have changed the rules of policing in Washington state—forcing a number of wins on police tactics and accountability bills during an historic legislative session, the Washington Black Lives Matter Alliance said as the session closed.

The policing bills that passed both House and Senate would: ban tactics like chokeholds and no-knock warrants; allow deadly force only as last resort in the face of imminent threat; put misconduct investigations in the hands of an independent investigator rather than other police; require officers to intervene when other officers use excessive force; and strengthen community oversight of law enforcement.

The Alliance, however, did not stop with policing, throwing game changing support behind bills that affect almost every aspect of Black Life.

“This stunning session is the result of a Black community that strategically pursued bills that improve the whole of Black Life in the state,” said Sakara Remmu, founder and lead strategist with the Alliance. “We’re talking about more than thirty different bills representing nearly half a billion dollars to help protect and liberate Black Lives.”



A Kin Care bill keeps Black kids with their families rather than the foster system. Another measure puts an end to private prisons. Formerly incarcerated people will have their right to vote restored. And school children throughout the state will receive free breakfast and lunch.

The support of and for the Black community also pushed over the finish line two groundbreaking measures that Democrats have previously failed to win: a capital gains tax in a state with particularly regressive taxing, and cap and trade bill to fight

climate change and invest in Black, Indigenous, and communities of color that are hardest hit by environmental racism.

“The only reason this incredible host of bills passed is because people across Washington state showed up in an unprecedented way, to demand these changes be made into law,” Remmu said. “People who had never engaged before used their power, every single day of session. They were a daily presence, telling lawmakers what to do at each stage, for every bill. They testified in committees, they wrote, they

called, they texted—they got it done. The people don’t move the needle, they are the needle.”

The Alliance in particular stood alongside Indian Country in Washington, supporting the Puyallup Tribe, Tulalip Tribe, Yakama Nation and other Native organizations to pass cap and trade, a bill with life-or-death implications for Washington’s tribes.

Eighteen of the Alliance’s Reparations for Black Lives package of bills now await the signature of Gov. Jay Inslee.

“We’re not done,” Remmu said. “We’re not done till the Governor’s signature is dry on every bill. Then we start laying the groundwork for next year’s session. We are not done.”

For information about the Washington Black Lives Matter Alliance: blmalliance-wa.org.

About the Washington Black Lives Matter Alliance: The Washington Black Lives Matter Alliance is a non-partisan, statewide coalition relentlessly fighting for the protection and liberation of Black Lives. Members from organizations across the state work to eradicate anti-Black racism and all forms of oppression so that Black people and all people can thrive. Its Steering Committee includes leaders from Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle, the Puget Sound Chapter of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Eastern Washington University, Byrd Barr Place, and others.



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Kenji Linane-Booey

New League of Education Voters Regional Field Director for Spokane

Spokane – The League of Education Voters (LEV) has announced that its new Regional Field Director for the Spokane Region is Kenji Linane-Booey. A Spokaneite and graduate of Shadle Park High School and Gonzaga University, Linane-Booey started as the Field Director in January of this year.



League of Education Voters (LEV) is a non-partisan, nonprofit organization made up of parents, students, and leaders who believe in a quality education from cradle to career. LEV is a statewide, Washington-based organization working to improve public education from early learning through higher education. The goal of LEV is to shape the debate, build powerful coalitions, and grow the grassroots to achieve meaningful reform and ample, equitable, and stable resources for education

Linane-Booey comes with experience as an ally for undocumented individuals, an admissions counselor, and an Act Six scholar. While at Gonzaga, he served as Chair of the Undocumented Community Support Coalition, sat on the Advisory Council for Gonzaga’s place-based initiative, Opportunity Northeast, and most recently finished a Master’s degree in Organizational Leadership.

Linane-Booey says he is most excited "to be an advocate for his home town and community" and "looks forward to meeting parents, teachers, students, and other stakeholders to learn about their educational journeys and to help them become greater advocates for themselves and their students."

He adds, "as we work to increase access to high-quality public education across the state, with a particular focus on students who are historically and systemically underserved, we rely on our communities to help drive our work."

Please contact Kenji if you believe League of Education Voters can be of assistance.

For more information about the League of Education Voters visit educationvoters.org. To contact Kenji Linane-Booey, email kenji@educationvoters.org or call him at 509.953.7779.



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For More Info, Contact:

Julius Henrichsen,
Youth Homelessness Community Coordinator
jhenrichsen@voaspokane.org



Phylicia Rashad Narrates "Twenty Pearls"

A Documentary About Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

The exclusive premiere of the documentary film **Twenty Pearls: The Story of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®**, started airing Friday, March 26 on Comcast NBCUniversal's newly-launched Black Experience on Xfinity Channel.

Narrated by AKA member Phylicia Rashād, directed by filmmaker Deborah Riley Draper and produced by Coffee Bluff Pictures, **Twenty Pearls** closely examines the founding and legacy of the first Black sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, which is regarded as one of the most significant and influential Black organizations in history.

