

THE BLACK LENSTM SPOKANE

NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

NEW FEDERAL REPORT FINDS INCREASING SEGREGATION IN U.S. PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - A new analysis by the Government Accounting Office (GAO) reveals that more than 60 years after the United States Supreme Court struck down segregation in *Brown v. Board of Education*, public schools in the nation remain separate and unequal.

"This GAO report confirms what has long been feared and proves that current barriers against educational equality are eerily similar to those fought during the civil rights movement," said Rep. John Conyers, ranking member of the U.S. House's Committee on the Judiciary, in a statement. "There simply can be no excuse for allowing educational apartheid in the 21st century."

The GAO analysed Department of Education data from school years 2000-01 to 2013-14. It found that the percentage of all K-12 public schools that had high percentages of poor and Black or Hispanic students grew from 9 to 16 percent.

The schools in this 16 percent were not only the most racially-concentrated, the findings show, but also the ones with the highest percentage of low-income students: 75 to 100 percent of the students



Library of Congress Photo from 1964: Four of the five plaintiffs in Brown v. Board of Education: Harry Briggs, Jr., Linda Brown Smith, Spottswood Bolling, Jr., and Ethel Louise Belton Brown. Dorothy E. Davis is not pictured.

were Black or Hispanic and also eligible for free or reduced-price lunch—a commonly used indicator of poverty.

The report further showed that schools segregated by race and socioeconomic factors suffered from educational inequities. For example, these schools offered disproportionately fewer math, science, and college preparatory courses and had disproportionately higher rates of students who were

held back in ninth grade, suspended, or expelled.

The analysis was the result of a request made in May 2014 by Conyers (D-Mich.), Committee on Education and the Workforce Ranking Member Bobby Scott (D-Va.) and former Congressman George Miller.

"Sixty-two years later, here we are in 2016 facing an overwhelming failure to fulfil the

promise of *Brown* in realizing equality in educational opportunity for all students," said Scott. "The GAO report confirms that our nation's schools are, in fact, largely segregated by race and class. What's more troubling, is that segregation in public K-12 schools isn't getting better; it's getting worse, and getting worse quickly, with more than 20 million students of color now attending racially and socioeconomically isolated public schools. This report is a national call to action, and I intend to ensure Congress is part of the solution."

In addition to the demographic data, the GAO also examined why and how selected school districts have implemented actions to increase student diversity, and the extent to which the justice and education departments have taken actions to identify and address issues related to racial discrimination in schools.

Among other things the GAO recommended that the Education Department should "more routinely analyze its civil rights data to identify disparities among types and groups of schools" and that the DOJ should "systematically track key information on open federal school desegregation cases to which it is a party to better inform its monitoring."

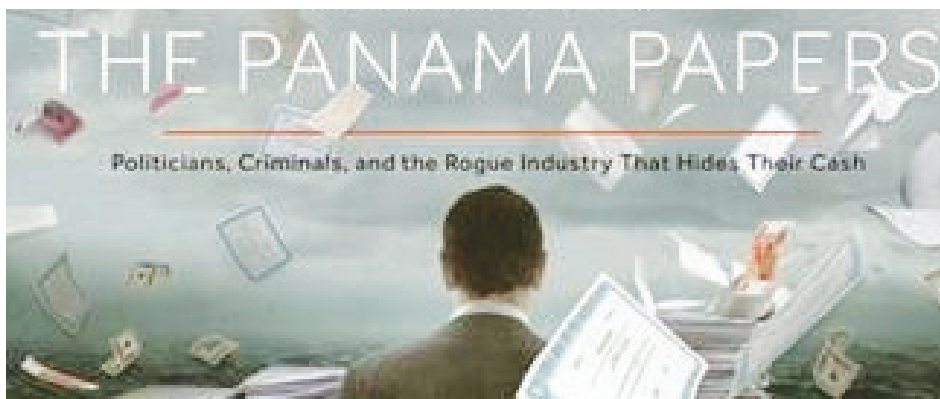
PANAMA PAPERS LEAK MAY OFFER CLUES TO AFRICA'S MISSING WEALTH

Special to the Trice Edney News Wire from Global Information Network

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - It has been called the biggest leak in the history of recorded journalism. Over 11 million documents sent to a newspaper in Germany are providing a first time look into the whereabouts of the national wealth of nations in Africa, Latin America, Europe and the U.S. that had disappeared over the years without a trace.

The documents were obtained from Mossack Fonseca, a law office in Panama that reportedly helped to create offshore accounts where money could be quietly stashed, laundered, but not traced. Some of the world's richest individuals, political figures, judges, criminals and screen stars were among their clients, according to news stories published widely.

A look at the leaked records provides an unprecedented picture of how major global



banks work hand-in-glove with other players in an offshore industry that helps the super-rich, politicians and criminals keep their assets under wraps.

More than 350 journalists working in 77 countries as part of the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), the German paper *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, the U.S.-based *McClatchy* and its 29 news-

papers, reviewed the leaked documents and worked on the now-published report.

While some of those named were international investors in African resources, a surprising number of Africans were also mentioned including a nephew of South African President Jacob Zuma, the twin sister of Democratic Republic of Congo President Joseph Kabila, the jailed former

governor of Nigeria's oil-rich Delta State, and the petroleum minister of Angola, Africa's second-biggest oil producer behind Nigeria.

The sons of former U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan and former Ghanaian President John Agyekum Kufuor were also mentioned. John Addo Kufuor, the eldest son of the former president had a \$75,000 bank account using an offshore company as cover according to the documents. An official investigation in Ghana was unable to find evidence of wrongdoing.

In the case of Kojo Annan, an offshore company was used to buy a \$500,000 London apartment, according to Mossack Fonseca data. The Panamanian law firm has denied any wrongdoing.

More details are forthcoming, the German editor revealed on the DemocracyNow news show. Details uncovered so far can be found on the website: <https://panamapapers.icij.org/>

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ON MY MIND

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR



by Sandra Williams

Looking
Hoping
Wondering

Defining myself, as opposed to being defined by others, is one of the most difficult challenges I face.
-Carol Moseley-Braun

I remember vividly my first day on the job as the Coordinator of the Pride Center at Eastern Washington University. As it turned out, my first day was also the day of the grand opening for the center. So my arrival to the campus was greeted by a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by the University’s president and an open house, that was so crowded with well wishers that people were overflowing into the hallway.

What a wonderful way to start a new job. The faculty, staff and students that had filled the Pride Center and its adjacent hallway to overflowing that afternoon were warm and friendly and welcoming and supportive. They were also almost all white.

That shouldn’t have mattered to me, but it did. I remember that I kept glancing around the room as I mingled, looking, hoping, wondering. Where are the Black folks? Where are my people? The ones who feel like family to me, even when I don’t know them. The ones who feel like home to me, a few minutes after I meet them. The ones whose presence allows me to take a breath. To relax. To let my guard down, just a little.

I felt increasingly alone as I realized standing in the Pride Center that nobody was coming. Alone in a sea of LGBTQ friendly faces. Alone in a space, like in so many other spaces, where it seems that only one part of me gets to be supported at a time.

I tried to explain how that felt to a white pastor one time who had invited me to visit his church after hearing in one of my lectures that as a gay woman I didn’t always feel welcome in the Black church. “Come to my church”, he offered, “we would love to have you, and my congregation will embrace you exactly as you are.” I took a breath, trying to figure out how to gently explain to this wonderful man with his arms outstretched and heart wide open, that his church was not what I was longing for.

The best analogy that I could come up with to explain how I felt was this. Sometimes when a child is removed from an abusive family and placed into a foster home, what they want more than anything else in the world is to go back to that home. It doesn’t matter how bad they are treated at home, or how wonderful and loving and nurturing and accepting the foster parents happen to be, the child just wants to go home. I told the pastor, I don’t want your foster church, I want to go home. I think he understood.

I have spent a good deal of my adult life walking the line that exists between the two halves of myself. When I’m in the Black community, I’m Black and I have to deal with the homophobia that exists there. When I’m in the gay community, I’m gay, and I have to deal with the racism that exists there. There isn’t a lot of overlap, at least not in Spokane, and the compartmentalization of my life can at times leave me exhausted.

Which is why I was thrilled when the Spokane Branch of the NAACP announced that they would be marching in this year’s Pride parade, carrying the NAACP banner. Even though I know, of course, that individual members of the NAACP have marched before, this will be a first for the branch and a first for the parade as well. It will also be a strong statement of inclusion and for the support of human rights that will not come without potential risk to the chapter, and for that I am truly grateful.

But, to be honest, as excited as I am about the possibility of being able to celebrate me, all of me, for once, even for a little while, I am also a bit weary and a little guarded. I can’t help but flash back to that first day on the job at the EWU Pride Center and me looking around for my people. I can’t help wondering if I will be standing there again on June 11 at the Pride Parade. Looking. Hoping. Wondering. Where are the Black folks?

THE BLACK LENS NEWS

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

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Subscription: Delivered monthly by mail - \$45/year
Submission/Advertising Deadline: 15th of the month prior to publication.
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Fashion
Talk

By Renika Williams



High Fashion Thugs
Cultural Appropriation
and the Streetwear Trend

In today’s society, streetwear has become dangerous-- a signal to others to be afraid. It labels you as a “thug” or “criminal.” It is a homing device, an indicator that you should be watched or followed, harassed, searched, imprisoned, even murdered. Well, maybe if you are black. If you are in fashion, “streetwear” is the trend of the moment, a multi-million dollar niche that capitalizes on the blending of hip-hop culture and sportswear. If you are black and in fashion like me, then the hoodie represents a polarizing aspect of the fashion industry, still steeping in cultural appropriation and privilege.

The fashion industry and media have a storied history of “adopting” and fetishizing aspects of different cultures, repackaging them into lighter, whiter boxes, and reselling them back to the masses as new, improved and more expensive. Vogue Magazine recently credited Kylie Jenner with the popularization of cornrows, praising her for essentially stripping the hairstyle of its ethnic heritage and making it more “relatable”. The same hoodie that was blamed for the death of Trayvon Martin is selling everyday at high-end stores, with some designer lines like T by Alexander Wang and Yeezy Season 3, even selling for upwards of \$900.

Luxury brands across the globe continue to rake in the premium prices for styles derived from Black culture, without crediting or acknowledging it. It’s fashion’s way of telling our community that being Black is awesome, cool and fun, unless you actually are black. It is fun to be “ghetto” unless you actually are ghetto.

As our culture is packaged, branded and set for sale on the nearest store shelf, when will we finally decide that we are worth more?



YOU SHOULD KNOW

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

Juneteenth

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

Juneteenth is the oldest American celebration commemorating the right of freedom for enslaved African-Americans. Juneteenth was also known as “General Granger’s Proclamation”, created on June 19th 1865 in Galveston Texas, when Major General Gordon Granger led a U.S. Calvary force of Union soldiers into Galveston, Texas.

