

THE BLACK LENSTM

NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

Honoring Ms. Dorothy Webster Spokane Loses an Icon & Lifelong NAACP Member

By **Kiantha Duncan**
President, Spokane NAACP

There was no mistaking her commitment to the NAACP Spokane Branch 1137.

I will never forget several years ago, my first introduction to Miss Dorothy Webster. I was invited to present to the current Executive Committee my desire to join as a Member-at-Large. The invitation for me to "interview" with the current Executive Committee was extended only after both submitting my resume and formal letter of interest to the organization. This was not abnormal as I have served as both a member and Chairwoman of several organizational boards over my career.

When I walked into the Spokane NAACP Executive Committee meeting, Miss Dorothy's face was the first one that I connected with upon entering the room. That connection was not because she was the friendliest face at the table, it was because her face was a stern no nonsense Black matriarch face that represented a strong Black woman with many years of knowledge, information and connection to



the organization. At that time, I had no idea just how true that really was.

The meeting proceeded with introductions and I can literally hear her voice as I am writing this, "My name is Dorothy Webster." I replied, "Nice to meet you Ms. Dorothy". She sharply corrected me by saying, "You can call me Dorothy". I chuckled and replied, "Oh no I cannot call you Dorothy, my grandmother would not play that. I'll be calling you Ms. Dorothy". At that moment Ms. Dorothy gave me her signature smirk and smile of approval.

Ms. Dorothy had been a member of the Spokane NAACP for over 40 years. She was extremely protective of the organization and served as a guard to make sure that the Spokane NAACP remained in alignment with our National Organization.

Ms. Dorothy shared with us tales that her parents were members of the NAACP when she was a child and that it was those early years of activism that guided her work with the organization.

Continued on Page 9

Millions Face Eviction or Foreclosure Amid Soaring Housing Costs & Racial Wealth Gaps

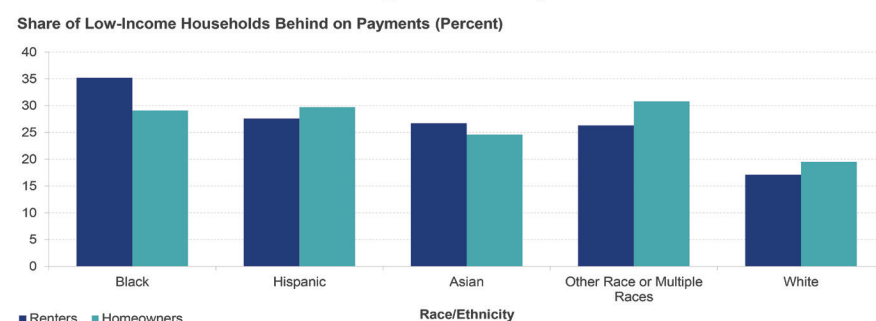
By Charlene Crowell

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Each year Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies (JCHS) publishes a comprehensive report on the nation's challenges and prospects in one of life's most basic needs.

This year, its State of the Nation's Housing 2021 assesses the rippling financial effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, while also warning that despite substantial federal government assistance, even more support is necessary to ensure that everyone shares in an improving economy.

According to the report, throughout the country, many rising housing costs are attributable to shrinking housing inventory that favors consumers wealthy enough to make cash offers on homes or those with savings substantial enough to cover both down payments and closing costs. These market forces only worsen housing options for low-to-moderate income households — those hardest hit with the pandemic's layoffs and/or reduced working hours.

Figure 29: Disproportionately Large Shares of Low-Income Households of Color Were Unable to Cover Their Housing Costs in Early 2021



Notes: Low-income households earned less than \$25,000 in 2019. Black, white, and Asian households are non-Hispanic. Hispanic households may be of any race. Source: JCHS tabulations of US Census Bureau, Household Pulse Surveys, January–March 2021.

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Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University JCHS

"For those households with secure employment and good-quality housing, their homes provided a safe haven from the pandemic," says Chris Herbert, Managing Director of the Center.

"But for millions struggling to cover the rent or mortgage, their housing situations have become increasingly insecure and these disparities are likely to persist even as the

economy recovers, with many lower-income households slow to regain their financial footing."

"Policymakers must be attuned to the needs of those who have fallen even further behind," continued Herbert, "ensuring that they also benefit from the expanding economy. Black America and other communities of color already suffered from pervasive dis-

crimination, often the result of intentional structural barriers. Higher unemployment and under-employment, as well as low levels of wealth are long-standing results. The lengthy pandemic worsened these circumstances by imposing dual crises — in health and personal finance.

Before the onset of the pandemic, JCHS found that the median wealth for homeowners in 2019 was \$254,900—more than 40 times the \$6,270 median for renters. Even excluding home equity, the median wealth of homeowners was \$98,500, or more than 15 times that of renters.

That same year, 2019, wealth also differed widely by race and ethnicity: the median wealth of white households was roughly eight times that of Black households and over five times that of Latino households.

But by early 2021, the Black-White homeownership gap of 28.1 percent represented only an incremental improvement from that of 2019 when the gap was 30.8 percent.

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ON MY MIND

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

by Sandra Williams

A Juneteenth Fairytale

Or why I'm still shaking my head

Once upon a time there was a lovely, young Princess who left the kingdom where she grew up and traveled around the world having many exciting adventures and learning a lot of amazing and magnificent things from the people that she met along the way.

When the young Princess had her fill of traveling the world and her brain was so full of amazing things that it was about to pop wide open, she decided to come back to the kingdom to share with the people there all the things that she had learned.

The lovely, young Princess was excited to share her knowledge with the people of the kingdom because even though she had been gone for a very very long time, her heart had never left the kingdom or the people who lived there.

The lovely young princess sat down one night and she thought really really hard about what she could do for the kingdom that she loved so much. She decided to put her skills and her talents to work and plan an amazing celebration for all of the people of the kingdom.

Her plan was to bring all of the different parts of the kingdom together, so that they could eat and dance and sing and laugh and worship and celebrate together. The Princess knew that there was great power when the people of the kingdom came together and the more she thought about her plan for the big celebration the more excited the princess became.

But the Princess did not know that the kingdom that she loved so much was not the same as it was when she had left many many years before.

The people of the kingdom had become divided. They fought amongst themselves constantly over even the smallest of things. They had lost the ability to work together or to make things better for each other because they were too busy keeping all of their little things only to themselves.

The kingdom that the Princess loved so much had actually become a barren land. Even though it still looked the same on the surface, when you looked a little closer you could see that the once beautiful kingdom and the once joyous people who lived in it were broken.

The lovely, young Princess cheerfully set out to share her plans for the wonderful celebration with the leaders of the kingdom. She showed them the pictures that she had drawn and the plans she had made and told stories of how they could all work together to honor those from the kingdom who had gone before them and to recognize how far they had all come together. This could be a new beginning, she told the leaders, a time of abundance and togetherness, if we wanted it to be.

The heart of the Princess was filled with joy as she shared, but when she turned to look at the leaders, she realized that they did not share her joy. Instead their responses were cold and angry and distant. They accused her of trying to become the new leader of the kingdom and did not want to join in her celebration. They decided to do their own separate things instead.

The lovely, young Princess tried her best to work with all the leaders, but her heart was broken, and even though she knows how important it is for the people of the kingdom to come together, she's not sure so sure anymore if she wants to try again.

The End



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THE BLACK LENS NEWS

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

Contact Information:

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

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We Gon' Be Alright

A Space for Black Healing

Monday, July 26th 5:30-7pm

Virtual Zoom Space

Facilitated by: Kiantha Duncan

Co-facilitated by: Alethea Dumas

Register at:
<http://ow.ly/dzCd50FaS4v>

*THIS IS NOT A SPACE FOR ALLIES

Eastern Washington University, its Adaptive Athletics Program, and Office for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, are accepting nominations for four teams to receive a free registration to play in Spokane Hoopfest on September 11-12, 2021.

FREE
Hoopfest 2021
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**Nominate a team online at
www.ewu.edu/hoopfest21 by July 30.**

Tell us how your group of basketball players are committed to diversity and inclusion, and if you may have financial barriers to participating.

Eastern Washington University, EWU Adaptive Athletics, and the EWU Office for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion are proud to be the official Diversity, Equity & Inclusion major sponsor of Spokane Hoopfest.



Eligibility, terms and conditions: Standard and Youth Division teams will be considered. Registration fees of \$156 (standard) and \$136 (youth) will be waived by EWU for up to four (4) teams. If a team that is selected has already registered and paid, they will receive a refund from Spokane Hoopfest. Any additional expenses, including player change fees, are the responsibility of the team. Participants agree to have their names, image and likeness utilized by EWU for promotional purposes.

YOU SHOULD KNOW

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

ART AND HISTORY *by Bertoni Jones Bey*

Tuthmosis III

In 1481 BCE Tuthmosis III became the sixth heir to the Pharaonic crown of the eighteenth dynasty. The name "Tuthmosis" is a combination of 'Toth is born' and 'Menkhpere' Eternal are the Manifestations of Ra'. He was one of the longest ruling pharaohs of Kemet reigning fifty-four years until his death in 1425 BCE.

Tuthmosis III was born of a Sudanese mother of minor royal status – Iset, and Pharaoh Tuthmosis II who died when the boy was only three. Being too young to rule, his stepmother Hatshepsut (1479-1458 BCE) became co-regent and later claimed the seat of pharaoh herself. The young prince received a royal education which included military weapons and strategy. As a result, he developed tremendous physical strength, great skill in horsemanship, and became an expert in archery marksmanship from chariots.

Tuthmosis III would become the most successful warrior king not just in Kemet but in all acknowledged ancient history. He recorded twenty war campaigns without a single loss and brought the Kemet Empire to the height of power in size and strength (One can see his three lists of subjugated nations at the temple at Karnak).

The son from Tuthmosis III's second wife, Amenhotep II, also became adept in archery learning from the master