The documentary tells a story of sisterhood. In 1908, nine Black women students enrolled at Howard University created Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.®

Through narration, interviews and rarely seen archival materials, the audience will see the sorority's impact on World War II, NASA, Civil Rights, Women's Rights and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) culminating in the historic election of Kamala Harris as America's first Black and South Asian woman Vice President.

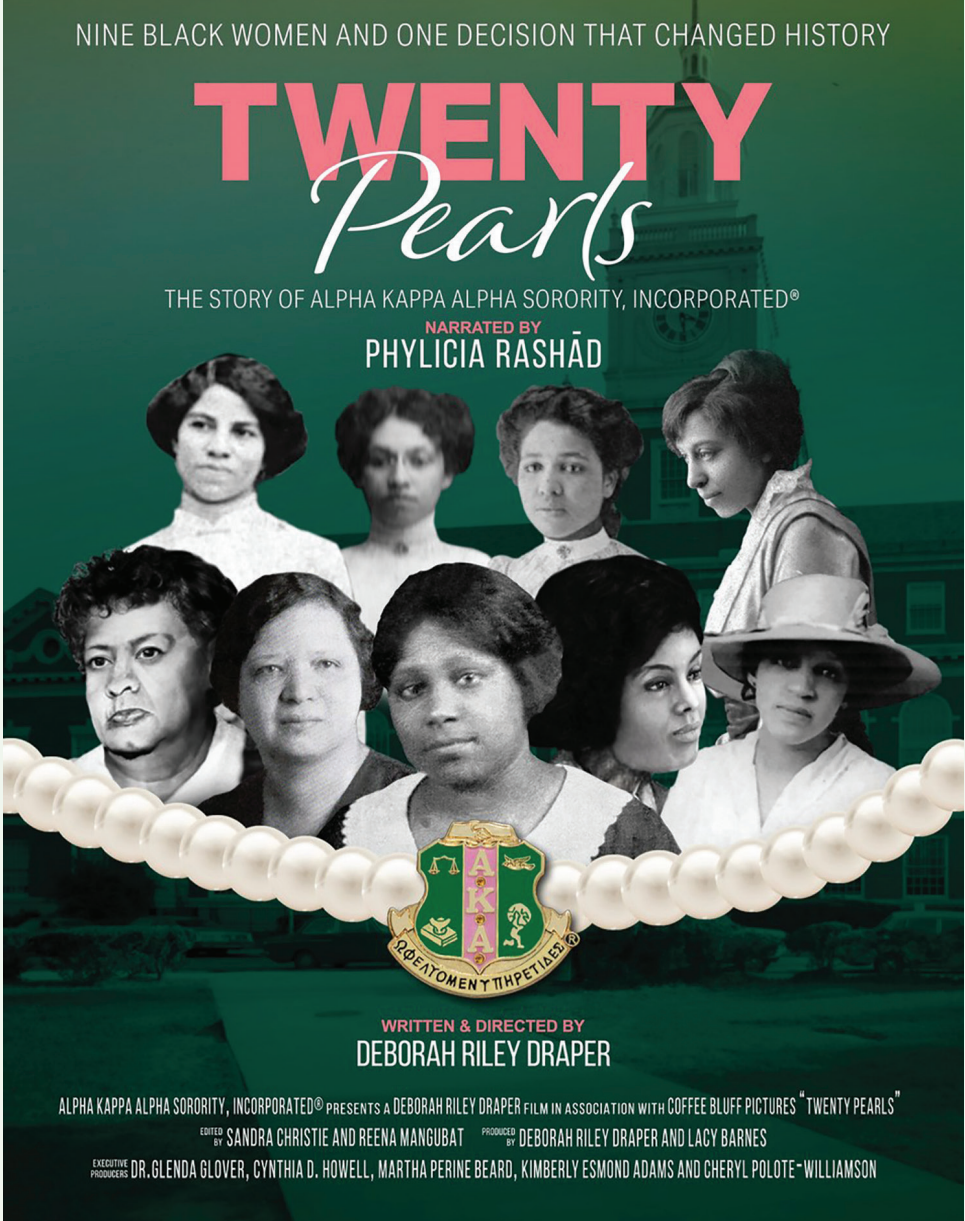
Twenty Pearls features interviews with members of the sorority including Vice President Kamala Harris, Miss Universe Ireland 2019 Fionnghuala O'Reilly, Smithsonian Secretary Lonnie Bunch III, Anna Eleanor Roosevelt Fierst,

great-granddaughter of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, International President and CEO of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Dr. Glenda Glover and many more.

Other notable AKAs include NASA mathematician and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient Katherine Johnson, civil rights activist and icon Coretta Scott King, tennis champion Althea Gibson, and Nobel Prize-winning author Toni Morrison.

