

THE BLACK LENSTM

NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

March on WA for Voting Rights

58th Anniversary of March on Washington Brings Thousands Back to Washington DC

By Gregory L. Coleman

Howard University News Service
(Reprinted from Afro.com)

WASHINGTON — More than 25,000 people from across the country, some as far away as California, gathered in the nation to protest efforts in more than a dozen states they said to make voting more difficult and to urge Congress to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Bill, which would restore portions of the Voting Rights Bill struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court.

They began at McPherson Square and marched to the stage at the National Mall in front of the Capitol Building where speakers criticized those leading the efforts to change voting laws and urged the people to stand up and make their voices heard, or as some speakers said, in the words of the late Congressman John Lewis, “to make good trouble.”

The Rev. Al Sharpton, a civil rights leader, television personality and president of the National Action Network, called on President Joe Biden to use his influence to push West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, a Democrat, and others to push through the legislation.

“You need to pick up the phone and call Manchin and others and tell them that if they can carve around the filibuster to confirm Supreme Court judges for President Trump, they can carve around the filibuster to bring Voting Rights to President Biden,” said Sharpton, whose organization was one of the organizers of the march.



Photo Credit: Tyone Turner for NPR

The Marchers were there for voting rights, but they also championed other issues, including rights of the Black LGBTQ+ community, police reform, safety for trans women and states' rights for Washington.

There were parents pushing babies in strollers with signs reading “Pass The For The People Act”, “Black Voters Matter” and “We Demand Voting Rights Now.”

The event was held on the 58th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington, in which more than 200,000 people descended on Washington to demand racial justice and equal rights and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous “I Have A Dream” speech.

King's son, Martin Luther King III, joined Andrea Waters King's Drum Major In-

stitute and March On as one of the event organizers. The crowd was less than the expected 50,000 the organizations had projected.

Several states, beginning with Georgia, have either attempted to or passed legislation designed built to limit access to voting. Georgia severely limited mail in ballots, early voting and criminalized passing water or food to people waiting in line to cast ballots.

Arizona will require anyone who has not casted a ballot at least once every two years to respond to a government notice or risk being placed on a list to not receive a ballot. Democrats in Texas have repeatedly delayed Republican attempts to restrict

voting, including leaving the state for a month so the legislature would not have the number of legislators present to pass bills.

Texas Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, a Democrat, was one of several Congressional Black Caucus present Saturday. Lee said the new efforts to change voting laws resemble the Jim Crow era when segregation was legal and many African Americans attempting to vote were killed or terrorized through lynchings and the burning of Black churches and homes.

“Right now, we have the most suppressive voting laws since 1960.” Jackson told the audience.

Joyce Beatty, the current chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, said the inability to vote could threaten all the gains African Americans have made and social justice issues in the future.

“If we do not stand up for voting rights, if we do not stand up for the right to register to vote, then we cannot make change.” Beatty said.

Martin Luther King III told the crowd the filibuster in the Senate that requires 60 votes instead of a simple majority to pass legislation needs to be in his eyes, eliminated.

“One hundred years ago, the government used the filibuster to keep Black Americans from having a full promise to freedom,” he said, “and now they're doing it again.”

Heavy Rains, Flooding Add to Earthquake Woes in Haiti



By Onz Chéry and Samuel Celine

Special to the Trice Edney News Wire from the Haitian Times

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Neighbors had to quickly pick up and carry bed-ridden survivors of Haiti's earthquake through heavy rains as Tropical Depression Grace began passing through southwestern Haiti Monday night, two days after a 7.2 magnitude earthquake. Other families left homeless spent the night under the pouring rain.

“We're suffering, the babies are getting wet,” said one woman in Les Cayes in tears, holding an umbrella, in one video. “No one is helping us, we're only able to cry out to God.”

Haiti's southern region felt the strongest shakes of the earthquake that left at least 1,941 people dead,

more than 9,900 injured and at least 2,800 homes destroyed. Tropical Depression Grace also hit the southern region, even as slow-moving rescue and recovery efforts were underway. Seaside towns Jacmel, Les Cayes and Marigot are among the areas in the South that are experiencing flooding, according to residents.