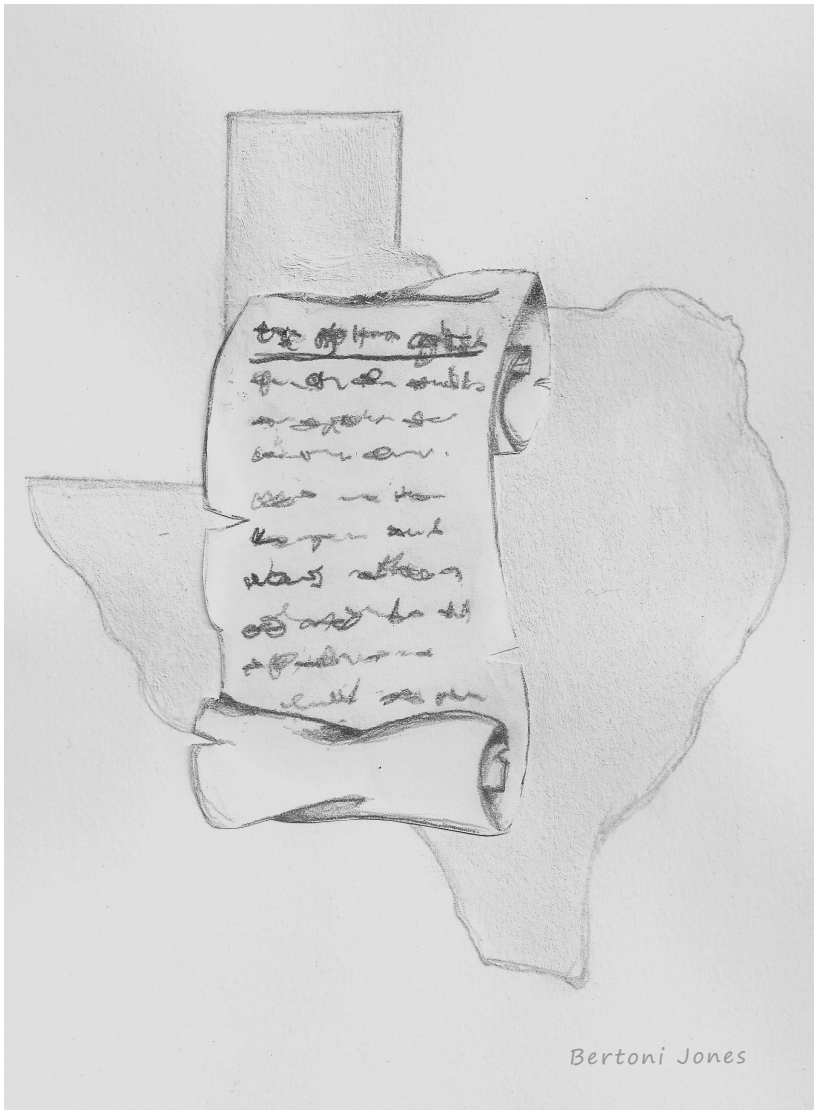
Upon arriving he witnessed bonded people still laboring involuntarily on plantations a full two and a half years after President Lincoln’s Executive Order known as the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect January 1, 1863. The Emancipation Proclamation did not fully free slaves. It held that all persons bonded in the “rebellious states” (The South) were to be set free.

Many theories were put forward to explain the delay of proper enforcement of Lincoln’s Executive Order in Galveston, none of them to the slaves benefit. Major General Granger issued the Juneteenth Proclamation as a solid re-enforcement and reminder to Galveston supporters of slavery of their national duty to abide by President Lincoln’s Emancipation Order. The full text of the Proclamation reads as thus:

“The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States all slaves are FREE. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer. The freedmen are advised to remain at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be supported in idleness, either there or elsewhere.”

The 19th day and the month of June were conjoined to create the name “Juneteenth” to commemorate the day of release from chattel bondage. On January 1, 1980, exactly 97 years to the day of the Emancipation Proclamation, an African-American state legislator from Texas named Al Edwards helped Juneteenth become an officially recognized Texas State holiday. This legislation made Juneteenth the only holiday in any state to recognize the emancipation of former bondmen.

Juneteenth today is national celebration of history, family, cookouts, and most importantly the recognition of injustices suffered at the hands of those willing to violate their own national standards of law at the expense of others.



Sources:
Jamiyo Mack – Black Heritage Day III; juneteenth.com/history.html;
archives.gov/exhibits/featured_documents/emancipation_proclamation

Astronaut Stephanie Wilson

Blazing Trails To Space

By Greg Scheiderer

It’s interesting that so many people involved in space and astronomy can point to a particular moment when they became interested in the field as a career. For astronaut Stephanie Wilson it happened when she was about 13 years old.

Astronaut Stephanie Wilson spoke about her inspiration for pursuing a career in aerospace during a talk to participants in the Michael P. Anderson Memorial Aerospace Program at the Museum of Flight located in Seattle.

“I was given a school assignment to interview somebody who worked in an interesting career field,” Wilson recalled. “I was interested in astronomy at the time, so I interviewed an astronomy professor at Williams College.” Wilson said she was fascinated by the opportunities to travel, do research, and teach to which a career in astronomy might lead. “That was my first interest in space and my introduction to science,” Wilson said.

Wilson spoke at the Museum of Flight in a presentation to the Michael P. Anderson Memorial Aerospace Program. The program, named after the Washington-native astronaut who died in the space shuttle Columbia tragedy in 2003, aims to provide inspiration and role models for students who are underrepresented in aerospace.



“It really started a thought process about what other opportunities were available and what were some other ways that I could function in aerospace,” Wilson said of her talk with the astronomy professor. “I also had an interest in working with my hands and understanding how devices are put together, so I did decide to study engineering in college.”

She earned degrees in engineering science at Har-

vard and in aerospace engineering at the University of Texas. Wilson held jobs in structural dynamics, robotics, and spacecraft attitude control before becoming part of the astronaut class of 1996. She was the second African-American woman to fly in space, going on three shuttle missions to the International Space Station.

During her presentation Wilson showed video highlights of her STS-131 mission in 2010. She has logged 42 days in space, and hopes to go again. She said she’d especially enjoy a longer mission during which she could spend six months on the ISS.

Michael Anderson was part of the 1995 astronaut class, and Wilson met and flew with him during her early days with NASA. She said that gives her some extra affinity for his namesake aerospace program’s goals.

“I really hope people see that, as a woman and as an engineer, I tried to work hard in that field, I did the best that I could to advance those fields,” Wilson said. “I also hope that people see that I tried to make a path so that people could follow in those footsteps and continue on their work. I hope that young people will see that anything is possible.”

This article was reprinted from the March 2016 issue of Asterisk, the official Newsletter of the Spokane Astronomical Society. It was submitted by Henry Hodgman. For more information visit: <http://www.spokaneastronomical.org>.

BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

First Woman to Sue Flint Over Contaminated Water Found Shot Days After Flint Plant Foreman Also Found Dead



(Sources: <http://www.bet.com>; Breanna Edwards, <http://www.theroot.com>)
Sasha Avonna Bell, the 19-year-old Flint resident who was among the first to file a lawsuit in connection to the Flint Water Crisis has been identified as a victim of a shooting according to the news site mlive.com.

Bell filed the first lawsuit saying that her 1-year-old suffers from the effects of lead poisoning because of contaminated water in Flint. Her lawsuit named six different companies and three current and former government employees, alleging that the water crisis was a result of them not taking necessary measures to ensure safe drinking water.
Bell was found shot to death on April 19, along with another victim, Sacorya Renee Reed. Bell’s 1-year-old son was also found in the home unharmed. Bell’s death came just two days after Flint Water Plant foreman, Matthew McFarland, was found dead in his Michigan home. The cause of death his is unknown. Corey M. Stern, Bell’s attorney, said that the case will continue and that a representative will be appointed for Bell’s child.

First Lady Launches Social Media Platform to Encourage Students to Attend College



(Source: Victor Ochieng, <http://yourblackeducation.com>)
First lady Michelle Obama unveiled a new social media platform called **Better Make Room**, which is set to leverage the social power of Vines, “like” buttons, emojis, and more, to encourage students into academic success. The site targets mainly 14 to 19-year-olds, otherwise known as “Generation Z.” Better Make Room is currently being promoted by over 20 businesses, nonprofit groups, and the media.
Better Make Room provides numerous resources to students, including information about college applications, student loans, scholarships, and tuition, as well as sharing practical tips on how students can navigate tests such as the SAT. The site also seeks to encourage students to share their goals and progress.
The First Lady’s initiative is in line with President Obama’s goal of ensuring the U.S. leads the world once again in the proportion of its citizens who make it to college by the year 2020. For more information visit: <https://bettermakeroom.org>.

Roots Remake to Air on History Channel Over Four Nights Starting on Memorial Day

(Source: <http://roots.history.com>)
The History Channel will premiere the mini-series “Roots” on Memorial Day 2016 and it will air over four consecutive nights. The eight-hour event is a remake of the original Roots, an ABC miniseries, which aired in 1977, that was based on Alex Haley’s novel of the same name. The story followed the story of Haley’s relative Kunta Kinte from his capture in Africa as a young man through his enslavement in colonial America and his descendents.
The cast includes Forest Whitaker, Laurence Fishburne, Anika Noni Rose and Tip “T.I.” Harris. Levar Burton, the original Kunta Kinte, has returned as a Producer.



Westpoint Cadets Cleared After Posing with Fists Raised in Photo



(Source: Tony Lombardo, <http://www.armytimes.com>)
The 16 black female cadets who posed for a photo with their fists raised and sparked a nationwide debate will face no punitive action, West Point officials announced Tuesday. The women will, however, receive “additional counseling” prior to graduating this month.
The image was taken April 26 during an “Old Corps” photo shoot, a tradition where seniors strike serious poses reminiscent of early 19th Century cadets who attended the Academy.
After their photo went viral online, the women faced accusations they were trying to make a political statement in uniform and were violating Defense Department rules. Some noted that raised fists are associated with Black Lives Matter, the grass-roots organization that seeks to expose police brutality. Others saw it as an imitation of Beyonce’s nod to the Black Panthers during her Super Bowl performance. Many others vehemently defended the cadets, arguing the photo was nothing more than a display of triumph and pride.

One woman who defended the cadets was Brenda Sue Fulton, a 1980 West Point grad who chairs the U.S. Military Academy’s Board of Visitors, who said she knows some of the women personally. “When I spent time with these cadets and heard them tell their stories and laugh and joke with each other, there’s no doubt in my mind how much they love West Point, they love the Army and they support each other.”
But, Fulton added, “I would not have re-tweeted the raised-fist photo because I am well aware that our culture views a black fist very differently from a white fist,” she said. “I knew it was their expression of pride and unity, but I am old enough to know that it would be interpreted negatively by many white observers. Unfortunately, in their youth and exuberance, it appears they didn’t stop to think that it might have any political context, or any meaning other than their own feeling of triumph.”

The academy opened an investigation on April 28 and interviewed the cadets involved as well as the photographer. There were nine photos taken during the shoot and three poses, referred to as “Serious,” “Raised Fist” and “Silly”.
There was no evidence the cadets intended to make a political statement, according to a memo that summarized the inquiry’s findings. The investigator also concluded there were no violations of Defense Department Directive 1344.10, which spells out the rules for service members engaging in political activities. Instead the photo was deemed a “spur of the moment” pose with the intent, as one cadet put it, to “showcase the awesome black women in our class.”