Visit www.aka1908.com to learn more about **Twenty Pearls**, which premieres on on Xfinity and is free for subscribers, and will be available on demand nationwide starting on March 30, 2021.

Black Experience on Xfinity is a destination of Black entertainment, movies, TV shows, news and more. It features high-quality content from many of Xfinity's existing network partners, while investing millions of dollars in fostering and showcasing emerging Black content creators. Black Experience on Xfinity is available at home on Xfinity X1 and Flex, and on-the-go with the Xfinity Stream app. At home, Xfinity subscribers can visit channel 1622 or simply say "Black Experience" into the Voice Remote to instantly enjoy its content. Visit <https://www.xfinity.com/learn/digital-cable-tv/black-experience> to learn more about the Black Experience on Xfinity and other Black programming available on X1, Flex, and the Xfinity Stream app.



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OUR VOICES

The People vs the Police

The Impact of the Chauvin Verdict

By Jamala Rogers

(blackcommentator.com) It was difficult for Black people and our allies to celebrate Derek Chauvin's guilty verdict. The image of the white, smug-looking cop with a knee on the neck of an unarmed Black man for nearly 10 minutes is emblazoned in our memories. It will haunt us for a very long time.

Like other vivid scenes before, the scab will be snatched off the festering wound with the sight of yet another act of police terror.

It didn't take long for that terror to strike again. On the same day of the Chauvin verdict, a Columbus, Ohio police shot 16-year-old Mathias Bryant dead in broad daylight. Andrew Brown, Jr. was fatally shot by a North Carolina deputy the following day. And the beat goes on.

The Black community is determined to make our lives matter and the court system is equally determined to end them. The arrogance of Derek Chauvin on May 25, 2020 plays out day after day, month after month, year after year by police across the country. Their lawlessness has been protected by a white supremacist system from white prosecutors who often refuse to indict all the way down to white jurors who refused to convict. When the conviction of a cop stops being the exception to the rule is when Black folks may start believing there is equal protection under the law.

Meanwhile, we can stop wasting tax dollars on explicit bias training, on body cams, or overtime to allegedly keep us safe. None of these individually or collectively have curbed the slaughter of Black and Brown people by police or their proxies.

For all of the over-policed cities with bulging budgets, there's very little to show for it. Unprecedented homicide rates and hostile police don't equal public safety.



With every unwarranted act of aggression against communities of color, police departments helped to give credence to the rallying cry to defund the police. The basic human needs of people are not being met because most city budgets are outrageously bloated in favor of arrest and incarceration. Rational citizens instead are asking for affordable housing, safe neighborhoods, recreation centers, mental health services, and jobs with livable wages. These are reasonable demands.

Days before the verdict of Derek Chauvin, I saw a meme on social media that basically said nothing had changed since the beating of Rodney King except the quality of the video. The poignant reference was about the flood of videos that have publicized the brutal assaults and cold-blooded murders by police since 1991 but resulted in virtually no justice for Black communities.

Thirty years later, the anticipated verdict came down but was hardly met with enthusiastic gratitude. The Fraternal Order of Police and other police special interest groups are determined that blue, white lives will prevail by any means necessary.

The guilty verdict of Chauvin is an opportunity to bust through the walls of silence and racist insensitivity. This calls for a sustained and organized campaign to hold police accountable while defunding them.

There will never be a love fest between the two groups. Black folks are looking to avoid being one of the estimated 1000 victims of police murder each year.

We choose life.

Joining a demonstration against the law, the newly elected Sen. Rafael Warnock stated the simple truth: "Today is a very sad day for the State of Georgia. What we have witnessed today is a desperate attempt to lock out and squeeze the people out of their own democracy."

Now it is time to stand up and make it clear that this cannot stand.

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

If Neither Justice, Nor Mercy, Then What Will Save Us?

By Keith Magee

(Tricedneywire.com) - I am completely baffled. I cannot understand why Black people continue to be killed without every single American demanding that all police officers across the country just stop it. Stop killing Black people! Can we not collectively insist that those who have sworn to protect us focus on public safety first, and law enforcement second? And why, why, do these police officers' minds not equate Black bodies with the inalienable right to live? Who accidentally shoots another person? Who doesn't think at least twice about their own actions while kneeling on a dying man's neck?

As the trial of Derek Chauvin moved into its final stages, and I awaited its outcome with trepidation, I sat down to write about justice. I am constantly striving to sharpen my awareness and comprehension of the subject. I have recently published a book entitled Prophetic Justice. I am the founder and director of the Social Justice Institute, and a Professor of Social Justice. I have spent many years studying and seeking not just the divine justice of God, but earthly justice in all its forms – racial justice, social justice, climate justice, gender justice ... The list of the areas of our lives in which equity still seems a distant dream goes on and on.

Writing and speaking are what I do, they are how I preach, teach, calm, comfort, learn, share, protest. Words have always been my weapon of choice in my personal battle against the injustice I witness every day.