Rainfall was still falling on the coastal city of Les Cayes Tuesday morning, complicating efforts to rescue victims of the earthquake. It is unclear how much damage Grace has caused so far in Haiti but the heavy rains that drenched different areas sent thousands of homeless people into public parks, schools and a few remaining public buildings to seek refuge.

Continued on Page 28

ON MY MIND

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

by Sandra Williams

When I have time, I have been doing a lot of reflecting of late. Recently, I was browsing through my one of journals from years ago and came across this entry. Eight years ago I was reflecting on the March on Washington. This year there was another march. This time, a march for voting rights. This march was only a fraction as large as the one in 1963. The one that everybody remembers. But we are still fighting about the same things. Maybe, in the same way that there is a thing called COVID fatigue, maybe Black people have marching fatigue and fighting fatigue, and, how long do we have to keep talking about the same thing fatigue. Anyway, I thought it interesting how my thoughts from 2013 still ring true in 2021, so I thought I would share. Happy fall.

August 28, 2013.

Today is the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington and Martin Luther King Jr's "I have a Dream" speech. Fifty years is a long time. I was almost 2 back then. Too young to know what was going on around me. Too young to know about all of the hate and bigotry. About people being beaten and murdered. About a country that was seething and ready to explode. I was too young to know it then, but I am not too young now.

I watched a program last night that was a concert with people singing songs from the Civil Rights movement. I didn't plan to watch the whole thing, but couldn't turn away once I started watching. There is something about those songs, like "We Shall Overcome", and so many others that just does something deep down inside of my soul. Obama and his family were at the concert. How symbolic is that. Watching Obama listen to the songs that made it possible for him to be there as President listening to those songs. As I watched, I wondered if his children grasped the significance of what they were experiencing. I'm not so sure that they did. They looked pretty bored. I probably would have been too.

Fifty years later and everybody talks about how far we have come as a country. We don't overtly segregate people by their race anymore, but that does not mean that segregation doesn't still happen. Of course it does. It's just more covert now. Fifty years later, we don't legally deny black people access to the best schools or the best neighborhoods, but that does not mean that we have full access. Even here in Spokane, in the West where things were supposed to have always been better than the south, a Black family I know was told that the schools are better the further



you go up the hill. Up the hill to where the homes are more expensive. Up the hill to where the white people live.

Fifty years later, I think about my daughter being the only Black person in her honors classes. I think about the historically Black college that she went to in Atlanta and how we talked about the students coming there so unprepared, unable to write complete sentences and or communicate in a way that would make them successful out in the world. I think about the African Education program at my college struggling to give their students what they need to make it.

I think about my daughter being the only Black person at her current job. I think about how much I had to fight to keep her from becoming another statistic. I think about the two boys here in Spokane that were just charged with murder for killing a white man. I think about our fight right now to get East Central back to being what it used to be for the Black Community. Fifty years later.

I know that King's "I have a Dream Speech" was powerful and important, but fifty years later, this country acts like that was his only speech. That all he did was dream and talk about racism. But he didn't. He also talked about the Vietnam war and about the structure of racism in his "Beyond Vietnam" speech, a speech that I think was his most powerful one. I heard that speech by accident one time and I truly believe that it is why he was killed. Way too powerful. Black people can dream, but they sure as hell can't start analyzing the system of oppression, that makes us too dangerous.

Fifty years later I wonder what this country would be like now if Dr. King's "Beyond Vietnam" speech had been the one that this country had celebrated each year in the same way that we celebrate his dream. I wonder what this country would be like if Beyond Vietnam was the one that little children had grown up on. I wonder how different things would have been.

But he who controls the people, controls the message. So fifty years later, we are still dreaming.

Spokane County Redistricting

WASHINGTON

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..and submit your public comments

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.