While the cadets were cleared, their actions were still viewed as “inappropriate.” West Point Superintendent Lt. Gen. Robert Caslen agreed with that finding, writing in a letter to the Corps of Cadets, “while the inquiry did not find that these cadets violated a policy or regulation, it did determine that they demonstrated a lapse of awareness in how symbols and gestures can be misinterpreted and cause division.” He continued, “the impact of this photo, regardless of its intent, is evident. It is unfortunate that this perception brought attention to our Alma Mater for all the wrong reasons.”
Caslen did note, however, that clenched-fists have been used in other ways at West Point, for example as a “display of pride” at a Fourth of July Concert, and during an Army-Navy game. “The time, place and manner of a symbol can also hold significant meaning and influence perception,” he added.
The investigator recommended no delays to the women’s May 21 graduation, but also that all future ‘Old Corps’ photographs be reviewed by the West Point public affairs office prior to release to any Cadet or outside agency.

HBCU President To Give 100% of Salary Back to University



(Source: Jessica Starks, <http://blog.therealrickeysmliey.com>)
Pastor Kevin Cosby, president of Simmons College in Louisville, Kentucky, the 107th Historically Black College/University in the nation and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, has pledged to give his entire salary back to the University.
Cosby, who is also the head of St. Stephen Baptist Church, the largest black mega-church in Kentucky, will be giving back what will amount to about 1 million dollars, because he says “I realized that the health of the black community is predicated on the reconstituting of black-controlled institutions.”

Tuskegee Airman Eddie Marcy Passes Away



(Source: <http://www.blackpast.org>)
Eddie Marcy, a member of the support staff for the famed Tuskegee Airmen in World War II, passed away on March 26, 2016 at the age of 96. Marcy was stationed at Selfridge Air Force Base in Harrison Township, Michigan in 1943, as part of the 100th Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group, and later the 305th Bombardment Wing. He left Selfridge for Ramitelli, Italy.
Marcy was responsible for keeping planes fueled three times a day and in the air flying missions. For his heroic service during the war, Eddie Marcy received several awards, including a Certificate of Merit for his service in the European, African, and Middle Eastern campaigns. He also received the Bronze Star for meritorious service.
After the war, Marcy returned to Selfridge Air National Guard Base in MI where he served until he was discharged.

Black Lives Matter to Help Lead SF Pride Parade



(Source: Kenrya Rankin, <http://www.colorlines.com>, Photo: Max Whittaker/Getty Images)
The San Francisco Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Pride Celebration Committee has named Black Lives Matter as one of its grand marshals for the 2016 pride parade which is scheduled for June 26.
The theme for the 46th annual San Francisco Pride Parade is “For Racial and Economic Justice.” Black Lives Matter will serve as the organizational grand marshal. Alicia Garza, BLM’s co-founder, was also a grand marshal in 2015.

GOVERNMENT / POLITICS

WHY ARE AFRICAN AMERICANS SUPPORTING TRUMP?

Commentary

When I heard that Donald Trump would be making a campaign stop in Spokane and holding a rally on the afternoon of May 7, my goal was to attend the rally, find an African American Trump supporter and interview them.

I knew that there were Blacks who supported Trump and I was curious about them. Why? Why would a person support a man who appeared to go out of his way to say things that if taken in their best possible light were offensive to Blacks and to other people of color, and if taken at their worst could be considered racist, even crossing the line into hate speech. It seemed to be a contradiction to me, that Blacks would rally behind a man who appeared to have little regard for them, or for other people of color for that matter, and I wanted to understand why. Call me crazy.

So I made a routine request for media credentials so that I could attend the rally. The same very routine request that I had made to both the Sanders and Clinton camps when their campaigns stopped in Spokane. It was a standard procedure. You make the request. The request is granted. Simple. Except in the case of The Black Lens, the request for media credentials was denied. What?

Little did I know that Trump’s denial of our credentials, for what they described as “space and safety concerns”, would catapult the Lens itself into the media. The local media rallied in support and the story was picked up by the Spokesman Review, KHQ and KXLY television. Social media was a buzz and the story was being shared and re-shared both on facebook and twitter (something I don’t even use). By that evening the story had reached the Seattle Times, and by all accounts had a trajectory that would have rapidly taken it onto the national stage within days. Even a satirical newspaper out of New York city, named The Buffalo Ruse, messaged to say that they had picked up the story as well.

It appears that the immediate and escalating response to the idea of big bad Donald Trump picking on the little Black newspaper in Spokane, Washington had somehow managed to do the impossible, get a man who seems to revel in and thrive on any and every form of controversy, to apologize. And to take a step back. So, the Black Lens was granted press credentials for the Trump rally, and along with my trusty photographer, and designated

bodyguard, Bob Lloyd, we set out to find us some Black folks. It took some doing, a lot of doing actually, and we had to enlist the help of others on the media stand as spotters. But we did it. There were three African Americans that I was able to identify. Bob got pictures, and when the rally was over I set out to track them down.

As a brief aside, for those that are interested in my reflections about the rally itself, here they are. Once I worked through the anti-everything-that-has-to-do-with-Donald-Trump bias that I became aware I was harboring, I actually appreciated some of the things that Trump had to say (you can stone me later). In particular, his criticisms about the corruption in government and politics, and the negative impact of our trade agreements, (like the Trans Pacific Partnership), on working Americans, were things that I agreed with. But that having been said, I was disappointed however, that in raising these issues and tapping into a national undercurrent of frustration, anger and disenfranchisement from his supporters, instead of addressing the actual root causes of the issues that he is raising, Trump has decided instead to scapegoat the undocumented, demonize Muslims, and pander to a sound byte driven media machine that is unashamedly obsessed with catering to the lowest and crassest possible denominator that exists in our country, but I guess that’s how you win an election.

So back to the Black folks. The first Black man, and I literally had to chase him down, turned out not to be a Trump supporter after all. “I just came for the show,” he said into the tape recorder that I had shoved in his face to document the historical moment. I don’t think I did a very good job of hiding my disappointment.

I found the other two Black men. Kwaday, who has lived in Spokane for five years and Vajahn who has lived in Spokane his entire life, outside yelling at the Trump protesters. So, like a good journalist, I waded into the crowd after them. Don’t tell my family.

Why? I asked them both. Why do you support Donald Trump? They both had similar answers. The primary reason for their support was Trump’s stance on illegal immigrants. Kwaday was insistent, “the protesters are saying that Trump is racist because he wants to deport illegal immigrants,” he argued, “but it’s not about race, it’s about the American people. He’s supporting the Black



Photos courtesy Robert Lloyd, <http://4comculture.com>

community by sending the illegals out, so Americans like us can get jobs, so that we can be rich again and we won’t have problems with millions of people losing their jobs.” Vajahn, who will be voting in his first election this year, had similar views, adding that no other candidate is saying what needs to be said about illegal immigrants, that there needs to be “consequences for actions.”

But what about all of those awful things that Trump keeps saying, I asked them both, does that matter to you? Vajahn agreed that Trump says some “interesting” things, and he doesn’t agree with all of them, but despite that, “I feel like he would be the candidate who would best lead us.” Kwaday feels that people are being misled by the media and that what Trump is saying is being taken out of context. “Everybody who supports Donald Trump wants the jobs back, they don’t want people to take jobs from us, because we want to put Americans first. I don’t understand why he gets criticized for saying he wants to put Americans first.” Kwaday continued, assuring me, “If you watch a whole rally, you will change your mind.” Well I did watch the whole rally, and I’m sorry, but I didn’t change my mind.

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NAACP UPDATE:

NAACP SPOKANE
http://www.SpokaneNAACP.com



Office of Racial Equity & Inclusion
By Naima Quarles-Burnley
Spokane NAACP President

On May 20, 2016, Sandy Williams, the Eastern Washington Representative for the Governor’s Commission on African American Affairs, hosted a Commission meeting at the Emmanuel Family Life Center in Spokane where government officials and community members were invited to testify before the Commission on issues related to Criminal Justice.

As President of the Spokane NAACP, I offered the following testimony:

Race is a key determinate as to whether or not one will become involved with the Criminal Justice system in the Inland Northwest in general and in Spokane County in particular. Despite our small numbers, African Americans in Spokane have a disproportionately high rate of involvement in the Criminal Justice system. Implicit bias and lack of cultural competency are factors that lead to disproportionate outcomes.

An Office of Racial Equity & Inclusion can help to identify these patterns, provide analysis of policies, practices and procedures that may be disadvantaging one group over another and assist in creating a “toolkit” designed to develop strategies to prevent or mitigate adverse impacts or unintended consequences on marginalized populations. The goal will be to have the application of a Racial Equity lens become a permanent overlay in all decision making across all city and county departments. The racial equity lens must also be applied to the budget.

Race matters in school discipline.
School-based zero-tolerance policies combined with the increase of School Resource Officers has caused a drastic increase in school-based referrals to law enforcement. While the overall admission rate of youth in Spokane to secure detention has dropped by 41% from 2007-2015, African Americans and Native American youth are still 4 times as likely to be admitted to detention as White youth. Latino youth are 3 times more likely to be admitted to secure detention than whites. The Spokane Public School District teachers, administration, and other school personnel agree that district-wide lack of cultural competency has led to increased discipline of students of color. It is realities of this sort that seem to be the key drivers of youth of color into the justice system.

Race matters in who is profiled.
There is a problem when the Mayor appoints someone to serve as the Law Enforcement Director, who has authored a biased Op Ed (March 2015) public statement that was denigrating at best, demonizing at worst, of African American men.

Jim McDevitt: “Statistics show that African-American males commit violent crimes at seven to 10 times the rates of white males. Their incarceration rates are primarily driven by violent offenses and not drug offenses... As a result of this high instance of crime on the part of young men of color in some areas, law enforcement there develops a “convenient shortcut.” This mental shortcut becomes almost irresistible. It is a somewhat rational form of profiling.”

The Law Enforcement Director claims his intent was to “spark conversation” but instead he seems to be excusing racial profiling.

Race matters in who has contact with the police.
In a 2015 report produced by the Spokane Police Department, in cooperation with Eastern Washington University regarding police contact and race, one of the conclusions was that it was observed that there is a “racial disproportionality in the rate of contacts between civilians and officers, and it appears that this initial dispro-

portionality is what drives the subsequent disproportionalities in searches and arrests.” African Americans are 2.5% of the city population, but 6.1% of the contacts with police, 10.9% of the arrests and 10.4% of the searches. Something is wrong with this picture! We need to get to the root causes of why these vast disproportionalities are occurring.

Police need cultural competency and implicit bias training as part of their professional development. There are tensions between the community and police. Only sustained efforts to build relationships and avenues of communication between the community and police will heal some of these wounds.

The formation of the Police Leadership Advisory Committee (PLAC) was a good way to get input from stakeholders in the selection of a police chief. A committee like this one sought to involve representatives from the communities that were most impacted, yet it was summarily disbanded.

An Office of Racial Equity and Inclusion cannot be as easily dismantled and will serve to engage stakeholders in identifying issues of racial bias and working through them.

Race matters in who goes to jail.
African Americans are 2% of the County population and 11% of the jail population.