But today, words fail me. I look at pictures of two more traumatized families of Black citizens slain by police officers, weeping together outside a courtroom in the snow and words utterly fail me. Where is the justice? What does justice even mean anymore? Even if justice is seen to be done, just this once, or maybe



even twice, how will it heal this unimaginable pain, the pain of two families, of a whole community, of a whole people? Of a whole, wounded nation?

We have so many questions, but who will answer us? Who will speak up?

I usually reserve my most imploring, desperate questions for God. Now, when I sit still within myself to seek understanding, He refers me to His children and tells me to look into their

hearts. How can we peer into the hearts of murderers? Yet that which should be invisible, it appears, is being made visible by endless demonstrations of vehement hate.

Like so many Black Americans, I am beyond weary, but I know we won't give up in the fight for racial equality. We must pick ourselves up once more – we've been doing it for four hundred years, now, we know the routine – and unite, demonstrate, appeal for action, campaign for reform. We must hope that this time might be the last time that we have to stand up and declare that Black people have souls too. We must demand, again, that our lives not be at risk of being snatched away when we are simply

driving our cars, sleeping in our own beds, or walking out of a grocery store. All we ask is to be safe to just be humans, being.

In my Christian faith, God holds us to a high standard. Justice, as in many religions, is one of the central tenants, but it does not exist in isolation – it goes hand in hand with mercy. The Bible describes Micah imagining the Lord telling His chosen people exactly what He requires of them: "... to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God," according to Micah 6:8 (New King James Version). While justice means to be fair and equitable, mercy is to be kind and forgiving. Together, they exhort us to care about the suffering of those who are the victims of failing and broken systems. If I could, I would place justice and mercy at the core of all police recruitment, training, and practice. In fact, I would place them at the core of every aspect of public life, from education to health and social care to government. But for now, for Black America at least, these two most basic and essential of principles both feel far removed from our present reality.

No matter what I've done over the last several days, I find that I am repeatedly drawn back to that image of the families of George Floyd and Daunte Wright in Minneapolis, united by their grief, their arms around each other's shoulders. And while the ideals of justice and mercy seem agonizingly out of my reach for now, I can feel another word imprinting itself on my brain and on my heart, and I know it is the only true solution, the one that God values more highly than all other things. Love

Keith Magee is a public theologian, public intellectual, political advisor and social justice scholar. He is Chair and Professor of Social Justice at Newcastle University and Senior Fellow in Culture and Justice at the University College London. He is the author of "Prophet Justice: Essays and Reflections on Race, Religion and Politics," released January 2021.

OUR VOICES

Did Black People Help Get Ma’Khia Killed?

By Sean Yoes

(Source: afro.com)

Moments before three guilty verdicts in the trial of disgraced former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin came down and exaltation erupted across the country, in Columbus, Ohio 16-year old Ma’Khia Bryant was fighting for her life.

It only took seconds for her to lose that fight.

Millions have watched the video of Ma’Khia being shot four times outside of the foster home where she lived, by Columbus police officer Nicholas Reardon on April 20. From the time Reardon and other officers arrived in that Columbus neighborhood at approximately 4:44 p.m., it only took about 11 seconds for Reardon to fire four shots into Ma’Khia’s torso, killing her.

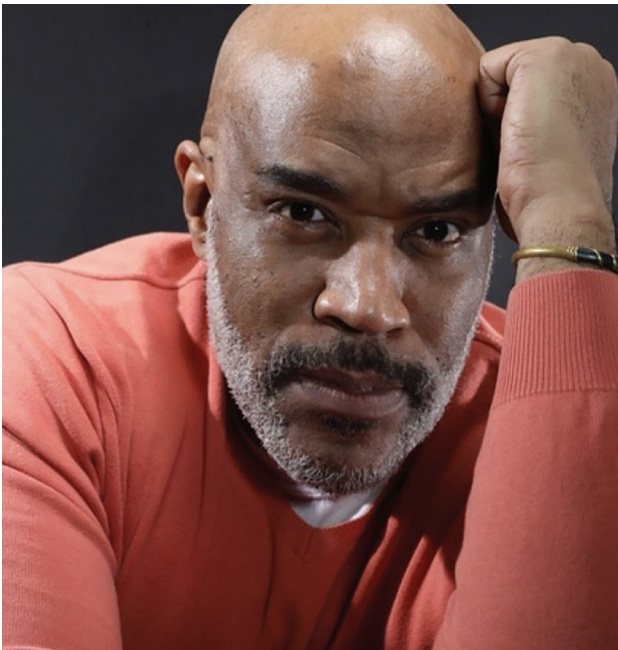
Millions of Americans, most of them Black, have engaged in speculation about what Reardon should or could have done instead of wielding deadly force against a teenage girl. He should have tased her. He should have shot her in the leg. He should have fired a warning shot. These are some of the arguments people have made.

Let’s deal with the reality of policing Black bodies in America.