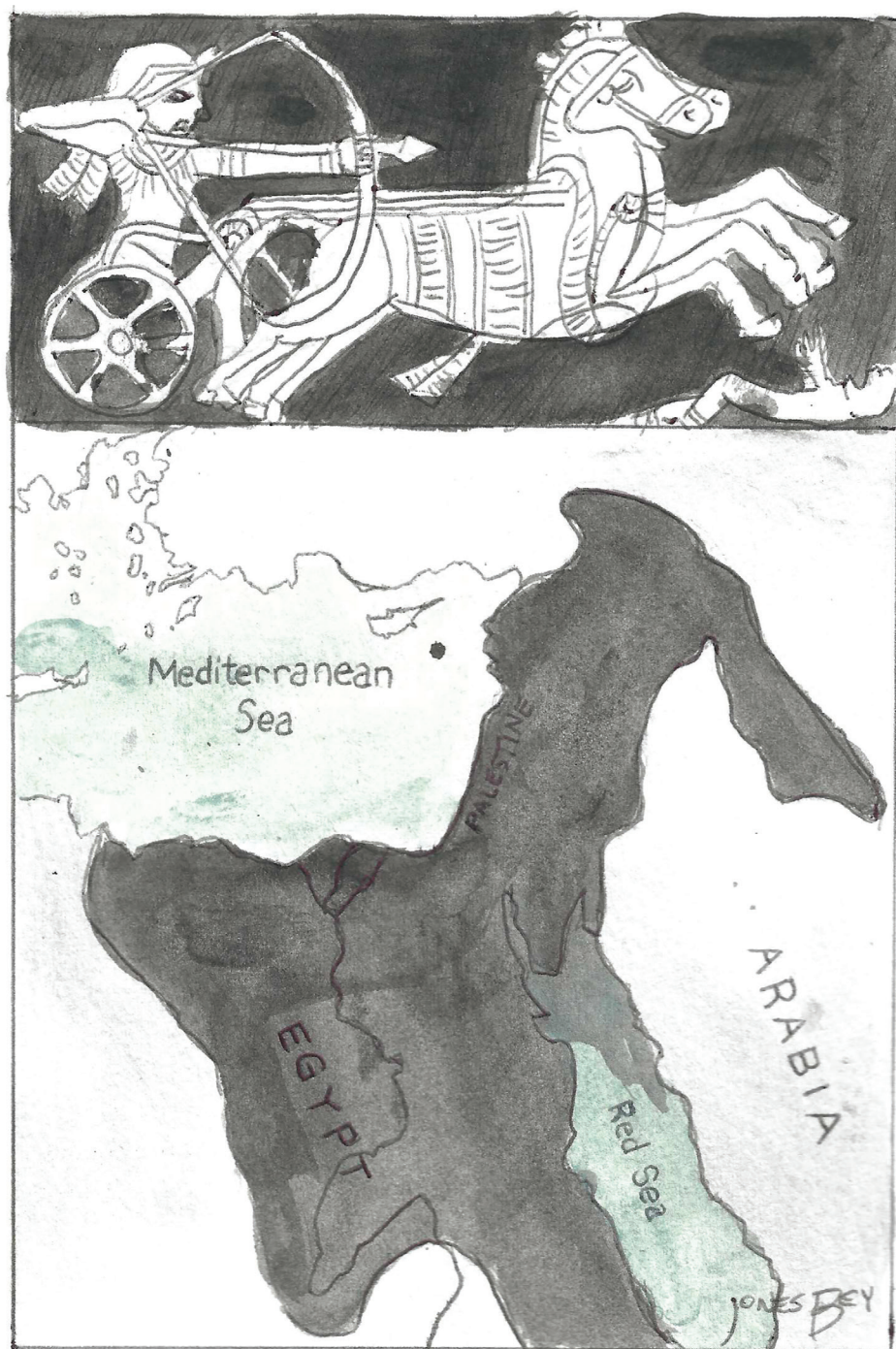
archer Miny: "Draw your bow to your ear and use all the strength of your arms when aiming the arrow".

Some of Tuthmosis III's military campaigns were to extend the empire and some were to keep wayward vassals in check, including his battle at Gezar in Palestine. The trophies of war and the riches of conquered enemies made Tuthmosis III one of the wealthiest men on Earth. He heaped wealth on his nation and rewarded his troops who celebrated their victories with wine and were "anointed with oil as at the feasts in Egypt".

As a result of his riches more temples and buildings were constructed at this time in Kemet history than any other – as tribute to his father god Amun. In his final years Tuthmosis III made his son Amenhotep II co-regent and next in line to the Kemet throne.

This ancient African ruler defined the borders and boundaries of the ancient world long, long before the definitions and standards given today about the ancient world. Pharaoh Tuthmosis III passed away in 1425 BCE and was laid to rest in the Valley of the Kings in western Thebes.

Sources:
When Egypt Ruled the East – George Sten-dorff, Keith C. Seele.
The African Origin of Civilization Myth or Reality – Cheikh Anta Diop.



Benjamin Banneker Began Tracking Cicadas Almost 300 Years Ago

By Micha Green, Afro.com
(additional information: David Roos, history.com)

As their last hurrah before mating then dying weeks later, up to 1.4 million Brood X cicadas per acre emerged in May 2021 after 17 years of development underground. They came in droves and died in a little over a month.

Benjamin Banneker, to whom D.C.'s design can largely be attributed, and who was an astronomer, mathematician and publisher, was tracking the Brood X cicadas when he was a teenager back in 1749.

"The first great locust year I remember was in 1749," Banneker wrote in his astronomical journal in April of 1800. He continued, "I was then about seventeen years of age, when thousands of them came and were creeping up the trees and bushes. I then imagined they came to eat and destroy the fruit of the earth, and would occasion in a famine in the land." Banneker said back "I therefore began to kill and destroy them, but soon saw that my labour was in vain, and therefore gave over my pretension."

After witnessing that first memorable cicada swarm in 1749, Banneker closely observed three more emergences during his lifetime (1766, 1783 and 1800) and summarized his findings in his handwritten astronomical journal

"Again in the year 1766, which is seventeen years after their first appearance they made a second, and appeared to me to be full as numerous as the first", Banneker wrote. "I then, being about [34] years of age, had more sense than to endeavor to destroy them, knowing they were not to be so pernicious to the fruit of the earth as I imagined they would be. Again in the year 1783, which was seventeen years since their second appearance to me, which made their third; and they may be expected again in the year 1800, which is seventeen years since their third appearance to me," Banneker added.

Banneker's tracking of patterns in the earth is nothing new, as he was known for his almanac, among other contributions to the founding of this nation.

Born a free African American in Baltimore, Banneker was formally educat-

ed, but mostly self-taught. His pattern tracking made for Banneker's acclaim, leading to his involvement in making astronomical observations in order to establish boundaries and plans for the nation's capital in 1791. Legend has it that Banneker was so brilliant that he remembered the plans of French architect Pierre L'enfant, who was largely touted as the District of Columbia's designer, and successfully and effectively reproduced them by heart.

By 1800, when Banneker wrote about the cicadas, he was widely known for his excellent and accurate understanding of mathematics and the earth's patterns.

Banneker never married nor had children and days after his funeral his house burned down, leaving only memories of Banneker from living friends and artifacts from other people who corresponded with him.



Martin Luther King Center Opens Teen Tech Center

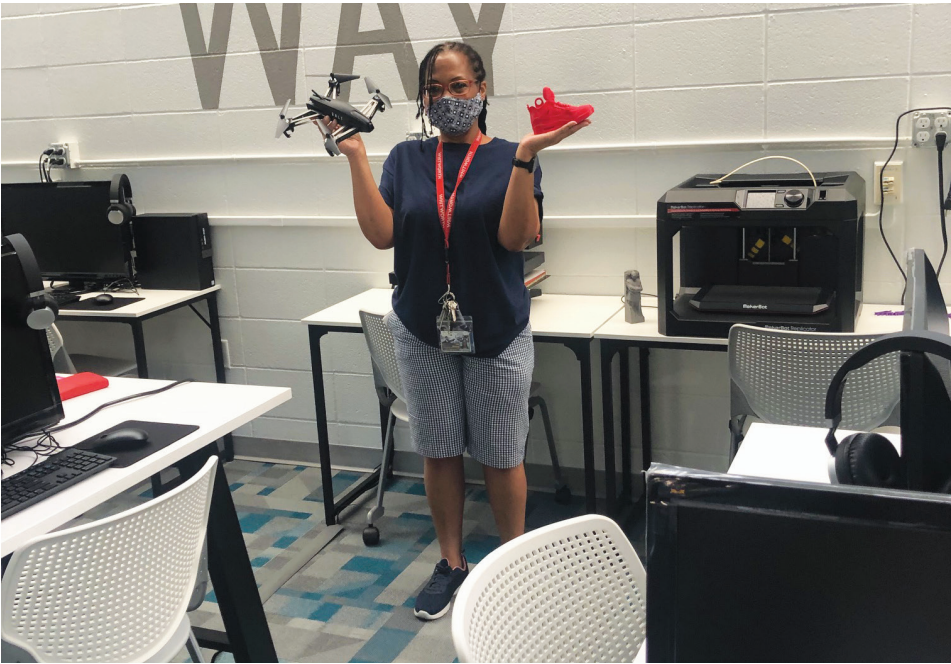
Giving Teens Access to State-of-the-Art Technologies

By Freda Gandy
Executive Director, MLK Center

The Martin Luther King Jr. Center has designed a Teen Tech Center for youths ages 13-18 of all backgrounds that allows the teens to showcase their creativity, confidence and develop into capable learners.

The MLK Center's Teen Center is an 1800 square foot dedicated space that offers teens a safe, comfortable, judgment-free environment to explore and create in a year-round mentored technology atmosphere.

The Tech Center provides educational opportunities for teens after regular school hours and throughout the summer months. Teens are paired with an adult mentor to guide and support the teen's exploration of ideas, new skill development, and confidence-building through technology.



A primary goal of the Teen Tech Center is to prepare teens for careers in a technology-driven workforce by fostering the skills and knowledge needed for long-term career success.

Workforce researchers suggest that over 75% of future jobs will require increased technology skills. Therefore, a teen's understanding and mastery of technology is a critical skill for success in the future.

The Teen Center will offer hands-on experience with various multimedia tools, coding, programming, game development, robotics and circuitry, videography—film making and editing, photography, graphic design, digital art, fashion design/t-shirt design, 3D Animations and Printing, and engineering skills.

The Center will include the following technologies:
8-Desktop Computers
4- Apple iMac Desktop Computers

Adobe Creative Suite (Software)
4-DSLR cameras
1-Sony Alpha-A1600 camera
1-3D printer
1-T-shirt press
1-Sewing Machine
1-Button Maker
4-Drones

In addition, the Center utilizes an entrepreneur focused approach that will prepare teens for business success and life. The Center provides guidance and resources to facilitate teen's ideas into viable and achievable businesses.

For more information, please contact the Martin Luther King Jr. Center at 509.868.0856.

Special Thanks To: Providence Foundation, Global Credit Union, Numerica Credit Union, Northwest Farm Credit Services, STCU, KREM 2 Tools 2 Schools and JJ Fix Foundation.





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BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Juneteenth Becomes National Holiday

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - On June 17, President Joe Biden signed into law the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, the first federal holiday to be created since Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day was established in 1983.

For decades, African-American communities across the nation have celebrated Juneteenth to mark the day that Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, to inform enslaved Blacks that they'd been freed. Despite not being a federal holiday, several states across the nation have for years marked Juneteenth in some form.

"We are gathered here in a house built by enslaved people. We are footsteps away from where President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation," said Vice President Kamala Harris at the White House signing ceremony. "We have come far, and we have far to go. But today is a day of celebration. It is not only a day of pride. It's also a day for us to reaffirm and rededicate ourselves to action."

Earlier in the week, the Senate unanimously passed the landmark bipartisan legislation, followed by near unanimous consent in the House with just 14 nays, who claimed that Juneteenth was a slight against Independence Day.

During the debate on the House floor before the bill passed, several Congressional Black Caucus members delivered remarks to refute that claim and other Republican objections.

"I want to say to my White colleagues on the other side: Getting your independence from being enslaved in a country



is different from a country getting independence to rule themselves," said Michigan Democrat Brenda Lawrence. "We have a responsibility to teach every generation of Black and White Americans the pride of a people who have survived, endured and succeeded in these United States of America despite slavery."

The overwhelming bipartisanship support is at least in part a response to the millions of Americans who for months took to the streets to peacefully protest police violence in the aftermath of George Floyd's murder and other racial inequities.

"Black history is American history, and I am proud that Congress is following the lead of the Congressional Black Caucus in reaffirming that sacred principle — because we can't change the future if we can't acknowledge the past," said Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Joyce Beatty in a statement after the vote.

In remarks delivered before signing the bill, President Biden expressed hope that this rare show of bipartisanship marks the beginning of a change in how Democrats and Republicans work together. He also noted how there's much more work to be done to ensure true equality for all Americans. "The truth is, it's simply not enough just to commemorate Juneteenth.

After all, the emancipation of enslaved Black Americans didn't mark the end of America's work to deliver on the promise of equality; it only marked the beginning," Biden said. "To honor the true meaning of Juneteenth, we have to continue toward that promise because we've not gotten there yet."