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Subscriptions:

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

Advertising:

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WE GON' BE ALRIGHT: A SPACE FOR BLACK HEALING

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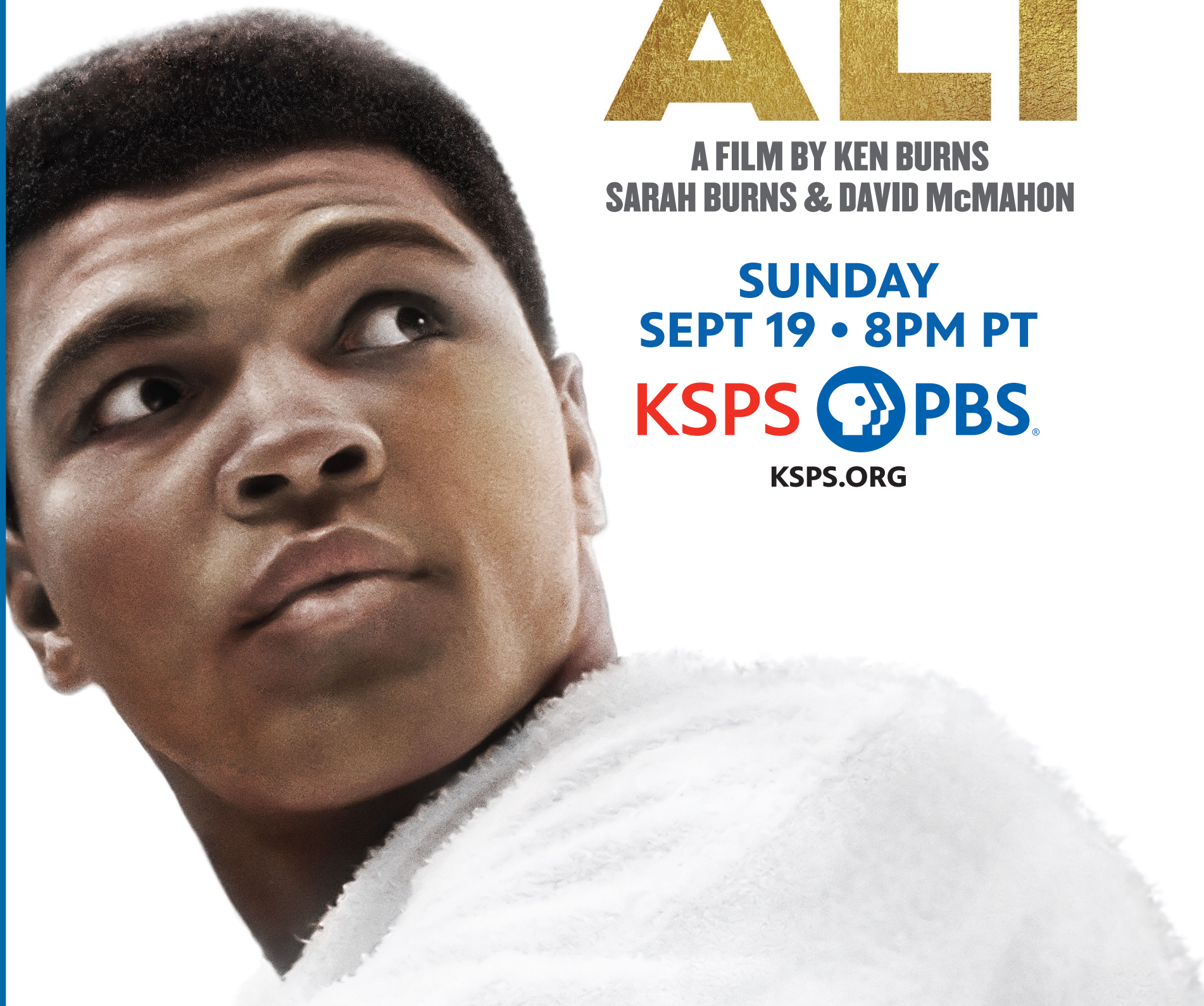
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YOU SHOULD KNOW

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

Frances Scott: Giving Honor Where Honor Is Due

By Dr. Roberta J. Wilburn

As this school year begins there are many things that students and their families need to adjust too. Some students will be returning to the classroom for the first time in a year, others may continue to be schooled at home. There are issues of mask mandates, the new Delta variant, debate on Critical Race Theory and what should be taught to make our curriculum more inclusive. Another change that some students will face will be school name changes and different mascots. In all of these issues there are people on both sides of the issue and none of these decisions were made easily. One decision that I am very pleased that Spokane Public Schools made was the decision to change the name of Sheridan Elementary School.