First, according to the New York Times, Columbus police have killed four Black people including Ma’Khia in the last four months. Within 24 hours of the Chauvin guilty verdicts, there had been six people, most of them Black or people of color, killed by police in America. Additionally, Isaiah Brown, 32, an unarmed Black man is in intensive care after being shot at least 10 times by police outside his home in Spotsylvania County, Virginia on April 21.

Since prior to the Civil War, slave catchers, bounty hunters, bondsmen, deputies, constables, sheriffs, Klansmen, night riders, watchmen, security guards and law enforcement officers of various stripes have killed Black people with almost total impunity. That’s why the Chauvin verdict was so shocking to most.

When Nicholas Reardon gunned down Ma’Khia Bryant in Columbus, Ohio he did exactly what he was trained to do, Reardon joined the Ohio Air National Guard in 2015, and according to several reports is an expert marksman. His fa-



ther apparently is retired Sgt. Edward Reardon, a 32-year veteran of the Columbus Division of Police and was the basic training sergeant at the Columbus Police Academy.

Almost universally, cops are not trained to shoot suspects in the extremities and they are not trained to fire warning shots. They are trained to shoot to kill. When it comes to White cops and Black suspects they usually shoot first and ask questions later, if they ask questions at all. That is the reality for Black people in America and has been for centuries.

Reardon arrived upon a chaotic scene, he saw a Black female wielding an object that appeared to be a knife probably about to cut another Black female. And he stopped it from happening with deadly force.

Perhaps the bigger question is why somebody didn’t stop it before Reardon did?

There appeared to have been at least two adult Black males on the scene before police arrived at the neighborhood where Ma’Khia lived and died. In the video we clearly saw one of those Black males kicking one young female that Ma’Khia pushed to the ground as officers approached the scene. After Reardon blasted Ma’Khia with four bullets

and she gasped for air slumped against a parked car, there was another Black male screaming repeatedly, “I watched the whole thing!”

Exactly.

Two 911 calls were received by Columbus police dispatch before officers arrived on the scene. According to her mother Paula, Ma’Khia made one of those calls. Apparently she was fearful the two young women, one in shorts and the other dressed in a pink tracksuit, were going to attack her. When Reardon arrived on the scene it was the young woman in the pink tracksuit that looked like an “innocent bystander.”

Reardon asked her, “What’s going on?” She didn’t answer. Seconds later, Ma’Khia goes after her. It seems clear to me the young woman in pink was anything but an innocent bystander. In fact, as another officer subsequent to the shooting took her into custody for questioning, you hear her say on the video, “She came after me, but he (Reardon) got her.”

After the fatal shots were fired, the same Black male who kicked the girl Ma’Khia had pushed to the ground, yelled at Reardon, “Are you f—ing serious?” Yeah, he was deadly serious. He did what White cops do, shoot Black people. And you stood there and let those girls fight instead of trying to stop it. On the contrary, you kicked the one girl while she was on the ground.

The truth is, if Ma’Khia had not been gunned down by police, the melee would have been just another of the myriad “crazy Black girl fights caught on tape” that millions of people routinely laugh at. Millions more post comments on those videos punctuated with the acronym “SMDH” (shaking my damn head). They’re so appalled by what they see they can’t avert their gaze.

If Ma’Khia had not been killed, what are the odds that one of those brothers standing around watching young Black women fight, instead of stopping it, would have posted that video on WorldStar Hip Hop?

Is this really the story of us?

Sean Yoes is the AFRO’s Senior Reporter and the author of Baltimore After Freddie Gray: Real Stories From One of America’s Great Imperiled Cities.

D.C. Statehood is a Voting Rights Issue... and Racial Justice Issue

By Ben Jealous

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Washington, D.C. has a higher percentage of Black residents than any state in the country, and they have no voting representation in Congress. This is systemic racism in action. It is long past time to give Washington’s 712,000 residents the representation they deserve by making D.C. our 51st state.

It is shameful that people who live in the nation’s capital have no say in Congress. And it is unacceptable that local laws and budgets passed by D.C. elected officials can be overturned by members of Congress who decide to meddle in local decision-making. That explains why Washington, D.C.’s license plates include the slogan, “End taxation without representation,” a rallying cry by American colonists against the tyranny of British rule.

The disenfranchisement of hundreds of thousands of D.C. residents is fundamentally un-American and there is no good reason to allow it to continue. There are bogus reasons to oppose statehood, and some Republicans in Congress have been trotting them out now that legislation to admit Washington, D.C. as a statehood bill is moving forward in Congress.

Some claim that Washington, D.C. is too small to be a state. But D.C. has more residents than either Vermont or Wyoming. There are currently six states whose population is less than a million. D.C. pays more federal taxes than 21 states—and more federal taxes per person than any state.

Some make the false claim that it would require a constitutional amendment to make Washington, D.C. a state. Not true. The Constitution clearly gives Congress the authority to admit new states.