The ceremony coincidentally took place on the sixth anniversary of the tragic shooting deaths of nine worshippers at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, S.C., which Biden added is "why we must understand that Juneteenth represents not only the commemoration of the end of slavery in America more than 150 years ago, but the ongoing work to have to bring true equity and racial justice into American society, which we can do."

In recent months, there has been an alarming wave of regressive voting laws passed in Republican-led states across the nation that would curtail the right to vote, particularly for people of color. Meanwhile two major voting rights bills are stalled in the U.S. Senate, where Democrats hold a razor-thin 50-seat majority: the For the People Act, passed by the House in March, and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2021, of which the House passed an earlier version in 2019 that failed in the Senate committee process.

Note: The 14 House Republicans who voted against the Juneteenth bill are Andy Biggs of Arizona, Mo Brooks of Alabama, Andrew Clyde of Georgia, Scott DesJarlais of Tennessee, Paul Gosar of Arizona, Ronny Jackson of Texas, Doug LaMalfa of California, Thomas Massie of Kentucky, Tom McClintock of California, Ralph Norman of South Carolina, Mike Rogers of Alabama, Matt Rosendale of Montana, Chip Roy of Texas and Tom Tiffany of Wisconsin.

The Obamas Created An Animated Series to Teach Young People About Civics



(Source: CNN.com)

Former President Barack Obama and former First Lady Michelle Obama have executive produced an animated musical show, called "We the People", which is set to air on Netflix.

"The show combines music and animation to educate a new generation of young Americans about the power of the people," a description for the show reads.

"We the People" will feature a series of 10 music videos that cover a range of civics lessons tailored toward young people.

Artists included in the series are H.E.R., Janelle Monáe, Brandi Carlile, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Adam Lambert, Cordae, Bebe Rexha, KYLE, Andra Day and poet Amanda Gorman.

The show was created by Chris Nee, and along with the Obamas, was executive produced by Tonia Davis, Priya Swaminathan and Kenya Barris.

AFI DOCS will hosted the world premiere of "We the People" with a free screening event in the DOCS Talks section of the film festival on June 24. The show will premiere on Netflix on July 4.

First All-Black Orchestra to Perform at Carnegie Hall in 130 Year History

Source: blacknews.com

Nationwide — The Gateways Music Festival Orchestra is making history as the first all-Black classical symphony orchestra to do a feature performance at Carnegie Hall. It is the first time ever in the prestigious venue's 130-year history!

The concert at Carnegie Hall will be held on April 24, 2022, which will serve as the conclusion of the 6-day festival in different venues in Rochester and New York City.

Throughout the festival, the musicians will perform a full orchestral concert and participate in several chamber recitals, open rehearsals, professional development activities, lectures, panel discussions, and film screenings.

In 1993, Gateways Music Orchestra was founded by concert pianist and educator Armenta Adams (Humming) Dumisani to bring together Black professional classical musicians. It also became a safe haven



away from the discrimination many have experienced from their jobs.

Since then, it has expanded to an orchestra with around 125 musicians and instrumentalists who were also from several larger orchestras such as the New York and Los Angeles Philharmonics, the Cleveland Orchestra, as well as the National, Boston,

Houston, Phoenix, and Detroit symphonies.

Their performance at the Carnegie Hall is a historic moment because even though the venue hosted several all-Black ensembles over the years, this is going to be the first feature performance of an all-Black classical symphony orchestra ever.

Lee Koonce, who took over as Gateways' President and Artistic Director after Dumisani's retirement in 2009, expressed his excitement over the historic debut.

"Gateways Music Festival's journey to Carnegie Hall has been 28 years in the making. To be the first all-Black classical symphony orchestra to headline a performance there is momentous, especially at this time of racial reckoning in our country's history. Hearing and seeing the Gateways orchestra on Carnegie's revered main stage will show Black children that they can perform classical music at the highest level while reminding people of all backgrounds that this music belongs to everyone.

We are grateful to Carnegie Hall for its belief in our mission and its commitment to showcasing the artistry of Black classical musicians. It's a sign of hope and heralds a brighter future," Koonce told Harlem World Magazine.

BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Roberta Wilburn Named Interim Chief Diversity Officer at Whitworth University

Spokane, WA - Whitworth is pleased to announce Roberta Wilburn, Ed.D., Th.D., associate dean and professor emerita of graduate studies in education, will be the university's interim chief diversity officer beginning Aug. 1.

Wilburn has served Whitworth as an administrator and professor for nearly 14 years. She retired in December as the university's associate dean for graduate studies in education & diversity initiatives. Besides her many career achievements at the university, Wilburn has been at the forefront of diversity, equity and inclusion efforts in the Spokane community.

She has conducted numerous workshops and professional presentations locally, nationally and internationally. She has trained more than 1,000 counselors, teachers, government workers and social service personnel for Spokane County, the city of Spokane, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and other agencies on cultural responsiveness and sensitivity practices in the workplace.

Wilburn previously served on Spokane Mayor David Condon's advisory council on multicultural affairs. She was also appointed by the mayor to serve as a board member of the Spokane Sister City Association. In 2014, she was appointed by Gov. Jay Inslee to the Washington State Charter School Commission.

"I am extremely pleased that Dr. Roberta Wilburn has accepted my invitation to serve as Whitworth's interim chief diversity officer," Interim President Scott McQuilkin said.

"Dr. Wilburn is known and respected within the university and broader Inland Northwest communities. I am confident she will lead and advance our work on diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives just as she served Whitworth as a professor and associate dean – with expertise, dedication and conviction. The university and its people were immensely blessed by her campus presence and contributions for more than a decade. I am happy to report that Dr. Wilburn's Whitworth tenure has been extended."

Wilburn's other achievements include:

- Awarded the national INSIGHT Into Diversity Giving Back Award for administrators in 2017.
- Awarded the YWCA Women of Achievement Carl Maxey Racial and Social Justice Award in 2016.
- Appointed to the National Advisory Council for the National Conference on Race & Ethnicity in Higher Education in 2019.
- First woman to be elected president of the Spokane Ministers' Fellowship, an organization pre-



dominantly made up of African American clergy but open to all ministers.

Internationally, she was invited twice to present at the Oxford Round Table at Oxford University in England, where she spoke about issues related to African American women. She also received an international development grant that focused on women's empowerment in five Black Mexican villages in the Costa Chica region of Mexico and a second grant in conjunction with a university in the Dominican Republic dealing with African-Latino Studies and Teacher Education.

"I count it a privilege to be offered the opportunity to serve as a part of Interim President Scott McQuilkin's cabinet as the interim chief diversity officer and associate vice president for diversity, equity, and inclusion at Whitworth University," said Wilburn, interim chief diversity officer.

"I am committed to leading with integrity the work of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI); disrupting racism; and strengthening genuine allyship by teaching and encouraging others to enhance their intercultural skills and build authentic relationships with individuals from diverse backgrounds to promote cross-cultural understanding. There is no greater honor than for me to take up this mantle of leadership at Whitworth University where I have invested the last 14 years of my professional life advocating for diversity. I hope to continue to build on the excellent DEI work that has already been established so that our faculty, staff, and students can excel in a diverse and inclusive world. I look forward to helping Whitworth to move to its next level of diversity, equity, and inclusion."

A national search for a permanent chief diversity officer will be launched this fall.

Located in Spokane, WA, Whitworth University is a private liberal arts university affiliated with the Presbyterian church. The university, which has an enrollment of more than 3,000 students, offers more than 100 undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

Queen Latifah Receives Lifetime Achievement Award During 2021 BET Awards

Source: BET.com; <https://www.lgbtqnation.com>

After an emotional introduction by MC Lyte, and a performance of "Ladies Night" and "U.N.I.T.Y." by MC Lyte, Lil Kim, Rapsody and Monie Love, Queen Latifah, who was born Dana Elaine Owens, accepted the Lifetime Achievement Award during the BET Awards ceremony accompanied by her father.



"I'm so extremely moved. I don't know what to say," she said, holding back tears, as she was recognized for her 35 year career, as a Grammy, Emmy and Golden Globe winner, as well as an Oscar-nominated actress, producer and business woman.

The theme of the night was "The Year of The Black Woman," so Latifah thanked her mother, who passed away in 2018, "a strong Black woman," for raising her, as well as her father who respects women.

She then pointed to the performers standing behind her on

stage, and encouraged women to stay united. "Together, we stand stronger than when we tear each other apart," she said.

Latifah recognized her siblings, her "ride or die" friends, and before walking off the stage, she acknowledged her partner, their son, and LGBTQ pride month.

"I'm gonna get off this stage, but I thank you so much for all of you, the fans for supporting every crazy-ass thing I've done through the years. And thank you for making Equalizer No. 1. Eboni, my love. Rebel, my love. Peace. Happy Pride!"

Dr. Sydney Freeman Jr. Becomes Full Professor at University of Idaho

Source: blacknews.com

Moscow, ID — Dr. Sydney Freeman Jr. has made history as the first African American male to be promoted to the rank of Full Professor at the University of Idaho. He is only 36-years old!

Dr. Freeman was able to earn the full professorship in 5 years and 7 months on a tenure track whereas others usually take an average of 10 to 12 years. Most full professors also start at the age of 55, while Freeman is only 36-years old.

He received his degree in Higher Education Administration from Auburn University in 2011 and immediately got hired at Tuskegee University, where he served as a Director in the Teaching and Learning Center for more than 3 years.

Freeman then started working at the University of Idaho as an Associate Professor before recently becoming a Full Professor. He said he is hoping more Black people could be hired as faculty members.

"If we want to see Idaho grow and be more inclusive, we have to bring that inclusion in, so it's important for us to not only have conversations about it but to actually invest in diversifying faculty and staff and also retaining them," Dr. Freeman told CBS 2 Idaho News.



Aside from Freeman, there have been other Black people who achieved the same feat. Dr. Wudneh Admassu, an Ethiopian native, was the first person of African descent to become full professor at the University of Idaho. Professor Shaakirrah Sanders is still also the first and only Black woman to become a full professor at the University of Idaho.

African Americans make up only 5 percent of all the full-time faculty members at colleges and universities in the United States.

Visit Dr. Sydney Freeman's personal website at DrSydneyFreemanJr.com.

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AFRICA NEWS

News Highlights From and About the Continent of Africa

Douala Residents in Cameroon Lose Homes to Demolition

By *Rédaction Africanews with AFP*

africanews.com

CAMEROON - Cameroon police fired teargas at residents during forced evictions and house demolitions in the Douala airport area as the country of Cameroon prepares to host the Africa Cup of Nations in January.

Authorities claimed no responsibility for resettling people and many are left homeless to sleep in the open.

"I am speechless. I am speechless. I suffered to earn a living as a cyclist. I fought to build a small house that I never finished building. Now look what I suffer. Look at my age; I am more than fifty years old. Where am I going to start again? With little kids, where am I going to go?" expressed Fernand Zepab, evicted resident.

"We know we are close to the airport. But they don't have any papers that this land belongs to them. They just want to make things safe. But then shouldn't they make the effort to compensate first

those who have lived there for years? But they haven't, they haven't done that." said Souleymane Ben Jaho, another evicted resident.

On January 9th, more than 100 families, were forcibly evicted from the homes they have been peacefully occupying for more than 35 years.

Critics claim officials should have taken into account the COVID-19 pandemic which is still raging the country. The people, now homeless, will certainly be left to the contagion and spread of the virus.

"This is the airport's land and the airport has its land title. Here, people have settled illegally and we are proceeding with the eviction and this is done according to the rules of the art within the framework of the law." said Hector Eto Famé, assistant to Wouri prefect.