Race matters in who is involved in the Criminal Justice System.
All of these statistics show patterns of disproportionate impact on African Americans, whether we look at who is disciplined in the schools, who is profiled, who is in contact with the police and who goes to jail, race is a determining factor.

If race matters, and it does, so should racial equity.
An Office of Racial Equity and Inclusion will take a comprehensive look at our policies, practices and procedures to determine what impact they may have on who enters the Criminal Justice system, how long they stay and how they are treated while they are there. An Office of Racial

Equity and Inclusion would not only evaluate the Criminal Justice system, but it would look at all of the ways the City intersects with the lives of its citizens and appraise whether or not there is equitable treatment for all. This office alone will not eliminate racial bias but it will be the beginning of a long journey.

In order to be effective an Office of Racial Equity and Inclusion should assist all departments in using a racial equity lens for review of their policies, practices procedures and budgets. The office must not only have capacity for review and training but also the ability to enforce compliance.

We all benefit from racial equity and inclusion, this is our “carrot”, but if we do not all participate there should be consequences (the stick).

Other cities have devised models that enforce compliance and we should too. If we are not actively seeking to undo racism, then we are passively participating in the perpetuation of systemic patterns of preference, privilege and power that promote the status quo where people of color are demonized and victimized.

On behalf of the Spokane NAACP and the Spokane Community, I ask the Governor’s Commission on African American Affairs to recognize the disproportionate negative impact racial bias in the criminal justice system has had in our area and use your influence to help identify funding and support for the establishment of an Office of Racial Equity and Inclusion for the betterment of all of Spokane’s citizens, the people of the region and the state.

Some of the things an Office of Racial Equity & Inclusion will do:
Organize trainings on implicit racial bias for City Staff; Develop a toolkit that will assist all segments of the City in implementing the use of racial equity and inclusion filters of their policies, practices, procedures and budget decisions; Assist with the oversight of policy analysis; Assist city departments with the development of corrective plans to achieve equity; Assist city departments with targeted outreach to marginalized communities to share opportunities for employment, serving on commissions and public engagement; Collaborate with Department heads to establish Equity & Inclusion teams; Work with HR to ensure equitable hiring, promotion and retention practices as well as best practices for mentoring and leadership development; Work with departments and divisions to update their purchasing and contracting practices to ensure equity access.

THOUGHTS FROM A GRANDMOTHER

Where’s Our Support?
By Evelyn Anderton

When it comes to African American businesses, social gatherings, fundraising, African American issues, and political concerns, a fundamental question is; where is our support? While you may go many places to find the answer, one place you will not find the answer is in the African American community.

From the beginning of our recorded history we show more of a sense to compete with one another than to unify and build up one another. We can recall this competition as early as our plantation days, where African Americans were divided by skin complexion as house and field slaves. It became common place for one African American to look down on another African American if he/she was darker in skin tone. From generation to generation, African American people seem to still embody this desire to compete and tear one another down rather than to unite to build a strong aspiring, desiring culture.

What is it about us that we show so much covetousness and jealousy toward one another? We are separated by the haves and the have-nots. Is it that we feel so devalued in our society that we’re willing to step on anyone to get ahead, including our own race?

I recall a conversation last month with a lady who attended the NAACP spaghetti feed in Spokane, WA. She was from out of town and was given a ticket to attend. I recall her astonishment that only 5% of the individuals who were present were African American. She asked, “Where is the African American support for the NAACP here in Spokane?” I recall her shaking her head as if she had seen a hopeless sight. She said, “...it’s a sad affair when other cultures care more about change for the African American community than African Americans.”

African Americans must not underestimate the value of perception. When we show up to functions that we care about and attend meetings that concern our communities, it presents a picture that we desire change. When we don’t show up...it too presents a picture and today’s

perception of the African American culture and community is that snapshot. I don’t know about you, but I no longer want to be in that selfie.

I long to see the day when the African American family supports each other like the other cultures in the United States. I long to see the day when college is talked about more than a favorite rapper or music group in our homes. I long to see the day when several CEO’s and Fortune 500 Companies are led by African Americans, who look to support and uplift other African Americans.

It’s time we stop this vicious cycle of effort-less community support, feeling no pain when another African American business fails.

Find an African American owned business near you and show your support. It doesn’t matter if you don’t like their food, clothes, or whatever they are selling. Show up just to support and as a result, they can return the support to another African American owned business.

This is the only way we as a culture can survive and broaden our influence



throughout our collective communities. Truth be told, African American businesses have a tough time without the support of their own people. The doors should open with our support and there should be an expectation to continue to receive that support.

It all begins with us first.

EDUCATION/SCHOOLS

DR. O: REBUILDER OF AFRICAN HUMANITY

His name is Dr. Okera Nsombi. Two words, with roots in Africa, that mean likeness to the Creator and abounding joy. Both appropriate once you get to know him, but his friends simply call him Dr. O, a term of endearment that he says he enjoys.

Currently an Assistant Professor in the Africana Studies program at Eastern Washington University, Dr. O was born in Columbia, South Carolina and raised there until the age of seventeen. He has fond memories of his childhood, well parts of it anyway. The good part included the two big, close-knit, southern families that Dr. O was a part of. Since both his mother and his father each had ten siblings, “every Sunday was spent eating a big dinner at somebody’s house.”

The bad part however was school. Dr. O attended Lexington elementary, middle and high school, and he hated school. He hated the racial tension in the integrated schools. He hated that the teachers “didn’t seem to care about you, and didn’t like you.” He hated that he didn’t feel welcome in the schools or comfortable, and his lack of self confidence, he feels, grew out of not feeling comfortable.

Education, though, was important to his parents, so Dr. O did just enough to get by and to keep from getting punished, and like many Black students before and after him, he was tracked into remedial classes at a young age and stayed there.

“I didn’t think I was going to go to college. I was floating around trying to figure out what I was going to do. I didn’t think I was going to live to be past twenty-one.”

Dr. O remembers the hopelessness that he felt at that age. “In school you would open books and white people were everywhere. It seemed like they did everything. Even at church. I didn’t even think Black people could get into heaven. We used to tell the white kids in middle school that the biggest dream of our life was to be white for one day. We never discussed it amongst ourselves, but we all had come to the same conclusion because of what we internalized from what was happening around us, that white people were somehow better.”

Dr. O thought the schools in South Carolina were bad, but he says he soon experienced the “worst year of his whole life” when his father, who was the first Black to work at the ticket counter for Delta Airlines, was transferred to Hebron, Kentucky before Dr. O’s senior year of high school.

“We were the only black family in Hebron, KY. There had been three black students in the school, then my brother and I came and that made it five.” It was obvious, he said, that the white people did not want them there and they freely let Dr. O and his younger brother know how they felt. The principal’s idea of addressing the daily harassment and

name calling was to tell the Black students that they had to realize that nigger was “just a name” and that he understood how they felt because when he was in school he wore glasses and kids picked at him and called him four eyes. As a consolation for how they were being treated, the principal offered to let the Black students take the day off for Dr. King Day to help them feel better, and he told them it, “won’t count against your attendance.”

Dr. O graduated from high school in 1988 and couldn’t wait to get out of there, although he still harbors guilt about leaving his younger brother behind to endure the treatment for another two years.

Dr. O had never imagined himself going to college, but once he graduated people kept asking, “man what are you going to do?” So he told them he was going to college “because everyone else was going.” His father did all of the paperwork for him and “dropped me off with my clothes and the next thing you know, I was sitting in college.” The college was Northern Kentucky University, with a population of 12,000 students. “Less than 100 were black, including people from Africa.”

Dr. O was ill prepared academically for a college curriculum and was expecting a repeat of his experiences with teachers not liking or caring about him, so he had low expectations for his time at the university, but during



Northern Kentucky’s freshman orientation something happened that literally changed Dr. O’s entire life. He saw and heard, for the very first time in his life, a Black professor speak.

“When I saw this brother with his suit on and the title Dr., I was absolutely blown away. I didn’t know we taught school. I didn’t know that Black professors even existed. I thought, who in the hell is this dude.”

Dr. O signed up for a class that he still remembers, “Race and Ethnic Relations.”

Continued on Page 14

CONGRATULATIONS!

2016 Spokane Falls Community College Graduates!

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IN THE SPIRIT

CALVARY CELEBRATES PASTOR AND LADY ANDREWS 42ND ANNIVERSARY

By Minister Grant E. Montoya
Calvary Baptist Church of Spokane

The first Sunday in May is a day when most people in Spokane are thinking about running or walking a 12k route, or finding a good way to avoid all the traffic of everyone else who are doing that 12k loop. This year was no exception, as more than 50,000 runners hit the streets for the 39th annual Bloomsday run. But for the members of Calvary, there was another event going on, on the other side of town, that took up our calendar for that date.

On the first Sunday in May, back in 1974, Calvary Baptist Church appointed a new pastor. Reverend C. W. Andrews (he did not yet have a doctorate at that time) had been serving already as the interim pastor, and the members of Calvary decided to make it official.

Pastor Andrews and his wife have both been serving the church faithfully ever since, and on May 1, we celebrated Pastor and Lady Andrews’ 42nd service anniversary.

For me, it was a busy day, as I was not only serving as emcee for the afternoon service honoring the pastor, but I was also running in the qualifying heat of Bloomsday. I finished the race just in time to shower, and get to church for communion, which means I missed the special sermon by Calvary’s assistant pastor, Reverend Amos Atkinson, though Pastor Andrews told me afterwards that he preached up a storm.

Being emcee put me in a unique position to watch the events, because I got to start everything, and keep the ball rolling. And so I did; from the moment the honorees entered the sanctuary until we saw them

out and said, “Amen,” I did my best to direct events forward, honor the pastor and first lady, and bring glory to God.

One of the key elements of such a sermon is to allow others to honor the first couple. This year, they were greeted from the community by Dorothy Webster, who spoke for the NAACP, Dr. James “Jim” McDevitt, the Director of Law Enforcement for Spokane, Dr. Beck Taylor, the President of Whitworth University, and Deacon James Troutt, representing the Prince Hall Masons.

From the family of God, the first couple was greeted by Father Brian Mee of St. Peter’s Catholic Church, Reverend Happy Watkins of New Hope Baptist Church, Reverend Lonnie Mitchell of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, and Elder Ezra Kinlow, of Holy Temple Church of God in Christ.

And then I took my turn to present them with a gift of my own, before church members Dennis and Nora Scott honored them on behalf of our church. Throughout the service, there were dances, songs, and speeches made demonstrating how much God has blessed Calvary by placing Pastor Andrews at the head of our congregation.

We didn’t go into the history this year, but the congregation knows that Calvary was struggling to keep the lights on and the doors open when they appointed Pastor Andrews. Since then he guided the church to eliminate its debt and raised enough money to make several significant improvements to the building and grounds, expanded the ministry to include a weekly soup kitchen that has served thousands of



meals, overseen several outreach mission projects, guided many good men and women to service in the Lord, and brought countless more to salvation in the name of Christ.

Pastor and Lady Andrews are truly servants of God, and we are thankful for everything they have done in the service of God and leadership of our church. Thank you, Rev. Dr. C. W. and Lady Doris Andrews, for everything!