That’s how every one of the 37 states that were not initially part of the U.S. have joined the country. The original District of Columbia was created out of land from Maryland and Virginia. In 1846, a good chunk of D.C. was returned to Virginia. No constitutional amendment was required then, and none is required now to admit Washington, D.C. as a new state. Some objections are so idiotic, frankly, that they must be a cover for pure partisanship or worse.

In March, a Heritage Foundation legal fellow testifying before Congress said that D.C. residents shouldn’t get representation in Congress because they can already influence



man said (wrongly) that D.C. would be the only state without a car dealership. Another said that D.C. doesn’t have enough mining, agriculture, or manufacturing. Mitch McConnell said the plan to make D.C. a state was evidence of “full bore socialism on the march.”

At least some Republicans are honest about their real reason for opposing statehood: they just don’t want to let D.C. voters elect Democratic officials who will support progressive policies supported by the majority of the American people.

But that is not a principled position. None of the objections to D.C. statehood hold water, especially when weighed against the basic in-

congressional debates by placing yard signs where members of Congress might see them on their way to work. One Republican congress-

justice of disenfranchising hundreds of thousands of people.

Washingtonians have fought in every U.S. war. About 30,000 D.C. residents are veterans. But D.C.’s mayor does not even have the ability that governors have to mobilize its own National Guard—a fact that proved to be deadly during the Jan. 6 Capitol Insurrection. The bottom line in this: how can we hold ourselves out as a model of democracy when we are the only democratic country in the world that denies representation and self-governance to the people who live in its capital? We can’t.

As the Biden administration recognized in announcing its support for D.C. statehood, it is long past time to correct this injustice. The House of Representatives voted on April 22, to admit Washington, D.C. as a state. Senate leaders must not allow filibuster rules or Republican resistance to prevent Congress from righting this wrong.

Ben Jealous serves as president of People For the American Way and People For the American Way Foundation. He is a graduate of Columbia University and Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar.

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EMPLOYMENT & BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

careers: We love our employees and our employees love their jobs!



Canopy Credit Union is looking for purpose driven individuals to join our creative community!

If you are someone who enjoys thinking outside the box, working in an environment that puts people first, and has a passion for serving others, Canopy will be a perfect fit.

We currently have job openings for:

- Community Development Officer
- Interactive Teller
- Member Advocate

Go to canopycu.com/careers to see why Canopy is THE best place to work and apply online today.

Canopy Credit Union is an Equal Housing Lender and an Equal Opportunity Employer that recruits and hires qualified candidates without regard to race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, disability, or veteran status.

With our commitment to building a diverse and inclusive community, the credit union encourages applications from populations underrepresented at Canopy including members of racial/ethnic communities, women, and persons with disabilities.



Downtown - Northside - Spokane Valley

509.328.2900 - canopycu.com

Federally insured by NCUA

SPOKANE FORKLIFT

Skilled Technicians

Spokane Forklift and Construction Equipment is a fast-growing, small business based in the Inland Northwest. We specialize in Forklift repairs, sales, & rentals but we work on all heavy equipment, telehandlers, box trucks, semis, etc.

We are currently seeking additional skilled technicians in the Spokane & surrounding areas. Candidates with an aptitude in technical trades & background in field service or heavy machinery are preferred.

If interested, please email your resume to ryan@spokaneforklift.com or drop off at 4907 E Trent Ave. Spokane, WA 99212.

Humanix®

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Open jobs in:

- Custodial
- Clerical
- Production
- Warehouse

humanix.com or call 509-467-0062

Your door opener for great jobs with great companies!

Join Our Team





Volunteers of America®

Health Coverage . Retirement . Flexible Schedule . Paid Vacation

For more information please visit <http://www.voaspokane.org/jobs>

Volunteers of America is a family where everyone truly cares and works hard.

To us and to those we serve, all of our staff are heroes and we'd love for you to join our ranks!

PJALS

PEACE & JUSTICE ACTION LEAGUE OF SPOKANE

Hourly rate of \$20.00 – 24.50 an hour, up to and not to exceed 10 hours/week for a one-year contract; pending resources the position may be expanded in the future.

For full posting visit: <http://pjals.org/digital-organizer>

Application deadline: May 19. Target start date: June 15-29

Digital Organizer

The Digital Organizer is a new role in our team! The Digital Organizer will deliver the digital arm of communications, fundraising, and organizing.

To advertise your employment opportunities in the Black Lens call 509 850-0619 or e-mail patt@blacklensnews.com.

EMPLOYMENT & BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Civil Rights & Housing Policy Program Coordinator

The City of Spokane is Hiring a Civil Rights & Housing Policy Program Coordinator Project Employee

This position performs a variety of specialized professional responsibilities related to human rights education and housing programs within the Neighborhood Housing and Human Services (NHHS) Division.

In addition, this position administers and manages discrimination complaint processes, performs public outreach; makes presentations, acts as the technical program expert; provides customer service to client or partner participants of programs; and performs other complex program related work.