Many of the inhabitants claimed they were victims of the Lake Nyos disaster, which occurred in 1986. These disaster victims were installed by the current President Paul BIYA.



Malawian Millennial Takes on Powerful Plastics Lobby and Wins Global Prize

(TriceEdneyWire.com/Global Information Network) - Each year, 75,000 tons of plastic are produced in Malawi, of which 80 percent are single-use - the ones most likely to litter the landscape, clog waterways and drainage systems, and create breeding grounds for mosquitos carrying malaria.

A recent government study found that the East African nation produces more plastic waste per capita than any other country in sub-Saharan Africa — and this has greatly overwhelmed its waste disposal systems.

Concerned about the environmental harm caused by mounting plastic pollution in Malawi, 30 year old Gloria Majiga-Kamoto mobilized a grassroots movement in support of a national ban on thin plastics, a type of single-use plastic.

"It became very personal for me after interacting with farmers," she says. "Some of them are losing their livestock because once the animals get into the field, which is so heavily polluted with single-use plastic, they consume these plastics, which kill them, thereby affecting the livelihood of their owners."

In Mponela town, in Malawi's Central region, Majiga-Kamoto says around 40 percent of slaughtered livestock in the area were found to have ingested plastic fragments.



Majiga-Kamoto's grassroots movement scored an early victory - a national ban on the production, distribution and importation of thin plastics. But the plastics lobby wasn't about to give up easily.

Before the ban could be realized, the Malawi Plastics Manufacturing Association appealed the policy, and the court granted a stay order halting its implementation.

Majiga-Kamoto would not be defeated. She formed a coalition of activists and NGOs to compel the government toward implementation.

With the coalition, she advocated for the plastics ban in the news media and

among journalists, documented livestock killed by plastic consumption, drawing affected farmers into the campaign, and brought on a public interest lawyer to join the case.

"We organized several marches — marched to the court and in communities to document their experiences and the challenges they encountered because of the plastic problem we have in the country," Majiga-Kamoto told CNN.

After a protracted legal battle with plastic manufacturers, the Malawi Supreme Court upheld a national ban on the production, importation, distribution, and use of thin plastics.

In early 2020, they closed operations of three companies illegally producing thin plastics. In September 2020, the government impounded the plastic-making machinery of a company violating the ban and threatened a two-year jail sentence for the company director if violations continued.

Meanwhile, Majiga-Kamoto worries about Malawi's inability to process recycled plastic waste.

"Malawi is very far behind. Recycling of waste requires technology and we do not have a lot of that technology," she said.

Majiga-Kamoto is one of six global winners of the prestigious award for 2021, which honors grassroots environmental activists. More information and videos about the winners can be found on the Goldman Prize website - www.goldmanprize.org

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

A Different
View

with

Betsy Wilkerson, Spokane City Council

Everybody, for this month I want to hit the PAUSE BUTTON. As a People, we don’t really stop to grieve, appreciate or celebrate important people or great moments in our lives.

I want to pause and celebrate all the Graduates, from Kindergarten through the Doctoral programs, along with the parents, family and friends who helped them achieve this first of many milestones to come! As they move on with their personal growth, so do we. On a personal note my three grandkids graduated from the 6th grade this year and are moving on to Middle School! No lie, I cried, as I am sure many others did as well.

I want to also pause and celebrate the successful Juneteenth Celebration we just had. Four days of the East Central neighborhood coming to life with activities enjoyed by all. There were old friends and new friends to meet. Music, dancing, art, a movie in Underhill Park, prizes, hot dogs, popsicles, giveaways, and many Black owned businesses were celebrated.

We had a health care organization to test blood pressure and share helpful information on dental care and a community center host a COVID vaccination clinic. You could sign up to vote, join an organization, throw some hoops, have fun with petting zoo, or go to church in the park. We had it all, y’all! To all of our financial sponsors, vendors, and the Spokane Parks Department: THANK YOU!

To the visionaries: Lisa Gardner, City of Spokane, NAACP, Carl Maxey Center, Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center at East Central, Spokane Ministerial Alliance, Spokane Community Against Racism (SCAR), and the Inland Northwest Juneteenth Coalition who has been organizing Juneteenth celebrations for the past ten years: THANK YOU!

We came out in numbers to celebrate and commemorate how important Juneteenth is. The day that the last slaves in Galveston received news of the end of the Civil War and that they were finally free citizens of this great nation of ours.

We must remember and never forget. We must not forget the sacrifices of our forefathers, our families and friends, lifting up the Black Community generation after generation. And we must teach our children, so they know from whence they came and how the very foundation and privileges they stand on today came to fruition.

We must continue to vote, protest, march and use our talents and treasures to do this work.

There is an old Black spiritual hymn that says “Give them their flowers while they yet live” To everyone here are my flowers: Thank You, Hit Pause, Breathe, and take some time to celebrate and give thanks. Amen. Have a safe, hopefully cool, and happy July.


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

Dorothy Marie Webster

July 7, 1947 - June 15, 2021

Dorothy Marie Webster answered her call to come home to glory at the age of 74 on June 15, 2021.

“Well done, good and faithful servant...Come unto me, I will give you rest.”

Dorothy was born July 7, 1947, in Mobile, Alabama. She was one of five children born to the marriage of the late Reverend Raymond Webster, Sr. and Marie J. Webster.

Dorothy graduated from Theodore Elementary and from St. Elmo High School as the class valedictorian in 1965. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Education from Tuskegee University in 1969, and a Master of Arts degree in Guidance and Counseling from Washington State University.

She began her career as a teacher at Pasco High School and then assumed the position of Director of Financial Aid at the Columbia Basin Community College. Later, she served as Director of Minority Affairs at Spokane Falls Community College. In 1989, she joined the City of Spokane as the Assistant City Manager for Affirmative Action and Human Rights. During her twenty-two year employment with the City, Dorothy performed additional administrative duties before retiring in January 2012.

Dorothy was a community activist who volunteered with many organizations. She was on the Board of Directors for the Sacred Heart Medical Center and treasurer of the NAACP. She was a member of the Spokane Chapter of The Links, Inc. and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She was a faithful member of Calvary Baptist Church where Reverend Dr. C. W. Andrews presides as Senior Pastor.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her three brothers: Raymond, Jr., James Edward, and Daniel Russell. She is survived by her brother Wallace Webster II (Martha) of Lynnwood, WA.



A Graveside “Celebration Of Life” Service will be held Thursday, July 1, 2021 at 10am. in Serenity Memorial Gardens, 7000 Bellingrath Rd., Theodore, Alabama 36582.

Obituary courtesy Gulf Coast Cremation & Funerals

The NAACP Honors
Dorothy Webster

Continued from Page 1

Ms. Dorothy shared stories about attending meetings as a child and how dangerous it was to be associated with an organization asking for equal rights for people of color. She would share in conversation that “the NAACP of today is much different than the NAACP of her youth, one in which you could be killed or lynched for simply being a member”. After getting to know her I now understand that her strict and often stern demeanor was nothing more than her clear understanding of the danger involved, and the many lives lost of black people fighting for racial justice over the years.

Miss Dorothy served the organization in multiple positions over the years always doing so with a commitment to advancing the negro race. As a professional businesswoman in Spokane, Ms. Dorothy retired many years ago after serving in leadership at the City of Spokane. Ms. Dorothy shared stories about the challenges faced by professional black people in Spokane in the 60’s, 70’s and 80’s. She knew all of the black families in the city and remembered being a young woman in the community surrounded by people who cared about one another.

Although Ms. Dorothy’s health was rapidly declining, she attended organizational meetings until she could no longer do so even still she remained our connection between the Spokane NAACP’s past and it’s future. Her death leaves a whole in not only our organization but in the community and the many organizations she was a part of.

I am grateful to have had a chance to share space with Ms. Dorothy and the Spokane NAACP Branch is because she was.

Tongues of Fire

By Beverly Spears

Dem Dry Bones



The old saying goes that the preacher’s job is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. Anyone who knows me can tell you I have always leaned toward the latter. That’s the mission of those of us whom God humbled, cursed and blessed with prophetic voices. The Prophets of old were not necessarily popular people, precisely because they exposed uncomfortable truths.

So, with that let’s talk about the new Juneteenth Federal Holiday. I know as the descendant of enslaved Africans in America, that I should be joyful over this triumph. But when this breaking news popped up on my iPhone, I was less than thrilled; in fact, I was mad as hell!

Why would a Trumpian Republican Senate suddenly vote unanimously to pass legislation that makes Black people rejoice? This was no altruistic act, no doing-of-the-right-thing for Black Americans. This was a calculated political move. Dear Black America, Republicans in Congress just threw us a bone – a dry bone with no meat whatsoever on it!

“Here you go, Black people. You can’t say we never did anything for you. Afterall, we freed you, and we want to appropriate your personally and deeply held cultural celebration to commemorate our magnanimous gesture. Now shut up while we make it as hard as humanly possible for you to vote, and you can trust and believe that we’re going to stop you in your tracks on this Critical Race Theory you’re shoving in our face. We will never re-write our textbooks and expose our children to the ugly truth that racism not only forms the foundation but is woven into the very fabric of this country and has been since before America was America. We will never expose the evil truth of the legal rape, plunder and genocide of entire nations of indigenous people in this land entirely appropriated by white supremacist culture.

I don’t need Juneteenth to be a national holiday. I need Mitch McConnell to get his Republican comrades in the Senate to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights

Act and stand hard against voter suppression. How about a unanimous vote on that? It shouldn’t be lost on us that when enslaved Africans in Texas finally received news of their freedom on June Nineteenth, 1865 (two and half years after the Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation), the formerly enslaved people whose forced labor fueled the nation’s economy, could not vote. They may have been free from bondage, but they had no power – no leverage. The Fifteenth Amendment extending voting rights to men of all races wasn’t ratified until 1870, and an established apartheid state under Jim Crow laws rendered the amendment meaningless in the South until 1964.

We don’t need a federal holiday. We need an end to institutional racism that has long denied us access to markets, capital and economic opportunity; that has denied us access to property through racist practices such as redlining – financial institutions denying mortgages to people of color or providing mortgages to them only in limited areas usually with homes and properties of low value. All of this has created a wide and growing wealth gap between white Americans and Black Americans, a gap as wide as it was in 1968. The median wealth of Black families remained less than 1/10 of white families in 2020, the Senate Joint Economic Committee found in its report, The Economic State of Black America in 2020.

We don’t need a federal holiday, we need healing! Healing from intergenerational trauma as a consequence of centuries of chattel slavery followed by systemic racism. We need healing from the wholesale massacres of Black communities like that in the Greenwood district of Tulsa in 1921. We need healing from the soul-memory of the thousands of lynchings in the South that haunt the collective Black psyche. We need Congress to pass a bill that is a full-throated acknowledgment of the evil that was and is being perpetrated on Black people by the dominant and supremacist white culture.

We need the powers of this nation to confess these sins and repent, and the only repentance is for white America to work unceasingly to end institutionalized racism. Only then will we all be truly on the path toward reconciliation and collective healing.

We don’t need a federal holiday, we need the Senate to pass The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021, a federal civil rights and police reform bill to combat police misconduct, excessive force, and racial bias.

We don’t need a federal holiday. We need reparations for descendants of enslaved Africans; reparations that were promised to our newly freed ancestors but were never delivered upon.

And make no mistake, Juneteenth has now been officially co-opted. Every business from Macy’s to Walmart, from Toyota to Target, will be offering a Juneteenth blockbuster sale next year. Black consumerism is powerful. White corporate America exploits it.

What’s the good news in a Juneteenth national holiday? Well, it officially acknowledges that Black people were indeed enslaved in this country for hundreds of years. At least one day out of the year that fact is thrust into American consciousness. It’s a small but not insignificant gain.