The accomplishments of African American women are often overlooked in the chronicles of history. We often do not get the recognition we deserve because our voices have been silenced, others have taken credit for our work, and we don't have people who advocate on our behalf. We are in a point in history where we need to honor our unsung heroes who have made a significant impact in our communities and the broader society. Francis L. Scott is one of Spokane's unsung heroes that has largely been overlooked in Spokane's history but that is about to change. The school that had formerly been named Sheridan Elementary has a name change and its new name is Francis L. Scott Elementary.

Some of you may be wondering why this name change is significant. Here are some of the reasons:

1. The name of an existing school within the Spokane Public School system hasn't been changed since 1915.
2. Until recently there were only two out of the 45 public schools that had been named after a woman.
3. There has never been a Spokane Public School named after an African American woman before.
4. Francis L. Scott has made noteworthy contributions to the Spokane community in many different arenas that most people do not know about.
5. Francis L. Scott was an educator in the Spokane Public Schools for over 30 years.

Those of you who don't know anything about Francis L. Scott might confuse her with the more widely known Francis Scott Key, who penned the "Star Spangled Banner" which became this country's national



Frances L. Scott (11/04/1921 - 10/12/2010) teaches a class at Rogers High in 1989. (Spokesman-Review photo archives)

anthem. It is interesting to note that if you Google Francis Scott or even Francis L. Scott, you will get a lot of information on Francis Scott Key who in addition to writing the National Anthem is also known to have a legacy of being a "reluctant patriot" and gained his wealth being a slave owner.

On the other hand, trying to find information about Francis, L. Scott takes more effort. Until the Sheridan name change, she probably would have gone on in relative obscurity except for those in Spokane who knew of her and her work.

Francis L. Scott spent more than thirty years as a teacher at Rogers High School where she taught English and German. She was a dedicated educator and even after she completed a law degree at the age of 54, she continued teaching at Rogers to ensure that the students of color had at least one teacher that looked like them. However, she also believed that white students should see Black people in the role of a teacher. According to Greg Mason, Frances said that white students "need to see Blacks in some roles other than scrubbing floors."

Frances, initially saw Black people in professional roles when she was growing up in Georgia. That changed once she moved to Spokane where there were few examples of Black professionals when she arrived in Spokane at age 14. This may have been the primary reason she remained in the field of education for more than three decades. Scott also taught English at Fort Wright College's Upward Bound Pro-

gram, was president of the Spokane Education Association, and president of the Washington State University Board of Regents. Having served at Whitworth University's School of Education for over fourteen years myself, I am proud to say, that Frances Scott received her teaching degree from Whitworth College in 1958, which enabled her to become one of the Spokane School District's first four Black teachers.

Frances was not only a trailblazer in Spokane's educational system, she also opened the doors for females in law by becoming Spokane's first African American woman attorney when she graduated from Gonzaga Law School in 1978 and passed the Bar in 1979. She was also an avid advocate for civil rights and social justice which was demonstrated by her work with the Spokane Branch of the NAACP to increase jobs for Black people in Spokane. Frances believed in non-violence, but she did not believe that people should remain silent about the injustices in society.

To gain insight into the process of the school's name change, I had the privilege of interviewing Larry Quisano, principal at the former Sheridan Elementary School. Larry has been at Sheridan Elementary for seven years, and also got his degree from Whitworth. He first became concerned about the name of his elementary school when a 4th grade student, Kiley Mitchell-Gregg, did a report and uncovered that the school had been named after a war general who advocated slaughtering Native American women and children and is credited for saying that "the only good Indian was a dead Indian."

Quisano said that having the school named after someone who not only disrespected but also did violence against the ancestors of students who attended the school was not indicative of the inclusive environment he was trying to create. It also made some students and their families not want to come to the school and was sending a wrong message to the community. Quisano later took steps to change the name of the school. Two years after Kiley initially did her school report, both he and Kiley testified at the hearing to change the school's name, .

Frances Scott's name was proposed for the new middle school that is going to be built in Spokane but it wasn't selected. Then it was one of the 220 names proposed for Sheridan. The 220 names were narrowed down to 10 and then to three. Frances L. Scott's name was selected over the other two suggested names of East Central and Unity Elementary.