Salary: \$56,856.24 - \$80,534.16 Annually
Application deadline: Sunday, May 23, 2021 at 11:59 PM



To learn more and apply please visit our website at <https://my.spokanecity.org/jobs>

WORK WITH KIDS THIS SUMMER!



ARE YOU SEEKING a career working with kids?
Camp Fire Camps offer a career-building opportunity!

If you love the outdoors and want to make a positive difference for kids, Camp Dart-Lo-in North Spokane or Camp Sweyolakan on Lake Coeur d'Alene may be the place for you!

We're a friendly, inclusive community of campers and staff, accredited by the American Camp Association, and passionate about helping kids become caring, responsible individuals. You'll leave camp with great memories, new skills, and a ton of new best friends. A summer at camp is truly an experience you'll never forget and one that will build your resume!

For complete job descriptions and to apply, VISIT: campfireinc.org/employment-opportunities

Need a Job?

Get a new job in 6 months

Try a Career in Automotive Maintenance & Light Repair
Annual Salary starting at **\$28,000**

Learn more at Spokane.edu



Community Colleges of Spokane

Community Colleges of Spokane does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation or age in its programs, activities or employment. Marketing and Public Relations.



LEARN, GROW, AND THRIVE CAREERS AT THE YMCA

THE YMCA IS HIRING!

Are you or someone you know seeking fulfilling, challenging, and rewarding employment?

Apply online: ymcainw.org/careers

Full-time, part-time & summer only positions

Lead Teacher - Early Learning Center • Lifeguards
Assistant Teacher - Early Learning Center • Bus Driver
Maintenance Technician • Custodian • Youth Leader
Camp Reed Counselors • Teen Center Staff
Group Exercise Instructors • Karate Instructors
Member Services Representative



Employment at the YMCA of the Inland Northwest includes these benefits:

- Free YMCA membership
- Flexible hours
- Training and advancement
- Leadership opportunities

Equal Opportunity Employer

EMPLOYMENT & BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES



ODYSSEY
YOUTH
MOVEMENT

Program Manager

Are you passionate about promoting equity for LGBTQ+ youth in the Inland NW?

Odyssey Youth Movement is hiring for the position of Programs Manager! The Programs Manager is responsible for day-to-day operations of Odyssey’s drop-in center and primary facilitation of Odyssey’s training program.

Full time, hourly position at \$16-\$20 an hour, including generous PTO package and Health Reimbursement Plan.

To apply, send resume, cover letter, & 2 references to odyssey@odysseyyouth.org.

For more information, visit our website at odysseyyouth.org/work-at-odyssey or call 509.325.3637x101



CHANGE GIRLS' WORLDS!

BECOME A GIRL SCOUT CAMP COUNSELOR AT CAMP FOUR ECHOES!

Visit: <https://bit.ly/395uhro> for openings and positions



END FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

by giving your time as a **volunteer** or **staff member**.

www.familypromiseofspokane.org



HEAD START TO THE CONSTRUCTION TRADES

ARE YOU SICK OF LIVING PAYCHECK-PAYCHECK?
ARE YOU READY TO TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR LIFE?
HERE IS THE ANSWER YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!

HCT offers **FREE** training that can help you obtain a living-wage career.

Each six-week training consists of:

- Hands-on construction training
- Life skills
- Employment skills
- Certifications such as: OSHA 10, Forklift, Flagging, and First Aid/CPR/AED



FREE!

CLASSES ARE ONGOING
TRAININGS ARE SIX WEEKS LONG
MONDAY-FRIDAY, 9AM-3PM



SPOKANE, WA AREA RESIDENTS ONLY

VIEW UPCOMING TRAININGS & SUBMIT AN ONLINE APPLICATION AT:
WWW.HEADSTARTTOCONSTRUCTION.ORG
Please email thawkins@nwagc.org with any questions.

Answer the Call...

Join the Spokane Police Department.



FREE Public Safety Testing Opportunity

May 15th and 16th at the SPD Training Center
2302 N Waterworks Spokane, WA at 9:00 am
Sign up at publicsafetytesting.com



“Diversity Dialogues:”

“I see you. I hear you. I feel you.”

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACE AND EQUITY



January
20
Marlon James
5:00pm



January
27
Daudi Abe
6:30pm



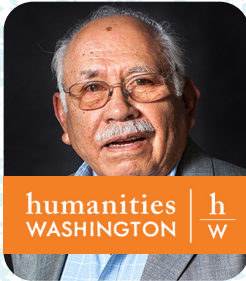
February
17
Kevin Young
5:00pm



March
03
Anu Taranath
6:30pm



March
10
Tracy K. Smith
5:00pm



April
14
Carlos Gil
6:30pm



April
27
Angie Thomas
5:30pm



May
12
Luis Rodriguez
6:30pm



June
02
Hilton Als
5:00pm



June
09
Omari Amili
6:30pm

Learn more at scc.spokane.edu/HaganCenter

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



I, Too
By Langston Hughes

I, too, sing America.