But, let’s be very clear, an acknowledgment is not an apology!

What do we do with the dry bone Congress has handed us? Juneteenth still belongs to us! It’s our celebration of survival and freedom, but it’s not just a day of remembrance. Let it be a day that reminds us of the sacrifices and hardships of those upon whose shoulders we stand. Let it be a day that renews our strength and lets us know that their resilience is now our resilience. Let’s counter the inevitable commercialization of Juneteenth and spend our Black dollars in support of Black businesses.

Finally, we must not fool ourselves. As our ancestors discovered, we are not truly

free. Freedom will not be handed to us. Our freedom will only be won.

There’s an old spiritual based on verses in the book of Ezekiel in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament). The melody was written in the 1920s by the great African-American author, poet and composer, James Weldon Johnson: “Now hear the word of the Lord: Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones. Dem bones gonna rise again.”

In the scripture, God gives Ezekiel a vision that gives hope to Ezekiel and the people of Israel. Ezekiel’s vision assures him that his subjugated people would survive. As such, Ezekiel 37:1-6 became a popular text for Black ministers preaching in the United States in the late 19th century: “The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by his Spirit and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them. There were a great many of them on the surface of the valley, and they were very dry. Then he said to me, ‘Son of man, can these bones live?’ I replied, ‘Lord God, only you know.’ He said to me, ‘Prophesy concerning these bones and say to them: Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Lord God says to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you will live. I will put tendons on you, make flesh grow on you, and cover you with skin. I will put breath in you so that you come to life.’ ...”

Dear Congress, thanks for the bone, but make no mistake, we’re going to see to it that you flesh it out with truly meaningful legislation. Our voting rights will be protected. There will be police reform. There will be reparations, and the truth about race in America will be made known.

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



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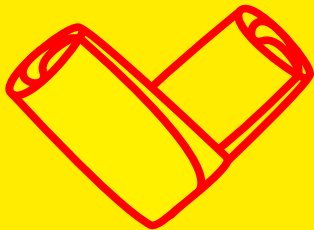
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Passing the Baton: an Ode to Graduation and Future Graduates

By Ashiah Ulibarri

There are many milestones adulthood has to offer. Weddings, divorces, promotions, mortgages, retirement, and the list goes on. At the beginning of it all, a commonly shared milestone is that of high school graduation. There appears to be this underlying idea that it is one of, if not the most important day of a young person's life, up until that point; a right of passage into this grand, scary idea of "adulthood." This "adulthood" appears to include leaving for college, paying bills, moving out, constantly acting with maturity and composure, breaking out in one's desired field of work, and truly experiencing the world for the first time. It takes many forms and is acknowledged as being vastly different for everyone.

Meanwhile, the school leading up to graduation seems to be widely considered an almost universal experience. In reality, the experiences of elementary, middle, and high school are vastly different for all those who experience it, and race can play a significant part in making those distinctions.

With this in mind, I took it upon myself to ask a few class of 2021 high school graduates what they think of high school and graduation in order to see how Black students in and around Spokane feel about this massive coming of age ceremony, as well as the high school experience that comes before it.

The recent graduates I spoke with generally agreed that graduation was in fact a cardinal milestone for them.

"Graduation represents the crossroads between adulthood and adolescence," Jada Richardson, 17, replied when asked what graduation means to her.

"Graduation meant that I had accomplished something that required dedication, hard work, and personal growth," was Zipporah Ingrams, 17, answer.

I also spoke with Ivy Riley, 18, who referenced graduation as "the finale of your childhood."

It is clear to see there is a general consensus. These former high school students agree that graduation is a Big Deal, wherein one can celebrate the work it's taken for them to pass the baton, that is a diploma, from their child self who created it to their adult self who will run with it. This hand off, graduation, can be easier or harder depending on the coaching one receives in life.

With this in mind, one might wonder what the graduation history looks like within these Spokane graduates' families, and how that might affect them today. It seems that, at least with the students interviewed, the institution of education has had a positive impact on them and their families overall. A combination of supportive family relationships, healthy mindsets, and, according to Riley, good fortune has so far helped these now college students and their families get to where they are now.

On the topic of family graduation history, Riley told me, "Both of my parents graduated high school and attended college as well. I actually enjoy school and learning so I guess I'm lucky in that sense." She later went on to say "Unfortunately, being academically successful means you have the space in your life to care and put in effort, and that's not everyone's reality. I'm extremely fortunate to be where I am today, and that people have helped me along the way,"



Richardson was in a similar boat with the effect her own family's graduation history had on her and her outlook on academia. She divulged to me that both her parents and grandparents attended undergrad and graduate school, and because of this she has always known that not getting a higher education was not an option for her. Before telling me that her family's academic history served to inspire and push her forward through high school, Richardson also let me know of the negative social sanctions she received from other students for simply being a black girl from an academically minded family. She told me how she was commonly labeled as "upity" because of her family's achievements, and had the label of "whitest black girl" pushed on her by some peers. Richardsons description of experiences with these social sanctions reminded me of my own experiences, and of the way black students being simply academically successful is still regularly villainized within our school and amongst our peers.

So, what can we possibly do or say to continue helping the next generations of Black

students through school and into their desired next steps in life? Especially with an average of only 79.6% of Black students graduating from high school nationwide, which is about 10 percentage points below the graduation rate for white students, according to The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education.

There are just as many answers to this as there are to "what does graduation really mean?" Because really, no two students are going to take or give the same advice, just as no two students are going to have the exact same experiences or need the same support. But hopefully, as time goes on, we will continue coming up with more answers to share.

For now, myself, Ivy Riley, and Jada Richardson have some advice to pass on from ex-high schoolers who really have been there, to today's Black students that are in high school, pushing to graduate.

To younger Black students, who may be struggling to graduate, Richardson offers *"You are your biggest motivator. No one can do it for you. Show them who you are."*

Riley's advice, *"Don't listen to people that tell you you aren't capable of achieving your dreams because you can and you will."*

And to those younger Black students, *I just want to let you know that regardless of where you are now, or where you end up, I am so proud that you're always doing your best, even if your best is different than other peoples.*

Ashiah Ulibarri is the Black Lens Teen journalist.



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Malik Roberson: New Ferris HS Football Coach

A Long Journey to Becoming the GSL's First Black Head Coach

By Sandra Williams

In April 2019, Ferris High School announced that Malik Roberson would be their new head football coach following the retirement of former coach, Tom Yearout. With that announcement, Roberson became the first Black head football coach in the Greater Spokane League's history. The road that got him into that history making position was a long and sometimes rocky one. Roberson sat down with the Black Lens to talk about his journey and his vision for the team. This is an excerpt of the conversation.

Give me a little of your background. Were you born in Spokane?

I was born in Spokane, raised off and on. I bounced around a little bit. Between elementary and high school. I went to Grant Elementary. I went to Linwood for a year. I went to Salk for a quarter. Mostly, Sacajawea and Lewis and Clark. The majority of my elementary years, I was in Salt Lake City or Seattle. I graduated from Lewis & Clark in 1989.

Tell me about your family?

I am the youngest on my dad's side. I have four sisters and two brothers. On my mom's side I was the youngest between me and my sister.

What kind of kid were you?

I was quiet and quiet. I studied people, but I didn't study books. I actually had a reading disorder. Something that I didn't know until college. It was a comprehensive reading, vocabulary issue. I had trouble comprehending.

I was on the verge of failing English 101 for the 3rd time at Central WA and if you failed it the third time you got kicked out. I was pretty desperate, so I went to the teacher and told her that I was trying as hard as I could to pass the class and told her my situation. She really spent some time with me to figure out what was wrong. She came to the conclusion that I had a reading disorder. She had me read a paragraph and told me to tell her what I read and I couldn't do it. She taught me how to have a dictionary with me and she taught me how to read a sentence and be able to understand what it meant. If you didn't understand, you had to go back and read each word until you came to the one that you don't know, because if you skipped that one word that you didn't know, now you couldn't link the rest of the stuff in the sentence.

How were you in school?

I read enough where I could get by in those subjects. I was pretty good in math, so it made up for everything. I was an okay student. I wouldn't say good. I was okay. Today they probably would have found the reading disorder sooner.



Did you do sports in school?

I played football and basketball.

What was it about sports that you liked?

I have a competitive spirit and being the youngest you kind of develop that because if you don't, you always get stuff taken away from you, or you're always counted out. So, naturally growing up in my environment, I've always had a competitive spirit.

Were you are a good athlete?

I was a pretty decent athlete. In football, I played for a very long time, so I was always pretty decent at football.

When you were a kid, what did you think that you were going to do when you grew up?

Well like all kids, you're going to go play in the NBA. And then as football became more important to me, I was going to go to the NFL. I worked very hard to position myself to do that and then sometimes you just don't get there. I had an injury that halted that dream of mine.

So you played football in college?

I played at Washington State University, then I transferred to Central WA. I played linebacker and defensive end. I got injured at Central. It was a damaged nerve in the neck.

Playing in the NFL was your dream. So, what happens to you when this has been your dream and you get an injury and you realize that you can't do it?

Well, most athletes coming out of the college arena, who don't move on to professional sports, it's very hard because their whole identity is gone. Being an athlete and winning and losing, and everything that comes with being identified as a college athlete, is now gone. They don't offer any counseling or anything. It's just, okay you're done, and that's it. Thank you very much. On top of that, compounded with the injury, it ends a little bit more abruptly and those circumstances aren't very appealing to you and it's worse, how it feels and how to bounce back from it.

I went through that twice. Once when I left Washington State. I just dropped out of school. I actually flunked out. I'm not going to sugar coat it. And then got a second chance at Central. That was a revitalization, but then I didn't get a chance to go to the NFL.

So, what did you do?

I came back here.

And then what? Because that just feels big. You come back home and everybody's going, what happened? So, what did you do?

When I came home from Washington State, that was pretty difficult because the magnitude of being at a big school and playing. Messing that opportunity up and then having to deal with it and come back.

Did you feel like there had been pressure on you to succeed?

I was oblivious to it then. I didn't really know what I was going through. But what happened, as I understood it later in life, I lost all of my support systems when I was at Washington State. My grandmother had passed away. Then Ron Webb, who was really my mentor and father figure and was why I went to Washington State. The first semester I was there I got good grades because he would check on me. He passed away as well. So, I lost all of my support systems that I had. Things kind of fell apart really fast. And I couldn't bounce back.

How did you go from that place to getting to Central?

Well, I was headed down the road where most young men of color go who don't have support systems in that time of life to really help them get through that. I was headed down that road. Fortunately, one of my support systems was football. I was coaching at Lewis and Clark High School. We were over at a clinic in Seattle and I ran into an old coach that I had at Washington State who was coaching at Central.

Continued on Page 26



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Millions Face Eviction or Foreclosure

Continued from Page 1

Much of that disparity is attributed to the racial differences in median incomes. While \$71,000 was the median income of white households, the same data point for Black households was only \$43,000, even lower than that of Latino households at \$55,000.

In rental housing, housing affordability is so acute that even consumers with annual incomes as high as \$49,999 paid more than 30 percent of their monies on housing in 2019. When the pandemic hit, one in five renters were in arrears – with Black households again suffering greater rates in late payments of 29 percent, more than double that of white households at 11 percent.

“Housing cost burdens have also moved up the income ladder,” says Alexander Hermann, a JCHS Senior Research Analyst. “Seventy percent of renter households earning between \$25,000 and \$34,999 and nearly 50 percent of renters earning between \$35,000 and \$49,999 were cost burdened in 2019.”