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New Hope Baptist Church

Pastor Happy Watkins

The Friendly Church

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2016 AFRICAN AMERICAN GRADUATION



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

On the 23rd of April 2016, the 20th Anniversary of the African American Graduation Celebration and Ceremony was held in Cowles Auditorium at Whitworth University. While this year's celebration marked a significant milestone as the 20th anniversary, it was also significant due to the record number of participating graduates. One hundred and ten (110) graduates signed up, and of those 110, 76 graduates participated in this year's celebration, setting a new record for the African American Graduation Celebration and Ceremony. And this could not have happened without YOU! The members of the African American Graduation committee express our sincerest gratitude to everyone who participated and attended the 20th Anniversary celebration.

This year's ceremony was by far one of the best orchestrated events. We gratefully acknowledge Whitworth University's President, Dr. B. Taylor, as the host institution of the 20th African American Graduation ceremony. We are also appreciative of their generous support. Attendance and response from the community and other educational institutions was overwhelming. Thank you residents of the Inland Northwest. The wisdom imparted by the founding members of the African American Graduation Celebration Committee inspired us all to continue the legacy started 20 years ago as we honor future graduates. So again, we say, congratulations graduates! And do not forget to "lift as you climb." Chrissy Davis

Photos courtesy: Stephanie Courtney, Robert Lloyd, Sandra Williams, and Rev. Robert Lee Robinson Jr.



HAPPY FATHERS DAY

Ruschard Dodd-Masters



Ruschard has been the biggest blessing to us. He is a great dad to our children and a great husband to me. We get to grow as a family and that's all that I could ask for. Happy Father's day, even though you shouldn't be appreciated for just one day, but every day of the year. We all love you very much. - Trinh

Eugene Singleton



Happy Father's Day
to a wonderful husband
and a loving father,
a true gift from God.

Love Tina, Curt, and Carl

Chuck Anderton



Father

A sturdy, steady hand to hold to
in times of strife and stress.
A true friend we can turn to
when times are good or bad
One of our greatest gifts and blessings.
The man we call Dad.

Love Tia, Stacey and Tiffinee

Elmer Anderson



To our earthly father whom we love very much!
Happy Father's Day! The Anderson Family

Curt Boyd



Happy Father's Day
to a wonderful father and
a loving husband
Love Mona

Larry Burnley



You are a Wonderful Father,
My Forever Lover,
Happy Father's Day Larry!
Love Naima

Ivan Bush



Happy Father's Day
We Love You Daddy
From Shayla, Ivy,
and Oceana

Robert Jackson



We know over the years, you have become and been the father of many. We feel special and blessed to be one of your children. Thanks for the understanding and good advice, the listening ear and special closeness that you provided to each of us.

Happy Father's Day
Tyrone, Tvar, Andre and Erinn

James Watkins



James you are a father and grandfather who is respected because you give our children and grandchildren leadership. You are appreciated because you give our children and grandchildren care. You are valued because you give our children and grandchildren time. You are Loved because you give our children and grandchildren the one thing they treasure most - Yourself

"The righteous man walks in his integrity; his children are blessed after him." - Proverbs 20:7 (NKJV)

We Love you and appreciate all that you do for us and how you love us.

Love, Shawn, Branden, Ephraim, Elijah
& Granddaughters, A'Naya and Aliya

CELEBRATING OUR FATHERS

Robert Jackson



I am blessed to be the wife of a man who loves Jesus and understands that being a father means being understanding and knowing that each child is different. You have fathered over 45 children since we have been together. I know that you have loved each one of them. I love you, and you're still the "one" that I would give my heart to.

Happy Father's Day, Your wife Diane

Benjamin Wheeler



Happy Fathers day, we love you and appreciate all you do for us.

Love Everett and Endia

Happy Watkins



Happy Father's Day!!!

We appreciate all that you have accomplished as a Father, Grandfather, Pastor and Community leader.

You are an inspiration to everyone that calls you a friend.

We love you pop!!!

Chuck Anderton



Only God could make a papa like you.

Thank you God.

Happy Father's Day papa.

Love Malik

Stanly Tensley



Happy Father's Day

To a loving husband, father, grandpa, uncle, and deacon. We appreciate everything you have done in our lives to be a perfect example of what a father should be. You are our father/man of steel, and shield that continues to protect us through every storm. You are truly a man of God and he gave you to us to be the father

of this family. He could not have chosen a better man for the position you hold in his kingdom and in our hearts, where you will forever reside. No one can hold this family down and it wouldn't be possible without God and the woman he chose for you. May God grant your spirit and heart with more patience than ever because your love is never ending and we couldn't have asked for more.

Your loving wife, children and grandchildren

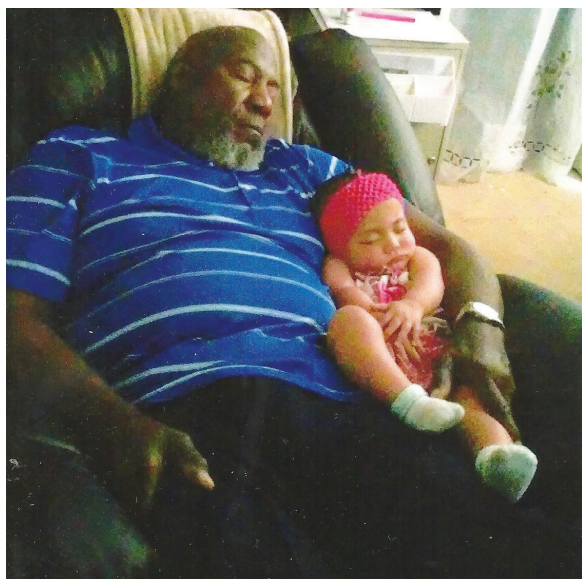
Byron Kennedy



Happy Father's Day to the best son and Father in the Universe.
We love you.

Mom, Margaret Kennedy, and daughters ShaDae & Shayla Kennedy

George Jones



Happy Father's Day
To the best Husband, Father & Poppa.
Love, Your Family

Wayne Washington



Years ago when our children were Middle School age, Wayne did something that I thought was kinda peculiar, so I asked him a rhetorical question, "what-kind-of-father-are-YOU?" He instantly responded, without even looking up at me..... "The kind that's still here."

Happy Father's Day

Elder Wayne B. Washington.

Thank you for being the God fearing father that our children needed to succeed in life.

Wifey Faith

Raleigh Fletcher



Our father has been a solid rock and foundation that the family was built on and he is still depended on by 95% of the families, friends and others.

The Fletchers

Large organizations like UUCS (Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane), Spokane AIDS Network, and Planned Parenthood, as well as smaller groups like Spokane Transpeople, EWU Pride Center, and the SFCC Alliance participate also in the parade. There are groups that march with banners, groups on bicycles, and others in cars and floats. Some make their own music while others bring theirs. Bright colors and lots of Rainbow are encouraged.



The Spokane community is invited to bring the entire family for a day of fun and Pride. For more information, contact OutSpokane at 509-720-7609.

**You are invited to march with the
Spokane NAACP in the 2016 Pride
Parade. For more information
call (509) 209-2425 or e-mail
presidentspokaneaap@gmail**



Celebrating
25 Years
of Spokane Pride

Gondola Meadows, Riverfront Park



Inland Northwest Business Alliance

The Region's LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce | INBACHamber.org

LAW & JUSTICE

ANGELA JONES: LAW SCHOOL GRADUATE

Angela Jones, a recent graduate from Gonzaga University School of Law, took a break from her Bar exam preparation to answer a few questions from The Black Lens.

1) What degrees have you earned (undergraduate and graduate) and any accomplishments/awards, etc.

Gonzaga University, Juris Doctor, Loren Miller Bar Association Bar Prep Scholarship, Carl Maxey Diversity Scholarship, SBA Administrative Law Section Scholarship, Asian Bar Association of Washington Scholarship, National Association of Women Judges Scholarship, Association of Corporate Counsel Scholarship

Eastern Washington University, Master of Science in Communication Studies

Washington State University, Bachelor of Arts in English/Language Arts; Teaching certificate

2) What made you want to become an attorney?

My focus wasn't so much on becoming an attorney as it was on gaining more knowledge. In my former job at the school district, I was dealing with compliance issues, labor relations, and employment law. While I believe I was doing a good job, I wanted to gain

a better understanding of the legal aspects of it. I have also always wanted a doctorate because our people have not always had that luxury. It just took some time for me to figure out which doctorate I wanted to pursue and, as it turns out, the timing in my life was perfect for the Doctor of Law.

3) What were your biggest challenges?

The legal system speaks an entirely different language and has very specific protocols and processes. It took time for me to adjust to the writing style, which is very different than my writing style as an English major. I also went to law school later in life, so I had to adjust to studying again and still carving out time to be a mom. The financial aspect was also quite daunting, but I applied for every scholarship possible and was fortunate to be awarded several of them.

4) What are you most proud of?

I am most proud of being selected by Justice Mary Yu to serve in her chambers at the Washington Supreme Court as a Judicial Intern during the Spring 2016 semester. It was an honor to learn under her mentorship and my knowledge and skills grew exponentially under her tutelage. It was hon-



estly mind blowing every time I punched in my personal access code to get behind the scenes of the Supreme Court. I learned so much and intend to pay it forward.

5) Where are you headed after graduation?

I am currently neck deep in the bar prep course as I prepare to take the bar exam for Washington in July. I have a contingent job offer, contingent on passing the bar, as an Assistant Attorney General for Washington State.

6) What is your dream or what is that you hope to accomplish in the future?

I have so many dreams and they're not necessarily about being an attorney. Getting my JD was a stop on my journey as I continue to be part of the effort to push forward for change as it relates to social justice in all of our nation's systems. Law school was an opportunity to gain more understanding of the processes that truly effect change when it comes to the laws, protocols, and power base in our city, state, and nation. I dream that we will have more people of color and women pursue careers that allow us to gain some leverage in the legal system and politics. In the legal world, legislative intent matters, but when I look at the Senate and House of Representatives in Olympia, most people do not look like me. However, they're introducing laws that directly impact me and my community. Then, the legal system, which also does not reflect me, interprets those laws based on case precedent and legislative intent. A component of this dream also includes launching a program to help youth of color learn about governmental structures, participate in debates, and network with sitting judges

and current attorneys. Programs like this exist and I hosted many of them at the Temple of Justice. However, students of color were not participating or perhaps didn't have access to them. I look forward to changing that so that our children can explore opportunities early.

7) Why do you think you were able to be successful?

Several things came to mind about my success, so here they are in order: 1) I'm first and foremost one of God's warriors and had so many blessings along this journey; 2) It takes a village and my family and the community kept me encouraged and motivated; 3) I built relationships with faculty, staff, and students at the law school which enhanced my student experience.

8) What advice do you have for other students coming behind you?

If you have a dream or goal, go for it. We only get one go round on this earth, so you may as well make it a good one! The road may be rough at times, but most obstacles are not insurmountable. And, when you go out on that journey it may feel lonely, but you are not alone. I found that so many people were keeping up with me and were ready to help when I wanted to quit.

PICK UP THIS BOOK

Book of the Month

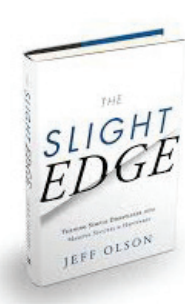
By Christian Robinson

Hi Black Lens Readers,

I'm Christian Robinson. I have challenged myself this to read every day this year. So, I write book of the month not only for me but for you as well. As, a way of making you aware that I'm reading.