Quisano spoke to Scott's eldest daughter and she said she was so honored to have the school named after her mother. She said she never thought she would see a school named after a Black person.

It is long overdue that Frances L. Scott received the recognition that she deserves. It is about time we are giving honor where honor is due....Frances L. Scott, one of Spokane's unsung heroes, we salute you!





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Can You See the Clouds Gathering?



By Kiantha Duncan
President, Spokane NAACP

I was awakened to-
night by the sound of
rain crashing down on
my house. The rain
was so hard and fast
that it frightened me.
I jumped up in haste,
concerned that I may
have neglected to
close all of the win-
dows before falling
asleep. The night air

had been crisp and fresh as the warm nights of summer
seamlessly disappeared into the gentle breeze of fall.

By nature, I love the rain. Its ability to cleanse the earth
and water all of the growing things is part of a magical
ecosystem and yet, it is both destructive and damaging if
you are not prepared for its arrival.

As I moved about the house I thought back to earlier
during the day when I was out running errands. I did not
recall seeing the clouds gathering. Had I missed the sign
of the rain's arrival?

Had I overlooked the clouds gathering together in a hud-
dle, their clear airiness held together with the dark gray
shadow of waterfall? Was I too busy thinking about what
I needed to get done that I missed nature's clues of what
was to come?

The Spokane NAACP is not unlike all community organi-
zations and institutions who are trying to determine next

moves in the midst of one of the greatest pandemics of our
time. We are both impacted and affected by all that is un-
folding locally and nationally as a result of Covid-19 and
its deadly variants.

The Delta variant is yet again ravaging through our com-
munities leaving hospitalizations and deaths at an all-time
pandemic high. Our state issued vaccination and mask
mandates have become a war of wills. Each person feel-
ing justified in their personal decision around compliance.
Communities of color and those living in poverty continue
to be disproportionately impacted as the Covid-19 virus
remains no respecter of persons.

There is no community, no family, no organization or insti-
tution untouched by the devastation this virus has brought
us, yet we remain divided.

Social tensions continue to swell in our community as
there is what appears to be a racial divide among those
who are willing and able to be vaccinated and masked. The
clouds are gathering. There are those who accept that the
reality of the world as we knew it has forever changed by
the health storm that is the Covid-19 pandemic.

There are some that look at government mask and vaccine
mandates as a means of control, an attempted coup of sorts
on their civil liberties, and there are those such as the brave
medical responders who have worked tirelessly over the
past year and a half, traumatized by the aftermath of this
terrible storm, as the clouds continue to gather for yet an-
other wave or torrential rains.

Like in every storm, there are those of us who stay warm
and dry in the comfort of our homes, only waking to make
sure the windows are closed and there are members of our
human family who remain houseless, under resourced and
over-burdened by the harsh impact of this and all storms.

As a social and racial justice organization, my fear is that
once again we are not paying close enough attention to
the clouds that are gathering. Just as we saw during the

insurrection on January 6th, extremist groups are staking
their place and loading their guns, readying themselves for
a revolt.

We must come together as a community to activate on
behalf of those of us who will be caught in the crossfire
of the war storm that is brewing. Like in all war, there
will be casualties. Like in all storms there will be damage.
The casualties in this social war will be our overburdened
health care system, disproportionately impacted BIPOC
communities and those who have historically not been
beneficiaries of our unjust societal systems. Once again,
we are watching as privilege divides us and sneakily sets
up camps of soldiers waiting for the signal to attack.

Can you see the clouds gathering? I certainly can and my
level of concern for mankind is once again heightened.

NAACP

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NICE DAY
TO CANCEL
STUDENT DEBT

#MEMINUSSTUDENTDEBT

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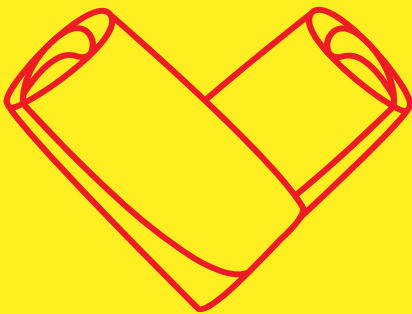
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BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Capitol Hill Police Officer Who Shot Jan 6 Insurrectionist Reveals His Identity

By Christopher Rhodes
(Source: Christopher Rhodes, blavity.com, Barbara Sprunt, npr.org)

Lt. Michael Byrd, the Capitol Hill police officer who shot Ashli Babbitt, an Air Force veteran who was among the insurrectionists who stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 attempting to stop lawmakers from certifying the Electoral College results in favor of Joe Biden, revealed his identity publicly in an interview with Lester Holt of NBC Nightly News.