JCHS’ survey of renters found that an estimated 25% with COVID-related job losses had substantially depleted their savings. About the same number borrowed from families and friends, and 10 percent turned to predatory payday or personal loans.

For these and other households, the American Dream of homeownership is a distant one at best. Every available dollar is needed for food, utilities, and other essential life needs. Struggling to get out of debt looms largest for those facing a near-term eviction or foreclosure when current suspensions end. The federal moratorium on evictions will end in July.

Similarly, troubled homeowners who received loan forbearance and a ban on foreclosures have only 18 months to defer or reduce their monthly payments. In mortgage lending, forbearance is a temporary agreement between lenders and borrowers

to delay a foreclosure. As of this March, 7.3 million had left this status but 2.3 million more mortgagees were still in forbearance.

America’s growing housing insecurity was also the focus of a June 9 hearing held by the House Financial Services Committee. Entitled, Ending Homelessness and Expanding Economic Opportunity in America, the forum offered expert testimony that supported many of the findings in the new JCHS report. Among the key concerns identified in a committee memo were:

The lack of affordable housing is the nation’s primary cause of homelessness and housing instability;

Over 67 percent of people experiencing homelessness are Black, Indigenous, and Latinx, despite representing 12 percent, 1 percent, and 16 percent of the total U.S. population, respectively;

Black men are more likely to experience lifetime homelessness due to lower incomes, and higher rates of incarceration and traumatic events; and

Formerly incarcerated people are almost 10 times more likely to be homeless than the general public.

While the JCHS report included a recommendation to build more housing to address the nation’s shortage of housing inventory, California’s Rep. Maxine Waters, Chair of the House Financial Services Committee, proposed expanded housing vouchers to help low-to-moderate income families.

“Today’s hearing has highlighted the need to move forward urgently on legislation to make Housing Choice Vouchers universally available,” said Chairwoman Waters. “First, if we had this in place prior to the pandemic, so that a housing safety net kicked in automatically like it does with food stamps, we wouldn’t have had to scramble to put together the emergency relief packages we did. We don’t reinvent FEMA and disaster assistance every time

there is a natural disaster... It takes nearly three times the federal minimum wage to be able to afford a modest apartment nationally. Many people who are experiencing homelessness are in fact working.”

The Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program is often known as Section 8. By either name, it is the largest federal rental housing program, currently serving 2.28 million households at a FY2021 cost of \$25.78 billion. Voucher holders are required to pay 30 percent of their income towards their rent and utilities or a minimum rent of \$50, whichever is higher and according to the rate HUD determines as local fair market value. The balance of monthly fair market rent is paid by the state or local agency, usually a public housing authority.

Families served by the program include households with children (40 percent), non-elderly people with disabilities (36 percent), and the elderly (29 percent). All agencies in the program are required to assist 75 percent of participants with incomes ranging from below 30 percent of local median income, and no more than 25 percent of recipients earning up to 50 percent of local median incomes.

As Benjamin Metcalf, Managing Director, Turner Center for Housing Innovation at the University of California at Berkeley testified to the committee, “Coastal states, such as California, Washington, Oregon, New York, and Massachusetts, are top ranked for both having the largest percentage residency of extremely low-income renters, as well as the least available, affordable rental-housing. The housing shortage in these states extends up the income ladder, hurting those making up to the area median income as well.”

“[F]ederal rental assistance has been inadequate to meet the need for some time,” continued Metcalf. “Today, approximately 1 in 4 eligible households are receiving assistance under the current system, with many

cities’ housing choice waitlists either years long or closed entirely. From 2010 to 2020 funding for housing choice vouchers grew by 12%, but the rise in households receiving vouchers only rose from 2.1 million to 2.3 million over the same time period.”

A similar view was shared by Mary Cunningham, Senior Fellow and Vice President, Metropolitan Housing and Communities, Urban Institute.

“The housing safety net was unprepared to respond to the urgent needs of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is a public health crisis layered on top of a housing crisis,” testified Cunningham. “Unfortunately, the Housing Choice Voucher Program, like much of our housing safety programs, has been woefully underfunded. Only one in five people who qualify for housing assistance receives it. People wait years on a waiting list, and many housing authorities have simply closed their lists and are no longer accepting applications.”

The following day, June 10, HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge announced a \$1.1 billion expansion of emergency housing vouchers made possible by the enacted American Rescue Plan. These monies are expected to create 70,000 housing vouchers shared across 626 public housing authorities over an 18-month period. Agencies selected were those determined to have the greatest need as well as administrative capacity.

“In America, the wealthiest country in the world, the basic need for housing has gone unmet for many people,” noted Christelle Bamona, a Center for Responsible Lending Researcher. “To rectify this injustice, policymakers should take a range of actions, including investments in down payment assistance, rental assistance and broad-based student debt cancellation. The time for action is now.”

Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org

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JUNETEENTH WEEKEND 2021



RECOGNITION. RESTORATION. CELEBRATION

Spokane celebrated Juneteenth becoming a Washington State and then a Federal holiday with a weekend full of activities that were located in the East Central neighborhood.

The weekend started off with a kick-off party hosted by the Spokane NAACP at Fresh Soul Restaurant on Thursday, June 17, which turned out to be a surprise party for Michael Brown, who after years of hard work, was handed the deed to his property.

The Inland Northwest Juneteenth Coalition (INWJC), sponsor of Spokane's Juneteenth Celebrations for the past 10 years, presented the 2021 Pillar Awards on Friday. This years Awards, which recognize individuals and organization who uplift the African American Community, went to: Pastor Walter Kendricks, the Carl Maxey Center, Dennis Mitchell Empowerment Seminars, New Hope Baptist Church and Denise McKinnon. A replay of the awards can be seen on the INWJC Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/INWJC>.

Friday's evening's screening of the blockbuster hit Black Panther, hosted by the Carl Maxey Center, drew about 100 people to Underhill Park, decked out with their lawn chairs, blankets and bug spray.

On Saturday, the Martin Luther King Center and the East 5th Avenue Coalition hosted a block party at the East Central Community Center. There was music, dancing, art, food, resources, booths featuring black business and even a petting zoo. The crowd was also treated to a performance by Grammy Nominated Songwriter Clemm Rishad.

Finally, on Sunday, the Spokane Ministerial Fellowship hosted Praise in the Park, a church service at Liberty Park. The Northwest African American Museum (NAAM) joined us from Seattle to hand out books, and the Inland Northwest Juneteenth Coalition hosted a Father's Day Drive-Thru Brunch at the Emmanuel Family Life Center, following the service. All in all, it was a perfect way to celebrate our newest national holiday- Juneteenth.





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For More Info, Contact:
Julius Henrichsen,
Youth Homelessness Community Coordinator
jhenrichsen@voaspokane.org



Racism Prescribing Pain Medications

By Glenn Ellis

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Pain is a very real thing; but so is medical bias.

I found out, first-hand, what I had read and heard about for a long, long time: Some doctors believe black people have an ability to be strong and tough out painful conditions, and therefore do not give them the meds they need!

Racial disparities in all health outcomes are still commonplace in the United States, and one way this is apparent is the differences in how African Americans receive medication for opioid addiction treatment. In recent years, the opioid crisis has impacted the lives of millions of Americans. Oftentimes, those impacted by opioids are portrayed as white, middle class Americans who receive treatment upon enduring non-fatal overdoses. According to PBS, “roughly 80% of American’s opioid overdose victims are white.” This means that people of color make up only 20% of opioid overdose victims. Despite this, much of the attention is on, and continues to be on, white victims of the crisis. Research has shown, conclusively, that African Americans are administered pain medications less frequently than whites.

There are those who would like to dismiss this claim and find all kinds of reasons to justify this pattern. Some attribute it to a natural tendency of African Americans to exhibit behavior that is described as “drug seekers”. These are people who misuse prescription drugs most commonly seek prescriptions for opioids and benzodiazepines; drugs that, when abused can get you “high”.

However, even though there is a growing body of evidence to silence these skeptics, the institutional bias of prescribing less pain medications for African Americans persists. Recently, I found myself personally “victimized” by this experience in a clinical encounter.

Without going into too much detail (and taking up too much space in this column), following a minor laceration on my leg that was healing a little too slow for me, I made an appointment with a wound care doctor.

Upon being examined by the doctor, I described the history of the injury, how long ago it happened, and how painful it was; especially at night. I emphasized that it had disrupted my ability to sleep for almost two weeks. I told him that my attempts to get relief from over-the-counter acetaminophen (Tylenol) and ibuprofen (Advil) were doing nothing. I expressed my concern about the possible kidney or liver damage that results from taking too much of either of these medications. The doctor, even though listening intently to me, looked at me with suspicion, proceeded to clean and dress the wound, gave me a follow-up appointment in two weeks, and never addressed the pain.

Now, as you can imagine, even though I’m not a doctor, I knew enough to understand that based on my description of what I was dealing with, at some point the doctor should address the management of the pain in the healing process that I was experiencing.

I guess this doctor thought that I was a patient seeking drugs for myself, or to pass on to a family member or friend with dependency issues. Or maybe he thought I was trying to get drugs to sell on the street. Drug-seeking behavior is a commonly used, although poorly defined, term that describes a range of activities directed towards attainment of sought-after drugs. It seemed to be beyond his belief that I was genuinely just trying to manage my pain.

Opioids are narcotics, there were other options the doctor could have prescribed. There are mounds of evidence to support this attitude by the medical establishment as it relates to African Americans and pain medications:

A 2017 report released by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality stated, “Overall access to efficient health care was worse for blacks than whites.”

A 2015 study African American children in the Emergency Room for appendicitis were less likely to receive any pain medication for moderate pain and less likely to receive opioids for severe pain.

A 2016 study found that medical students believe that African American’s nerve endings are less sensitive than white people’s nerve endings. In other words, they felt that “black people’s skin is thicker than white people’s skin”.

As most of you know, or have heard, the Opioid Epidemic that has hit this country has fueled the drug addiction rate, that has received national attention in large part due to the impact it has in white communities. As crazy as it may sound, the medical community relies on a flimsy justification for this pattern of denying appropriate pain medication to African Americans. There is a report that has determined that denying prescriptions to African Americans for pain, 14,000 lives were spared from opioid abuse (or overdose).

As reported in the New York Times, “When the opioid crisis began to escalate some 20 years ago, many African Americans had a layer of protection against it. But that protection didn’t come from the effectiveness of the American medical system. Instead, researchers believe, it came from racial stereotypes embedded within that system. As unlikely as it may seem, these negative stereotypes appear to have shielded many African Americans from fatal prescription opioid overdoses.”

The only person who can judge the effectiveness of pain relief is the person who feels the pain, but African Americans’ pain is at the mercy of medical bias. The struggle is real, and the struggle continues...

Remember, I’m not a doctor. I just sound like one. Take good care of yourself and live the best life possible! The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. It is not intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice.

Glenn Ellis, is Research Bioethics Fellow at Harvard Medical School and author of Which Doctor?, and Information is the Best Medicine. Ellis is an active media contributor on Health Equity and Medical Ethics. For more good health information visit: www.glennellis.com



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Deen Centric

A Column from Spokane's Black Muslim Community



By Ostavo Feazell

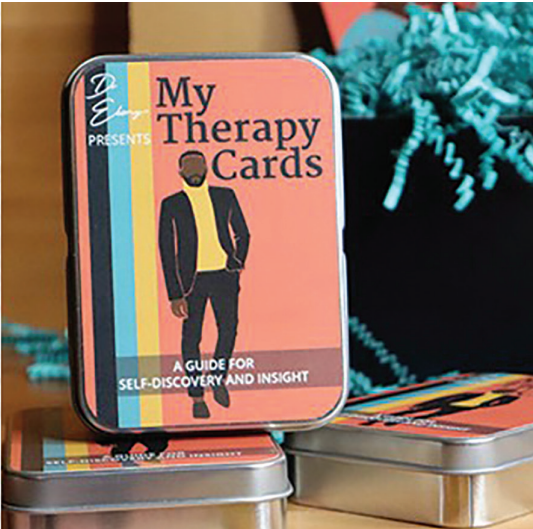
Hello world! My name is Ostavo Feazell & I am a 40 yr. OF age man who was incarcerated for 22 yrs of my life. From the age of 17 until 39. It was during that period of time where I found the true essence of the oneness of one God(illa)!