I read a quote which touted that if you read an hour a day in your chosen field, that within 7 years you will be recognized as a national expert in that field. I'm willing to test it out. That's got to come with a lot of the other things I want in life.

Over this last month, I gained a new perspective since re-reading *The Slight Edge* by Jeff Olson, last



month's book. I now see it as a jumping off point for my confidence. Think about it.

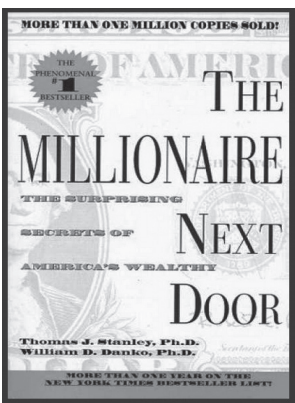
The Slight Edge was giving you a day to day formula on how to accomplish your goals in life. What does confidence mean? It means believing you have the ability to accomplish something. If you want a solid foundation for belief in yourself, you can take my perspective. If you haven't read the book, yet. Find the time.

I hope you gained as much as I did from reading our first book, The Slight Edge.

June's Book

A new month brings new adventures. Now, that's what I want to talk with you about today. This month, June is about venturing to find the truth behind a life lived. As the book of the month team, let's find treasure in this next book, *The Millionaire Next Door: The Surprising Secrets of America's Wealthy* by Thomas J. Stanley, William D. Danko.

You're probably wondering why this book, at this point. Here's why, when it comes to becoming



a millionaire, as Americans, we see what it means to be a millionaire incorrectly. Especially, in today's society, where our values can be easily be shaped by the glamour of Hollywood. Take the challenge and find the treasure that may have been sitting right there under your nose. Please at minimum read 10-15 pages per day and you will finish this book by the end of the month.

Email me Cjnrobinson@live.com. if you have any questions or concerns.

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Gonzaga University ROTC Presents Annual CSM THOMAS E. WILLIAMS LEADERSHIP AWARD

Two Cadets Honored for Excellence



On May 6, 2016, as a part of the Gonzaga University United States Army Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) Commissioning Ceremony, Gonzaga University presented the CSM Thomas E. Williams Leadership Excellence Award to two graduating cadets, 2nd Lt. Timothy Hurson, and 2nd Lt. James Kazunas.

The CSM Thomas Williams Leadership Excellence Award, which was established in 1998, is given each year to senior Gonzaga ROTC Cadets who, throughout his or her tenure at Gonzaga, best exemplify the Army Values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage.

Command Sergeant Major Williams was a career soldier, who proudly served this nation and its young men and women for over fifty years. He enlisted at the age of fifteen years old in 1948, initially experiencing segregated all Black units, both at home and abroad. CSM Williams went on to serve in Germany during the occupation, and on tours in Korea, Vietnam and Hawaii, serving active duty in the United States Army for thirty years,

His final tour of duty brought CSM Williams to Gonzaga University in 1973 to serve as the Senior Enlisted instructor and Department of Military Science's Sergeant Major at Gonzaga University, where he distinguished himself by training and preparing hundreds of young men and women for leadership roles in the United States Army. Williams retired from active duty in April 1978, but continued at Gonzaga University for another twenty years as the Department of Military Science's Civilian Personnel Technician.

According to those in the Gonzaga ROTC program, CSM Williams' years of service were marked by two tenets: "lead-by-example" and "the less you talk, the more you are listened to." In recognizing his contribution to the program, Williams was described as "a man of few words, yet a man of great action, who literally touched the lives of thousands of Gonzaga University students."

The award narrative described how students flocked to the Sergeant Major, not only for his experience, but because he provided a "keen listening ear", and offered discerning words of wisdom when asked, "Mr. Williams, what do you think I should do?" His ability to offer "sage advice" and "treat all with respect and courtesy" was highlighted as well, noting that his presence "served as the quiet confidence needed to those whose lives he touched." CSM Williams, the cadets were told, "encouraged and enabled students to stand strong and tall, and meet life's challenges head on—just as they would have to do when they entered active duty."

Thomas E. Williams remained involved with the Gonzaga ROTC Bulldog Battalion until his passing on February 7, 2015, proudly presenting the award each year until he was no longer physically able. His family has now taken on the honor of presenting the award on his behalf. Rick Williams and Wilhelmenia Williams have presented the award in previous years. This year's award was presented by Sandra Williams.



Photos courtesy Jerry Rohwes, Valley Chapel Photography

DR. OKERA NSOMBI Continued From Page 7

Race and Ethnic Relations was the first African American focused class that Dr. O had ever taken and it awakened in him something that he did not know was there.

"It was the very first class I had ever taken in my life that dealt with Black people and it lit a fire up under me. I couldn't sleep. People around me thought I was crazy." Even his professor told him that while he admired his enthusiasm, he needed to "calm down a little."

Dr. O finally built up the nerve to go and talk to one of his Black professors. He looked up to the men, revered them actually, and they felt out of reach to him. He paced outside of the office for about twenty minutes, "scared to death." But to his surprise, the professor that he admired so much welcomed him in, becoming a mentor, even telling him that he sounded like Malcom X.

After that, he says, "I was at their faces every day, with a pad, asking questions, taking notes. My passion was just to know and to learn."

By his sophomore year, fueled by the newfound knowledge he was gaining, Dr. O went from shy and intimidated, to president of a campus organization that he developed called *Rebuilders of African Humanity*.

While he respected the work that the Black Student organization on campus was doing, Dr. O says he felt that there was a need for the dissemination of information. He had learned that one of the methods used to tear down a people was to control their access to information. So the purpose of Rebuild-

ers of African Humanity was to deal specifically with information and content, inviting professors to teach students from their respective disciplines, and using that information as a means of rebuilding. "Through information," Dr. O believed, "we can rebuild our lives."

It didn't take long before Dr. O was speaking all over campus. "It was spilling out of me, like I couldn't control it. It was compelling me." The combination of his work as president of Rebuilders of African Humanity and the Black male professors who became his mentors, led Dr. O to pursue graduate school. He wanted to become like the men that he admired.

Dr. Okera Nsombi earned his Bachelor's Degree in May of 1994. He earned his Master's Degree in 2000 and his Ph. D. in April, 2013, both from the University of Cincinnati. He has taught Education, History, and African American Studies courses at the University of Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky University, University of South Carolina, Claflin University, South Carolina State University, and now at Eastern Washington University.

Looking back on the importance of the encounter that he had with the Black professor during his Freshman orientation at Northern Kentucky, Dr. O reflected on where he might be now if that had not happened. "It's a good chance I would have been at a dead end job and miserable. I couldn't conceptualize a future, so to be honest, I might have given up on my life." Instead, he is doing for others what was done for him, inspiring students and changing lives.

LIFE

Such a beautiful and precious thing. Something similar to a flower, how it starts from a little baby seed then it blooms and blossoms into something so colorful and gorgeous like everyone's mom and grandma I love it That's why I embrace it. I would never take it for granted.

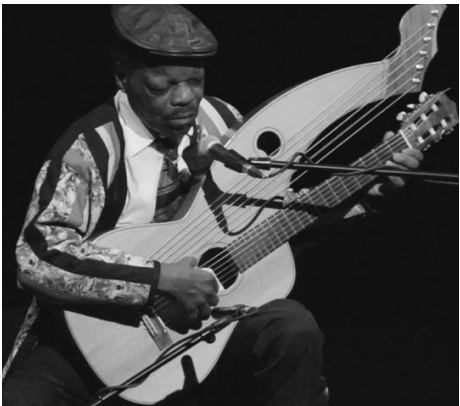
-Deshaun Crawford

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

SPOKANE DRUMMER QUINDREY DAVIS BACKS UP LEON ATKINSON

Quindrey Davis, or Q as he is called, was playing drums in a Spokane jazz concert, backing up artist Lawrence Schubert who was a visiting performer from the UK, when he was spotted by Leon Atkinson.

Atkinson, a classically trained guitarist and music instructor, currently living in Sandpoint, ID, was inspired to begin playing when his father took him to the Apollo Theater in New York City at the age of three. He began studying guitar at the age of eight, and was taught by Albert Blain of Cuba from ages 12 -



18, attending The High School of Performing Arts in New York City, studying with Maestro Andres Segovia in Spain, performing with Langston Hughes, playing for Broadway shows, and soloing for the Alvin Ailey Ballet Company, to name just a few of his accomplishments.

Atkinson was impressed with Q's talent, particularly with his stirring drum solos, and he invited Q to join him for "a gig", as a part of EWU's Literary Festival, Get Lit, and the rest, as they say, is history. Q was invited back again the next year and the two have been playing together ever since.

The trio that Quindrey is now a part of also includes Eugene Jablonsky, who plays the bass. Their music is Jazz, a genre that Quindrey loves because of its heavy reliance on "collective improvisation, creating something in the moment and the complexity of chords." Jazz relies on feeling the music and it also requires concentration, he added. "Watching for the for transitions, paying attention to the different sections, knowing when to come in

strong and when to not come in so strong, focusing on the dynamics." He loves it all.

Quindrey was first drawn to music when he was 4 or 5 years old, growing up in the church and watching the musicians play. "I knew then that I wanted to play the drums and I wanted to be good at it."

Quindrey also plays the piano and he composed his first song on his computer at the age of 15, a piece he called "Drey's Tune". He is currently studying music at EWU, planning to graduate in the fall with a Bachelors' degree in music and a minor in Business Marketing. His goals are to teach, perform, compose and produce music, and from the looks of it, he is well on his way.

On May 12, Quindrey Davis performed in a concert with Leon Atkinson at the Bing Crosby Theatre, as a part of the Friends of the Guitar Hour series, which is hosted by Leon Atkinson. The concert also included Larry Jess, the founding member of the Spokane Jazz Society, along with his brass ensemble, Brass Works. For more information about Leon Atkinson visit: <http://leonatkinsonguitarist.com>.



PORTLAND HIP-HOP ARTIST PERFORMS IN SPOKANE

By Karen McCormick

Hip hop artist Gem Starks brought his "Portlandia Koolin" tour to Spokane, performing an all-ages show at The Pin in May. While many hip hop shows



at local clubs are typically 21 and over, Starks says he pays no mind.

"The energy doesn't change. You give a good performance, it's gonna be great," said Starks, "Mixing a good message with that though, is something you don't see."

His brand focuses on the message of hope, aiming towards young, impressionable minds.

Starks grew up in Yakima, WA and attended school in Portland, OR. His music is inspired by his experiences growing up.

"The things I've been through...people can't believe I'm on tour now," said Starks.

His latest single, "Koolin" with over 40,000 views on Youtube, is a collaboration with another artist, K.M., though Starks writes all the lyrics.

"Everything is written by me. I'm trying to relate to people on the level they're at," said Starks, "Musically, I'm trying to help other people."

Currently, Starks' tour dates are scheduled in the Pacific Northwest through the end of June. When asked about the difference between the hip hop scene in the Northwest versus big cities on the east coast like Atlanta and New York City, Starks said there were



differences to be found not just in the music scene, but all over.