I am the darker brother.
They send me to eat in the kitchen
When company comes,
But I laugh,
And eat well,
And grow strong.

Tomorrow,
I'll be at the table
When company comes.
Nobody'll dare
Say to me,
"Eat in the kitchen,"
Then.

Besides,
They'll see how beautiful I am
And be ashamed—

I, too, am America.

MAY EVENTS

MAY 1
25th AFRICAN ANNUAL AMERICAN GRADUATION CELEBRATION
Join the Spokane African American Graduation Committee in a cultural salute to academic achievement and a celebration of our graduates from high school through graduate school.
2pm
This year's ceremony is virtual.
Visit: spokaneaag.org for more information.

MAY 12
FUSE DIVERSITY BOOK CLUB
i shimmer sometimes, too by Porsha Olayiwola (poetry)
Porsha Olayiwola is a writer, performer, educator and curator who uses afro-futurism and surrealism to examine historical and current issues in the Black, woman, and queer diasporas. She is an Individual World Poetry Slam Champion and is the current poet laureate for the city of Boston. The poems dip their hands into the fabric of Black womanhood and revel in it.
6:30pm-8pm
Virtual Discussion
Visit the Fuse Book Club Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/fusediversity>

MAY 17
NAACP GENERAL MEETING
Join the NAACP for our monthly general membership meeting. For more information please check social media at facebook.com/spokane.naACP. naACP or contact the NAACP at 509-209-2425 or visit naacpspokane.org.

MAY 28
WE ARE NOT OKAY
A Space for Black Healing
Facilitator Kiantha Duncan, Co-facilitator Alethea Dumas. This is not a space for allies.
5:30-7pm
Virtual Discussion
To register visit: <https://bit.ly/3dj4Fdk>

****SAVE THE DATE****
JUNE 19
JUNETEENTH COMEDY NIGHT
Presented by the Spokane NAACP and Comedy Cafe
7pm
Bing Crosby Theater, Spokane, WA

YOUNG, GIFTED & BLACK

SPOKANE

AFRICAN-AMERICAN GRADUATION COMMITTEE

25th ANNUAL

AFRICAN - AMERICAN

Virtual GRADUATION CELEBRATION

MAY 1ST@2PM

A CULTURAL SALUTE FOR OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT.

www.spokaneaag.org

Join us for the 27th Annual

UNITY in the COMMUNITY

Career, Education and Health Fair

Cultural Village

Activities for All Ages

Live Entertainment

Free K-8 School Supplies

Free Kids Helmets (while supplies last)

Senior Resource Area

Region's Largest Multi-Cultural Celebration

Saturday, August 21st · 10am to 4pm · Riverfront Park

nwunity.org

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

stcu

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

2021

AFRICAN-AMERICAN GRADUATION CEREMONY

RICHARD WILLIAMS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Andrew Lubben – North Central High School – 3.526 cumulative GPA
Olivia McQueen – North Central High School – 3.519 cumulative GPA

GRADUATES

HIGH SCHOOL

Tiahnni Davis- Cheney High School
Olivia McQueen - North Central High School
Jada Richardson - Innovation High School
Zion Nixon - North Central High School
Amari Troutt - Innovation High School
Kyle Cranford Jr - On Track Academy
Jakiia Wilder - John R. Rogers
Riley Bracey - On Track Academy
Mayah Eberhardt - Medical Lake HS
Mei-Li Rahman - University High School
Andrew Lubben - North Central

ASSOCIATE DEGREES

Marvin Andrews- Spokane Community College
Unconia Al-hajri - Spokane Fall Community College
Abdella Abdella- Spokane Community College
Bakima Ssebanakitta - Spokane Falls Community College
Perpetua Okello - Spokane Community College
Noah Marsh - Spokane Falls Community College

BACHELOR DEGREES

Fese Elango – Gonzaga University
Faith Ngae - Gonzaga University
Delina Biniam - Gonzaga University
Charles Bland Jr - Spokane Falls Community College
August Corpetts - Gonzaga University
Roman Gwiazda - Whitworth University
Alexandria Campbell - Gonzaga University
Adrienne Dixon - Whitworth University
Najhan Bell - Gonzaga University
Patrice Smith - Dawson - Whitworth University

GRADUATE DEGREES

Ashley Bethely - Eastern Washington University
Samantha Noonan- Whitworth University
Terrell Berry - Eastern Washington University
Rediet Medhane - Whitworth University
Gilbert Sandoval - Whitworth University

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



HERE FOR YOU, SAFELY.

RIDE WITH STA TO YOUR LOCAL COVID-19 VACCINATION SITE

To schedule a ride with Rides for Seniors call (509) 328-1552.

Learn more about getting vaccinated and available locations at
COVID.SRHD.ORG/VACCINATION