Fast forward all the way until now. It's a beautiful thing to be a Muslim out here in society, but what I miss is being able to go to Jum'ah on Fridays!

I know Allah knows our (niya). Since being out I've had the opportunity to continue my Islam, which is a blessing. I have beautiful Muslims around me & I'm blessed.

Alhumdu-lillah, Islam has given me peace & God willing the blessings continue to come!

Black Psychologist Releases Therapy Card Deck For Black Men



(Source: blacknews.com) Dr. Ebony, the creator of My Therapy Cards, the first card deck and self-help tool for Black women, has finally created the first therapy card deck for Black men! After the successful release of the first deck of My Therapy Cards, she received so many requests for a My Therapy Cards for Black men! She heard it and has delivered! Introducing My Therapy Cards – Men’s Edition, the first card deck created for Black men!

Similar to the original edition, this newest edition helps Black men and other men of color work through thoughts, habits, and behaviors that impact their growth and development. With all that’s going on in the world for Black men, the deck helps men also learn how to sort through their feelings and find the words to work through what they’re experiencing. The Men’s Edition also provides a guide for self-care and activities for self-expression.

The mission of My Therapy Cards – Men’s Edition is to make sure that Black men have access to quality tools and resources to take care of themselves and their mental health. We seek to decrease the stigma and normalize the mental health convo amongst Black men. The prompts and tasks have been carefully crafted and vetted to provide the type of experience Black men need to gain a deeper level of understanding of themselves and the world around them.

Just as with the original version of My Therapy Cards, Dr. Ebony took extensive and intentional measures to ensure that My Therapy Cards – Men’s Edition included language, prompts, and tasks that actually resonate with Black men and other men of color. This is the very first self-help card deck and therapy tool specifically for Black men, and we are excited to center the mental health and well-being of Black men in a way that gives them full permission to learn more about themselves right where they are! We care about representation, accessibility, and breaking stigmas associated with seeking help. My Therapy Cards – Men’s Edition directly addresses all of this!

The My Therapy Cards – Men’s Edition deck includes:

- 15 prompts and tasks per category for a total of 45 cards designed to address mental blocks, habit blocks, and ineffective coping skills.
- A How-to-Use Card that breaks down the best way to work through the cards.
- Emotion wheel to help guide language around emotional experiences and emotional intelligence.
- Self-Care menu card created to provide a variety of ways to practice self-care.
- Resource card for additional support and guidance, including resources for locating local therapists for continued support outside of the card deck.
- Access to emails containing tips for best practices, additional prompts, follow-up questions, and support!

The cards center on the mental health and self-care needs of Black men and increases the conversation around healing for our Black men, and are available now. The introductory price is \$49.97 per card deck.

To learn more about My Therapy Cards, visit MyTherapyCards.com

Ebony Butler, Ph.D. is a Licensed Psychologist and Food Relationship Strategist who is committed to increasing mental wellness and resources in Black communities. She is a speaker, advocate, author, and program facilitator. Learn more at DrEbony.com

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

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

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

To add your business call 509-795-1886.



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The Bullet Has Unseen Collateral Impact on the Black Community

By Virgil Parker

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Gun violence has had an adverse impact on the Black community, part of which is actually invisible. That's because the impact has been both physical and psychological, according to experts.

Everytown for Gun Safety, a gun violence prevention organization, reports that Black Americans experience nearly 10 times the gun homicides, 15 times the gun assaults and three times the fatal police shootings of White Americans.

The organization also shares that a daily average of 26 Black Americans are killed by guns and 104 experience non-fatal injuries. The police force also shoots and kills at least one Black person every other day. The statistics worsen in large cities, where Black Americans make up 68 percent of homicide victims.

“Gun violence in the Black community is a cancerous epidemic that has crippled our senses, compromised our connectivity within the community and robbed our young people of the potential of leading full lives for far too long,” said Charmion Kinder, Founder and Chief Impact Officer of CNK Kinder, Inc.: a social impact consultancy.

“We must stand together to continue to develop innovative solutions for the developing young minds that remain under our care — no matter their family structure, background or zip code. It is unacceptable that scores of young men, and women, in American towns and cities see only one pathway to economic advancement, including falling prey to circumstances that



Brett Williams chairs the Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia.

do not serve them or society well. The cost of crime, lack of access, and lack of opportunity is leading to fast journeys to death. And it is high time, that together, we find ways to choose more life,” said Kinder, a Black woman from New Haven, Conn.

President Biden recently announced a strategy to tackle gun violence. According to the New York Times, the president’s new strategy will allow state and local governments to pull from \$350 billion of resources to invest in police departments and support community-based anti-violence groups. The funds can also be used for summer jobs for young people and organizations that aim to intervene with at-risk youths before they commit violence. The provision addresses criminal justice advocates who have called for political leaders to address the societal factors that drive crime.

Some individuals struggle with seeking psychological support to heal from the impact of gun violence. “My immediate family has suffered a direct loss to gun violence on multiple occasions,” said Brett Williams, a Black man who chairs the Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia.

“I’ve personally experienced it four times directly since I was 5. But I’d say the most impactful losses occurred exactly 20 years apart - my father who was shot and killed on March 2, 1996. I was 11 years old. And 20 years later my older brother on October 27, 2016. I was 31.

Williams continued, “My family never considered any form of grief counseling or therapy. There’s a stigma in Black and brown communities where mental health is ignored... Now that I’m five years in my healing journey and have gone to therapy

regularly, I see the benefits of therapy and am now an advocate for grief counseling.”

Gun violence has had a stronger adverse psychological impact on some individuals more than others.

“I believe that gun violence in African-American communities has had an immense psychological and physical impact on us,” said MaKenzie Smith. Smith, a Black woman from Saginaw, Michigan. “Not only is this one of the main issues currently plaguing our communities, but it’s a long-standing issue for us historically. I think it has become even more difficult for us to find the resources and the mental capacity to begin to deal with the effects of gun violence because it’s on social media, around us, and regularly right in front of us. Therefore, as we are forced to deal with and fight against every other issue we’re facing as Black people, we subconsciously become immune to the emotional aspects of that trauma - seeing or hearing about our brothers and sisters and children being shot down.”

Members of the Black community are seeking and fighting for an end to gun violence.

“The impact of gun violence in the African-American community has proven nothing short of pure devastation, said Dana Lintz, a Black male who resides in Bowie, Md. “Yes, police brutality and police killings of unarmed Black Americans is horrible and infuriating, but we don’t seem to show the same outrage for what is an even more heinous crime, which is shooting and killing us! And what’s worse, we appear almost immune to the killing.”

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BREAKING NEWS: COSBY CONVICTION OVERTURNED

Bill Cosby Released from Prison After Serving Three Years

By Stacy M Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent @StacyBrownMedia

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court overturned comedian Bill Cosby’s 2018 sexual assault conviction on June 30.

The state Supreme Court ruled that Cosby’s deal with former prosecutor Bruce Castor should have been honored. In a phone call with Cosby attorney Jennifer Bonjean, she states, “I am thrilled! I haven’t made my way through the entire opinion yet, but it seems that the court agrees with what we knew all along, that Mr. Cosby never should have been prosecuted in the first place. If a prosecutor’s word is not his bond, then we as a society — and the entire criminal justice system — is in trouble.”

When asked, when we could expect him to be released, she responded, “We are on our way to the prison now to pick him up.”



Photo Credit: AP Photo/Matt Slocum

He had also cast doubt on alleged victim Andrea Constand’s credibility. Castor told the Black Press that the trials against Cosby were “a miscarriage of justice.”

Cosby has served nearly three years of a 3-to-10 year-prison sentenced following his 2018 conviction on charges of indecent aggravated assault.

He had repeatedly maintained his innocence. “When an unconditional charging decision is made publicly and with the intent to induce action and reliance by the defendant, and when the defendant does so to his detriment (and in some instances upon the advice of counsel), denying the defendant the benefit of that decision is an affront to fundamental fairness, particularly when it results in a criminal prosecution that was foregone for more than a decade,” according to the high court opinion.

“For these reasons, Cosby’s convictions and judgment of sentence are vacated, and he is discharged.”

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Rebirth of a Nation

By Dr. E. Faye Williams

(TriceEdneyWire.com) – Some of my “vintage” or “experienced” readers may remember or actually saw the movie, Birth of a Nation. Not the 2016 Nate Parker version, I refer to the 1915 silent film, originally called The Clansman, by D. W. Griffith. In short, it glorified the KKK and denigrated civil and human rights for formerly enslaved persons using the “Black man, white woman” paradigm.

Although praised at its release, the original Birth of a Nation is now understood as a gross misrepresentation of reality and historical revisionism at its worst. What it did was give cover and justification for the racist social constructs of the ante-bellum South and the general acceptance of the theory and practice of white racial superiority in the nation.

Across the Potomac River in Virginia, a mere 31 miles as the crow flies, from Washington, DC, lies Loudoun County, VA. Loudoun is the fastest growing county in Virginia and is listed as the wealthiest county in the United States. By most measures, including the newness of housing and commercial structures, supporting infrastructure, and the quality of schools, Loudoun is a desirable place to live and raise a family.

One could reasonably believe that, given the academic and technical skills necessary to command the salaries necessary for the designation of wealthiest county in the nation, Loudoun is a well-educated and enlightened community. Since, by my definition, education is an on-going endeavor and enlightenment is the willingness to explore the full dimensions of the truth, calling Loudoun well-educated and enlightened is an arguable proposition.

Sadly, Loudoun, like many other social arenas, is currently embroiled in a controversy related to the teaching of “Critical Race Theory” in the Loudoun County Public Schools. The interim school superintendent asserts that CRT is not being taught, yet there is vigorous opposition to that type of instruction in the schools.

Opponents of CRT assert that it is anti-American and that it teaches students that America is racist, American culture is inherently bad, and that America’s entire system must be radically altered to make it better. Listening to a local DC radio news station, I heard a person identified as a Loudoun public school history teacher claim that CRT imposed feelings of guilt on white students and a sense of inferiority upon African American students.

It is open to argument, but my assessment of that teacher and others who protest against CRT is that “their” misunderstanding of historical truths and personal feelings of guilt inspire their opposition. My reality informs me that, just as America has made great accomplishments and led innovation to the benefit of the world, it has a history of violence, brutality, and ruthlessness that has been encoded in its genetic profile.

To reject the truth of CRT (America’s racism) is to ignore and deny:

The dispossession of Native America lands and the “Indian Wars” which eradicated generations of native people.

The establishment of “Indian Schools” which had the expressed purpose of destroying Native American language and culture.

The brutal, 200+ year enslavement of Africans kidnapped from their homeland.

The denial of full participation in the American lifestyle (Jim Crow Laws).

The innumerable rapes, lynching, and murder of people of color.

The “documented” systemic exclusion of people of color from educational, employment, and housing opportunities.



The duplicitous pattern of policing in communities of color.