"On the east coast, you have more diversity," said Starks, "It's in business, too. In the Northwest, I don't see a lot of black business owners. The role models are different on this side versus the east coast."

Starks is planning to extend his current 12-city tour to a 20-city tour this August. "I'm just gonna continue to progress," said Starks, "I'm pushing out something I'm passionate about."

Starks' latest album, "Portlandia Koolin" featuring 18 songs, is available for download on iTunes..

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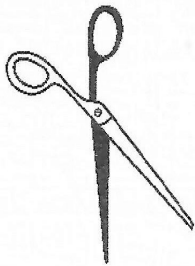
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OUR VOICES

AMERICA, WAKE UP!

By Marlon Rufino

This country was founded with a declaration and a gun,
And you ask who the gangsters are
But 400 years later, what’s changed?
Still fighting wars all over the globe,
But for what? On whose behalf?
Depends on who you ask.
Don’t ask me, I’m a lover, not a fighter.
Women all over the world ya’ll got it going on!

Will the fighting stop? Probably not.
Too much Oil and Democracy to spread.
If Democracy is the system and 1-Vote-1-Man is rule;
Why waste your power electing the same old fools?
Political legacies they say,
What a Joke!

Vote for someone new, heck, it might even be YOU!
Stand up, wake up,
Find someone who fights for you.
Not just money and crude.
Someone who will change the laws,
So you and yours,
Can get a piece of that American Pie Too!



The Kennedys, Clintons, Bushes,
and Bernie Sanders,
Who says they know more than you do?
What have they all done?
I ask,
Help your family reach a new rung?
Nope, not a damn thing.

On the news they tell you,
“It’s for you I fight,”
But I already have more oil and votes than I can use.
But what do they do?
Keep you at home sleep,
while they creep and keep,
some more for little Bobby,
Chelsea, and W.
Wake Up, now is no time be sleep!

BLACK AND GREEN

By Marlon Rufino

What happened to the red?
It’s long gone and dead.
You sell your anger for a white man’s dollar,
While your babies curse, scream,
and holler,
For a bite to eat, clothes on their back,
and Saturday’s brand new Jordan’s on their feet.

But where’s the red?
I told you already,
It’s dead.

Black pride and business once prospered,
Why?
Because the constitution locked us out,
Too tired to cry and pout,
We built our own house a then,
Brick by Brick,
Made our own American Dream.
Slept in our hand crafted beds,
Up from the pallets in the slave master’s shed,
Because the constitution had us betwixt and between.

We flourished,
Black Wall Street in Oklahoma,
Madame CJ Walker,
making Black beautiful,
Small’s Bar in Harlem,
Russel and the Def Jam Crew,
Can’t forget Fubu,
and the Billions of other Black owned Businesses too!

But where’s the Red?
Some,
Not all,
Sold the Black Dream,
For a little piece of the white man’s green,
And they called it integration!
What a dirty, cheap, trick,
Give me separation back,
And just like that,
Turned our babies to employees
when they, would have been owner-operators today.

The Black Dream: Ownership.
Sole’ down de’ riber’
Didn’t need a ship,
And here’s the red,
Found,
Good and Dead,
No ownership left,
All laid to rest.
Traded red for Green

MY MIRROR

By Stephen Pitters

I see my father’s semblance
every day I stride by the mirror.
I hear his words enlisting
the fortitude in his laughter
As he washes the dishes and rattles the pots, pans,
the knives and forks.
While cooking the rice in coconut juice and lentils,
each fluffy kernel being lent a brownish color,
furnishing the bed for the spicy chicken wings
and thighs to lay on,
before they made their way together
along my conveying tongue
towards my throat.
Dodging now and again
a few razor sharp slashing teeth
until beleaguered, encountering mashing molars
That waited at the far end of the dark tunnel.
I had no concern about their dangerous passage
Though the occasional juices and scent
reaching the nostrils
and the appetizing taste,
the once firm meat allocated
Which had not survived its beating,
did raise a delectable sanguine uprising
at the table some nights
after we had bowed our heads in prayer.
Were we thinking about the fowl?
No!
Did we worry about its former life?
We knew him not but after eating, perhaps.
What was there to care about anyway
when hunger was banging at the door
Leading to the bottom inside our bellies.
This is what invited our attention and focus.
and its relief became our treasure.
I remember my dad.



And each time I stepped into his kingdom
Where he was supreme.
Where he showed and taught me
that men must do more than work.
They must feed
and make the world bend to their will
like his pride overcoming meaningless work
when sloth would rather him
sit at the curbside and beg.
I remember my father and his resolve
And the chicken which dissolved
to save us from the hunger
which at times stood just outside the door waiting,
waiting to beat us down onto the floor,
like he did the chicken and rice the night before
and enhancing the meal adding potatoes and beans.
We had a feast because that was all we had to eat.
His culinary efforts
consoled us through the evening,
Bolstering my sibling and I for the coming day.
He fought the necessary fight

with conventional skill
and the thunder within the ordinary man,
Who knew that remembrance is a dock
where working harder builds success
in the absence of secondary literacy
which for others meant defeat.
He met that threat with defiance
like the tenacity a sharp scissors uses
attacking a barbwire fence,
cutting an avenue to a substantial reward,
which escaping from the assured constraints
of mediocracy merited.
Certain formal advantages,
granting accessible access are expectations
many take for granted and squander,
choosing then to blame
the world, their neighbor or a friend.
I remember my father.
I remember him well
When I need a friend to stand beside me
Like a trusted guide.
Who prepared my hands and mind
That when my time came to work,
cook, clean and sew.
I too could master the hunger
and agitation massing close,
obstructing the unprepared,
clogging the passages
through which dreams unfold.
I remember my father.
I remember him well.
I know him; he is in my head.
He is the man I became,
My dearest friend.

Stephen Pitters is the host of the KYRS radio show Spokane Open Poetry and several poetry events around Spokane including Poetry Rising on the Northside. For more information contact Stephen Pitters at 509-979-0671 or stephenpitters@gmail.com.

OUR VOICES

STOP WHINING - START GRINDING

By James Clingman

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - It's interesting how the young folks have started using a term that describes what the older folks should be doing. I hear young people saying, "I'm grinding," and I hear older folks whining. Young people know they have to "just do it," as the saying goes, in order to achieve their dreams. In many cases they are willing to take risks and forego the creature comforts that could accrue to them via high level corporate salaries. They are willing to sacrifice in order to pursue their own path in life, unconstrained by the "rules" someone else sets for them.

We older folks are not as willing to do the work appertaining to progress; instead we are still relying on politicians to make things better for us. We do a lot more whining than grinding when it comes to our collective—and sometimes even our individual economic freedom.

I hear it on the radio and on news shows all the time from so-called leaders and from so-called liberated Black folks. They whine about what the "Man" is doing to us, how our collective fate is not in our own hands but someone else's, what "we need to do," how "unequal" we are in income, wealth, and social opportunities, and how many of us are in prison. They can recite all the stats and all the history surrounding our current demise. They reminisce about Kemet and other ancient African contributions to the world. They talk about "Black Wall Street" and invoke the names of our great icons; and they continue to lament and chronicle, as Maulana Karenga

says, "Litanies of lost battles."

While many of us are very adept at talking about our problems, far fewer of us are willing to get into the fray and do the work to ameliorate our problems—even though the solutions to our problems are relatively simple to implement.

Co-convenor of the One million Conscious Black Voters and Contributors, Amefika Geuka, wrote a "Black Paper" in 2007 in which he stated, "[Our] vision is of a transformed Black community where our people radically improve the quality of their lives and surroundings. We will accomplish this by implementing programs and ventures designed specifically for the unique needs of people of African descent – without apology! This will result in the complete elimination of the 'slave mentality' and dependence on the gratuity of others that it promotes. We will cease to be the 'weakest link in the chain,' or weakest 'patch' in the 'quilt-like' fabric of American society and that of the world."



"The world might pity a whining nation, but it will never respect it"
-Booker T. Washington

Rhetoric not followed by action is meaningless; and whining not supplanted by grinding only displays weakness and apathy. Booker T. Washington said, "The world might pity a whining nation, but it will never respect it [until it respects itself enough to do for itself]."

If we would turn our whining into grinding, not worrying as much about the external factors but concentrating on our internal resources with which to "accomplish what we will," Black people would be much better off.

Politically speaking, Black folks are now so engulfed in Presidential candidates, thinking once again that our salvation somehow lies within them. Some of our Black political hacks are whining about which candidate will do the most for us, which is kinda like two enslaved people arguing over which plantation and "master" are better. If we continue to seek the largess of a political candidate without having a reasonable assurance that he or she will do more than talk about our situation, we will continue to get the

same thing we have always gotten from them: more rhetoric. Stop waiting to hear their patronizing words regarding Black issues; start demanding what we want, and then be prepared to respond with our votes and our dollars. We must negotiate from a position of strength not with idle threats and saber-rattling, but by withholding our votes and our dollars if they do not support our demands. What do we have to lose?

The State of North Carolina is currently being economically punished because of its stand on which bathrooms transgender persons can use. Corporations are withdrawing their dollars and other threats abound by athletic groups and such. Question: Why isn't the same thing happening on behalf of Black folks when it comes to voter suppression in that state? Have you heard any corporation threaten to leave or boycott Carolina on behalf of Black people? The POTUS even spoke up for the transgender people. Similar to the Indianapolis, Indiana case and the purported discrimination against gay people by businesses, corporations said they would move and the NCAA said it would cancel its events in that city if the law was not reversed. Guess what. The law was changed.

We are too busy counting votes to realize that our dollars count for more. Stop Whining and Start Grinding.

James E. Clingman is a national writer on economic empowerment for Black people. For more information about his syndicated newspaper column, *Blackonomics*, visit: <http://www.blackonomics.com>.



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Tuesday, June 14, 2016
Doors open at 6:30 pm - Show begins at 7:30 pm
INB PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
334 W Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA 99201

NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON

An Astrophysicist Goes To The Movies

Astrophysics, a branch of astronomy, is the scientific study of the physical and chemical properties and structures of stars, planets, and other objects in outer space.

Neil deGrasse Tyson, Director of the Hayden Planetarium in the Department of Astrophysics at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, is likely the most publicly recognizable astrophysicist in the field today, and has single handedly brought science, and more specifically astronomy, into the mainstream.

Born and raised in New York City, Tyson was educated in New York public schools and discovered his love for the stars at an early age. He graduated from the Bronx High School of Science and went on to earn his BA in Physics from Harvard and his PhD in Astrophysics from Columbia University in 1991. He began working at the Hayden Planetarium in 1996 where he still serves as its director.

Tyson’s professional research interests are broad, but they include star formation, exploding stars, dwarf galaxies, and the structure of our Milky Way. He has written several books, including a memoir titled “The Sky is Not the Limit: Adventures of an Urban Astrophysicist”; and “Origins: Fourteen Billion Years of Cosmic Evolution”, which was co-written with Donald Goldsmith. His most recent books include “Death By Black Hole and Other Cosmic Quandaries”, a New York Times bestseller; “The Pluto Files: The Rise and Fall of America’s Favorite Planet”, which chronicled Tyson’s experience at the center of the controversy over whether Pluto is a planet; and “Space Chronicles: Facing the Ultimate Frontier”, which Tyson says, “contains every thought he has ever had on the past, present, and future of space exploration.”