A myriad of other racially inspired physical and emotional indignities and assaults. To those who oppose CRT, I say, I will not allow your embarrassment or guilt to erase the truths of our collective histories. I will not sit quietly while you ignore our past and continue with your opportunistic patterns of discrimination. My voice will ring loudly! As for your GUILT, GET OVER IT!!!

(Dr. E. Faye Williams is President of the National Congress of Black Women and host of “Wake Up and Stay Woke” on WPFW-89.3 FM.)

Too Many Black Folks Succumb To Psychological Warfare

By A. Peter Bailey

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - In his must-read 1926 book, “The Miseducation of the Negro,” Dr. Carter G. Woodson stated, “... Starting out after the Civil War, opponents of freedom and social justice decided to work out a program which would enslave the Negro’s mind, in as much as the freedom of the body had to be conceded.” That is psychological warfare.

It is distressing to have to admit that descendants of those opponents of freedom and justice cited by Dr. Woodson have had a great deal of success in enslaving the minds of way too many black folks today. This factor continues to make it very difficult for us to promote and protect our vital individual and group interests in this country.

Examples of their successful psychological warfare are reflected in black folks who use black as an epithet, who believe in white standards of beauty and attractiveness, who consistently use the “N-word” when talking about our people, who only have images of a white Jesus in their churches and homes, who relish being the only black person in an otherwise all white organization, school or neighborhood, who only have white art in their homes or apartments, who are dyed or bewigged blondes, who believe that an all-black school or other institution is inherently inferior, who believe that striving for academic excellence is trying to be “white,” who use the word “classical” only for European music, who smile with gratitude when a white person tells him or her “you are different from other Blacks,” who wreak havoc in black



neighborhoods, who say that a black person has “good” or “bad” hair, who believes that a black person romantically involved with or married to a white person has enhanced his or her social status, who believe that a degree from Harvard, Yale, Princeton or any other overwhelmingly white college or university automatically makes them superior to black folks with degrees from

historically black colleges and universities, whose buffoonish professional names carry on the demeaning tradition of Stepin’ Fetchit, Mantan Mooreland, and Scatman Crothers, and those who have built lucrative careers in the academic, journalistic, political and cultural arenas by, to the delight of white supremacists, consistently attacking other black folks.

Black folks guilty of the above are basically allies of those who falsely believe they are superior to us. Anyone wanting to know what can be done about this must read the writings of Brother Malcolm X, Dr. C. DeLores Tucker, and Dr. Frances Cress Welsing.

A. Peter Bailey, author of Witnessing Brother Malcolm X, the Master Teacher, can be reached alfonzop.bailey@gmail.com.



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Malik Roberson: New Football Coach at Ferris HS

Continued From Page 14

He basically said, you still have two years left of playing. In my mind, I was done playing. I said, "no I'm done playing" and he says, "no, you're not. Let's get you out here." He said, "I'm going to send you a bus ticket. I said, "whatever." When I got home, he called, from the clinic, and said your bus ticket is waiting for you, we're waiting on you. So, I thought about it and I just jumped on the bus.

Where do you think you would be had that not happened?

I don't know. That road I was on. I made some hard decisions to go and play football at Central. They weren't really hard, they were easy, but as far as the lifestyle, I knew I had better do this. I was there for two years, 1994-95 (tied for national championship).

After Central, I came back here and started working. It was a little easier for me because of the transition from Washington State. But again, I went through that transition of you're not playing anymore, you're not associated with football. It wasn't easy, but it was easier.

I started working with kids at Excelsior Youth Center and I started coaching at Lewis & Clark again. While I was helping out there, the new hired head coach at EWU (Eastern WA University), who I had played with at Washington State, found out through a mutual friend that I was coaching and knew I needed to get my degree and he asked if I wanted to come and help coach at EWU as a student assistant and he'd pay for the rest of my school.

That's when my coaching career took off. I was there for seven seasons. 2000-2007. I started off as a student assistant, then a graduate assistant, then a part-time assistant, and then a full time assistant. I just moved up. And I got my degree in 2001 from Central, I took the classes and transferred them.

In the 2008 season, I went with the head coach to Washington State (WSU). I departed in 2010 and went to Portland State in 2011. Went back and coached at Central again in 2012-2013 as a Defensive Coordinator, then went back to Portland State from 2014 -2017 as a Defensive Coordinator. Then I decided that it was time to get out of college coaching.

Why? You were doing so well?
There were several reasons. The number one reason was my family. I got married in 2005. I had twin girls in 2009. My family was back here in Spokane. With the harsh realities of coaching college football and the demands, I saw that I was missing out on my daughter's growth and upbringing. I said I don't want that. I want to be there for my daughters.

This was the third time you were going to be back in Spokane. What happened?

The bigger picture, if I was going to be back I wanted to impact the community. I've always had a heart for youth. I didn't know how I was going to do it, but I knew I wanted to make an impact on younger kids. I started to work for an organization called Treehouse that was working with Foster Care Kids and I was there from 2018 - 2020.

How did Ferris job happen?

When I coached at LC, on my second stint, I worked with Tom Yearout. We've kept in contact and have known each other over the years.

Had you been thinking about coaching again?

I wasn't really thinking about coaching again, but when people found out I was back, I had several opportunities. My old head coach that I used to work for at Central was at Post Falls. He reached out at the same time that Tom had reached out, and there were some other coaching opportunities.

So what made you pick this one?

It's right by my house. (Smile). I've worked with Tom before. I just said, why not. Let's help some young men.

What do you think makes you a good coach?

You would have to ask somebody that thinks I'm good. I just like coaching. One-it's my fix for that competitive nature that I have. Two- helping young men work through challenges that they can overcome. That's really what it comes down to. Taking a young man that doesn't think he can do something and you guide him and push him and do whatever you have to until he finally gets over it. And sometimes

they don't even realize it until ten years later and they'll call you and say, hey coach, I get it now. Thanks for doing that thing.

What do you think the black males get out of sports?

If you want to talk in the binary of race, one, it gives more access to the privileges that they wouldn't normally have if they weren't playing. I think people really need to look into that. I started looking into that within myself, understanding myself a little bit and where I'm at in my life and where I'm at in my development. I really looked at how sports opened up a lot of doors that probably wouldn't have been there if I didn't play. So, I think that's number one.

Two, it also just puts them in an arena where in that moment when they are competing and they have to work together, those constructs are now gone, because there is one common goal for everybody to work towards.

If you want to look at it in a bigger scope, some athletes see it as their way out. Unfortunately, in my opinion, that's a little sad to think that athletics is your way out of a situation because it's so competitive. There's another way, it's called education.

What are you most proud of?

Like I mentioned before, it's those small victories. Helping young men from all different backgrounds know the joy they get when they defeat an opponent that they didn't think they were supposed to defeat, when they get honors for working very hard. I've been in high schools helping kids earn a scholarship, teaching kids how to work hard, educating them on the benefits of working hard and why you need to work hard. Just doing what I can to shape their character, that will help them compete in life, not just sports. That's what I'm most proud of, just having the opportunity to help young men do that.

As far as numbers and wins and all that, you crash just as hard as you climb. I've had some great moments and I've had some pretty bad moments, so I try not to really navigate through successes and losses and what's on paper. It's about experiences. Who I connect with and who I impact.

What's been the most challenging thing?

You're in an arena where you're judged by wins and losses, so it's very hard when you're not successful at times to not be hard on yourself because you're judged on that from the world. As you get older you figure out, that's not important, but it's still difficult to keep your lens from getting fogged up with those views.

It's like your Black identity, it's like your white identity, it's like whatever, you gotta have your set of values. Not how you're supposed to act and what you're supposed to do, but what you really believe in. So, you just have to always keep your lenses clean, so you can follow what you truly believe in this world.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

Where I see myself in five years, in terms of being the head coach here, I actually hope to have a program where I impact participants that come in here in a positive way and I hope that I build a system to where it's building character and it doesn't have to rely on bringing character in. I've been a part of programs where I've come into a program and when I left that program I was a better person. I hope to build a program like that. One that's very impactful in that way.

Obviously, I'm going to win. I'll put it out there, I will be successful. But at the same time, what's more important is the experience of the individuals that come in. So, in five years I want that idea to come into fruition and I want it hitting on all cylinders.



Coach Malik Roberson with former Ferris coach Tom Yearout.

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Step 1: Apply online at [https://my.spokanecity.org/jobs/classified/](https://my.spokanecity.org/jobs/classified/between%20June%2021%20to%20July%2013%202021) between June 21, 2021 to July 13, 2021. You will be able to apply for multiple positions at the same time!

Step 2: After you apply and pass the minimum qualifications you will be invited to schedule your Civil Service test.

Step 3: Schedule your Civil Service test, you will be able to take multiple tests on the same day. Testing will take place the week of July 19, 2021 to July 24, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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THE BLACK LENS
News From A Different Perspective

CARL MAXEY CENTER

JULY EVENTS

JULY 10

POP UP FOR THE PEOPLE

The Black Lens and Terrain are partnering for a pop up vaccination clinic underneath the Black Lives Matter mural. There will also be general health screenings, live music (full-line-up below), artist-led activities, free food (while supplies last), free swag (while supplies last), and the opportunity to learn more about some amazing community organizations.

4-8pm

Under the Black Lives Matter Mural
244 W Main Ave, Spokane, WA 99201

Sign-up for an appointment here: bit.ly/BLMMuralClinic (Free of Charge)

JULY 11

NEEMA CHOIR

African Children's Choir ages 7-19 singing about God's Grace

5:30-7pm

Word of Faith Christian Center
9212 E Montgomery Ave, Suite 202
Spokane Valley, WA 99206

Questions call 509-919-4150

JULY 14

FUSE DIVERSITY BOOK CLUB

Fire Shut Up in my Bones by Charles Blow (memoir)

A moving memoir of how one of America's most innovative and respected journalists found his voice by coming to terms with a painful past.

6:30pm-8pm

Virtual Discussion

Visit the Fuse Book Club Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/fusediversity>

JULY 16

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE BLACK & INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

Our goal at CDI is to increase access to health provider options for our Black & Indigenous community members in Spokane! Come listen to the Nu Jack City Band play your favorite hits, eat delicious healthy snacks from Rüt Bar & Kitchen, and talk about the importance of mental and physical health with our many partners on the East Side of Spokane!

5-8pm

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JULY 17

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Home Game - Quad City Flames

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JULY 19

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JULY 26

WE GON' BE ALRIGHT

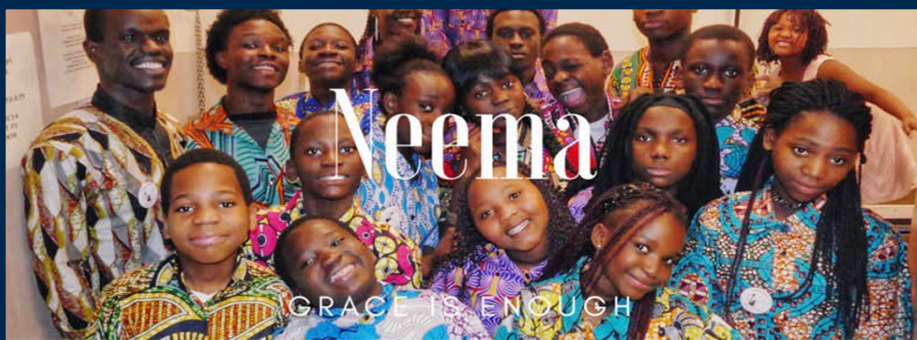
A Space for Black Healing

Facilitator Kiantha Duncan, Co-facilitator Alethea Dumas. *This is not a space for allies.*

5:30-7pm

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