Tyson was the host of PBS-NOVA’s series NOVA ScienceNOW from 2006-2011, and host of the Emmy award winning Fox network series, Cosmos: A SpaceTime Odyssey in 2014. He also created and hosts the StarTalk series, combining celebrity guests with informative and playful banter, “for people who never thought they would or could, like science.”

While Tyson is the recipient of nineteen honorary doctorates and the NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal, evidence of his public impact can also be seen in his 3.6 million followers on Twitter, his sold out public appearances, and a generation that has gained a greater awareness of and appreciation for the cosmos.

Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson is currently touring the United states offering an evening of engaging conversation on science, exploration and the world as we know it. He will be in Spokane on June 14.

For information about Neil deGrasse Tyson’s visit: <http://www.haydenplanetarium.org/tyson>. For information and tickets for his upcoming visit to Spokane visit: <http://www.stgpresents.org/tickets/alphabetical/eventdetail/2657/30/neil-degrasse-tyson-spokane> or call 800-325-SEAT (7328).

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invites applications for the position of:

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GENERAL DEFINITION
Reporting to the Associate Dean of Student Transitions, this position is responsible for providing vision, leadership and coordination on issues related to diversity, equity and inclusion as well as enhancing the recruitment and retention of students of diversity and other underrepresented diverse populations at Spokane Falls Community College (SFCC).

The Manager is the general subject matter expert in the area of diversity and inclusion and will provide strategic advice and counsel to campus administration on diversity and inclusion related matters including emerging trends and best practices.

The Manager will be involved in the creation, direction, implementation, and evaluation of diverse activities and outreach programs that support SFCC’s strategic plan and core themes as well as other matters as requested and will identify best practices, programs, and policies to increase diversity and inclusion.

The Manager will be responsible for the operation, programming, staff, and activities in Mosaic: The Center for Culture, Inclusion, and Community.

To view the complete posting and apply, please go to our website at <http://www.ccs.spokane.edu/HR.aspx>

JUNE EVENTS

JUNE 3
UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY ROOFTOP EXTRAVAGANZA FUNDRAISER
Fundraiser/Silent Auction for Unity in the Community, the largest multicultural celebration in the inland north-west. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards purchasing school supplies and bike helmets which will be given away at the August 20 event.
5:30-8:30pm
Umpqua Bank
111 N Wall St, Spokane, Washington 99201

JUNE 10
3RD ANNUAL INLAND NORTHWEST MALE SUMMIT (INWMS)
The Male Summit is a free leadership program serving young men in grades 6-12 in the greater Inland Northwest. The theme is "Beyond Our Masks Into Our Tasks," and the keynote speaker is Gyasi Ross, an author, lawyer, and storyteller from the Blackfeet Nation.
9am - 3pm (Free Lunch)
Spokane Falls Community College - Student Union
3410 W. Fort George Wright Dr., Spokane
Register online at www.ewu.edu/malesummit. (space is limited to the first 300 participants). For information contact Lori Hunt at 509-533-7378 or Randy Corradine at 509-359-4879 or <https://sites.ewu.edu/bandbsummit>

JUNE 12
MT. OLIVE APPRECIATION SERVICE FOR REV. DONNIE & SIS. JAMIE STONE
Mt. Olive will be honoring two of its faithful members in the persons of Rev. Donnie and Sister Jamie Stone. All are welcome to attend.
3pm
Mt. Olive Baptist Church
2026 E. 4th, Spokane

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

JUNE 13
FINANCE 101: DISCOVERING YOUR FINANCIAL FINGERPRINT
Enjoy an evening of fun as we discover how money was modeled in our lives (Financial Fingerprint) and what impression has been left on you. Cost \$10. Seating is limited. For information call 509-327-0165.
6:30-7:30pm
Emmanuel Family Life Center
631 S Richard Allen Ct, Spokane, WA 99202

JUNE 14
NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON
Renowned astrophysicist goes to the movies live.
7:30pm
INB Performing Arts Center
334 West Spokane Falls Boulevard, Spokane
Tickets start at \$65.00

JUNE 17
JUNETEENTH PILLAR AWARDS BANQUET
Celebrating individuals, organizations and businesses in our community. For information visit <http://www.inwjc.org>
6pm
Holy Temple Church of God in Christ
806 W Indiana Ave, Spokane, WA

JUNE 18
JUNETEENTH FATHER'S DAY BREAKFAST
Uplifting and celebrating the importance of fathers and fatherhood in our community. Seating is limited.
9am
Rogers High School
1622 E Wellesley Ave, Spokane, WA
For information visit <http://www.inwjc.org>
*****NOTE: There will NOT be a Juneteenth Celebration at Liberty Park this year.**

JUNE 20
NAACP MONTHLY MEETING
Join the NAACP for monthly meeting
7-9pm
For more information contact the NAACP at 509-209-2425 or visit <http://spokaneNAACP.com>

JUNE 23
STATE SUPERINTENDET OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION CANDIDATE FORUM
Candidates who want to lead Washington's school system as its next superintendent will be holding forums around the state. Current OSPI Candidates include: Robin Fleming, administrator for health programs, (OSPI); Ron Higgins, a teacher and retired engineer from West Richland; Erin Jones, Tacoma Public Schools administrator; Chris Reykdal, State Representative; David Spring, parent and teacher from North Bend.
6pm
Washington State University Health Sciences Campus
412 E Spokane Falls Blvd. Spokane WA 99202

ZUMBA CLASSES

Zumba classes are held each Monday from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Emmanuel Family Life Center near Bethel A.M.E. Church., 631 S. Richard Allen Ct, Spokane, WA 99202
Classes are \$5.00 each session and the instructor Kathy Armstrong, is a certified Zumba.
Come join the ladies who are all ages and are enjoying the class.

Career Opportunities SPOKANE

Long established manufacturing company is seeking energetic and hard-working individuals for laborer positions, machine operators and office staff. If interested, please visit our website at www.SCAFCO.com to fill out an application.

You can also send your resume to SCAFCO at **2800 E Main Ave Spokane, WA 99202.**

Benefits Package Includes:
Medical, Dental, Vision Insurance, Vacation, Excellent 401(K) and Profit Sharing.



Inland Northwest Juneteenth Coalition

INWJC

JUNETEENTH 2016

AN IRONCLAD HISTORY: TOO STRONG TO BE DOUBTED OR QUESTIONED.

PILLAR AWARDS BANQUET

JUNE 17TH, 2016 | HOLY TEMPLE CHURCH | 6PM
806 W. INDIANA AVE. | SPOKANE, WA 99217

FATHERS DAY BREAKFAST

JUNE 18TH, 2016 | RODGERS HIGH SCHOOL | 9AM
1622 E. WELLESLEY AVE | SPOKANE, WA 99207

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excellence for everyone

Community Colleges of Spokane

WHITWORTH
AN EDUCATION OF MIND AND HEART

Spokane Community College
Black Student Union

UJCF

Holy Temple
Church of God in Christ

For more information visit www.INWJC.org

WEED *to* KNOW

Help Prevent Underage Marijuana Use



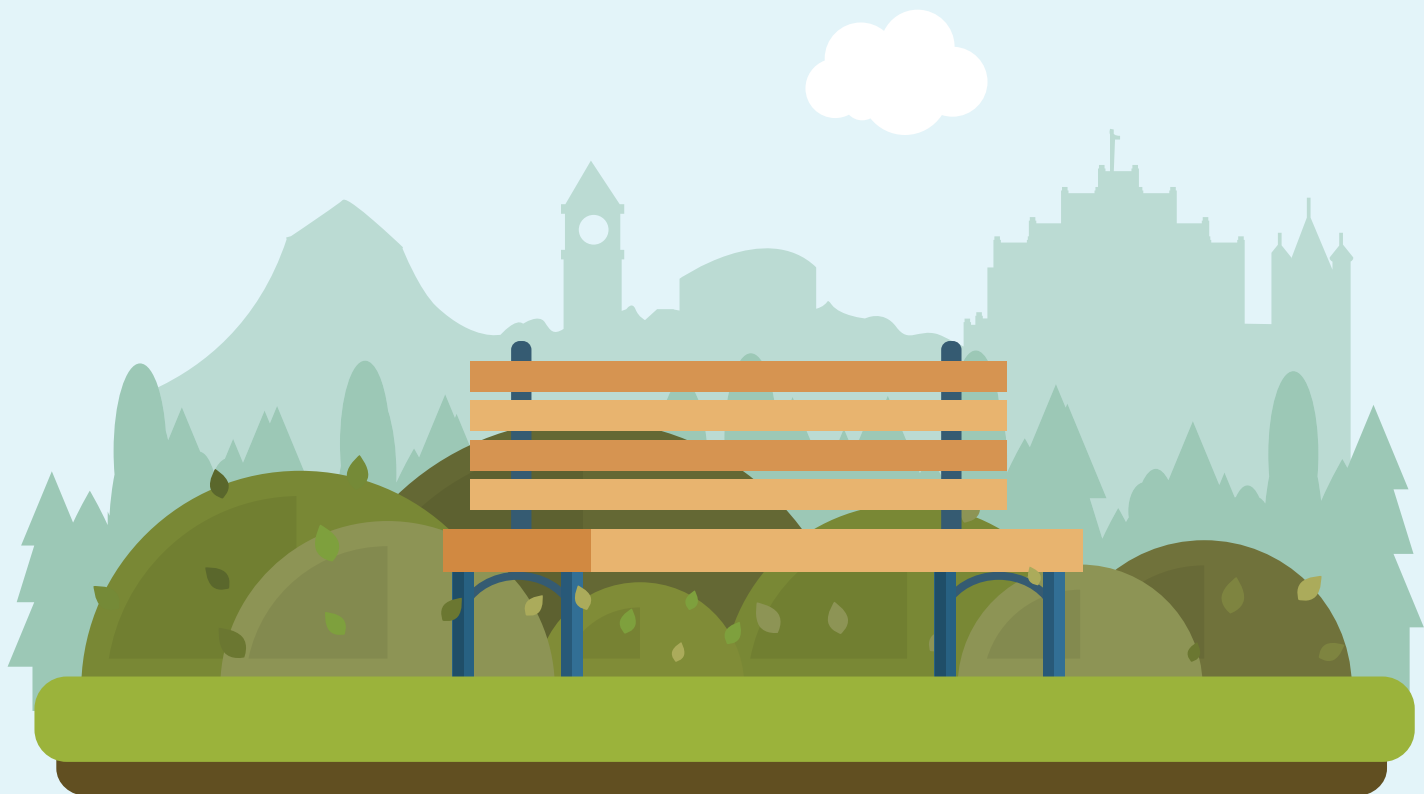
ADULTS ARE ROLE MODELS

for what kids do.

THEY'RE WATCHING YOU

everywhere, it's true.

**IT'S ILLEGAL TO USE MARIJUANA
IN VIEW OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC**



THE WHO, WHAT, WHERE OF RESPONSIBLE MARIJUANA USE
WWW.SRHD.ORG/WEEDTOKNOW.ASP