Byrd, who has been a member of the Capitol Police for 28 years, spoke about the threats he's received since the January 6 riot and the "vicious and cruel things" that have been said about him.

"They talked about killing me, cutting off my head, very vicious and cruel things," Byrd said of threats, including "racial attacks" against him.

"It's all disheartening," Byrd said in the interview, "because I know I was doing my job."



Byrd's interview revealed details of his actions that day, including a clip of him in the House chamber instructing members of Congress to put on gas masks after insurrectionists had deployed tear gas within the building. He also described in detail the events that led to him firing a single shot at Babbitt.

"I'd been yelling and screaming as loud as I could, please stop, get back, get back, stop," Byrd noted describing the scene as he and other police officers barricaded the door against the angry mob.

Once Babbitt, who was at the front of a group of insurrectionists, tried to climb through a smashed-out glass portion of a door that separated the rioters from

members of Congress in the Speaker's Lobby, Byrd shot Babbitt, who later died of her injuries.

Asked by Holt what he thought Babbitt, who was unarmed, was doing at the moment he shot her, Byrd responded, she "was posing a threat to the House of Representatives."

When questioned about accusations that there was a "political motive" behind the shooting, Byrd responded that "I do my job for Republicans, for Democrats, for white, for Black, for red, blue, green." Adding that if Trump was in the room, or anywhere, and Byrd was responsible for him, "I was prepared to do the same thing for him and his family."

The Capitol Police had kept Byrd's name confidential to protect his safety. His interview was released three days after the police force announced that Byrd acted within department policy on Jan. 6 and would not face disciplinary action. An official Capitol Police statement said that Byrd's actions "potentially saved members and staff from serious injury and possible death". In April the Justice Department as well said they would not seek charges.

Byrd said the threats made him concerned about revealing his identity. But, he said: "I believe I showed the utmost courage on Jan. 6. And it's time for me to do that now."



Jay-Z & Chris Paul Invest In Black-Owned Vegan Food Brand



(Source: Newsone.com)

A Black-owned vegan food brand called **Misha's Kind Foods** recently closed a \$3 million seed round with investments from Brooklyn native and NBA star Chris Paul, as well as Jay-Z's Marcy Ventures Partners, and Lisa Shamus & Partners.

Misha's is a Plant-Based, Dairy-Alternative Company. The company was created to put a plant-based, dairy-free spin on a variety of cheeses. After discovering there was a lack of alternative options, entrepreneurs and co-founders Aaron Bullock and Ian Martin launched their own business in 2018 at a Los Angeles Farmers Market. The brand's cheeses are 100% Plant Based, Lactose Free, Paleo, Keto, 100% Vegan, and made with NO vegetable oils, soy, filler, starches, or nutritional yeast. Misha's is made from locally sourced produce, herbs, and spices as well as organic almond and cashew milk, using traditional Artisan Cheese making methods.

The ever-growing vegan food industry is projected to reach \$31.4 billion by 2026.



For information visit <https://www.mishaskindfoods.com>.

San Francisco to Reinvest \$3.75M from Police Budget into Black Businesses



San Francisco Mayor London Breed
(Photo Courtesy: Facebook)

(Source: Biba Adams, thegriot.com)
The city of San Francisco has announced a plan to redirect \$3.75 million from its police budget to Black-owned businesses.

Mayor London Breed made the announcement in a statement on May 5 saying, "Across this country, and in our city, we've seen how the Black community's economic growth and prosperity has historically been disrupted and marginalized."

"This funding is part of our efforts to undo the harm of generations of disinvestment and economic inequities. As we work to recover and make San Francisco a better place to live, work, and do business, we have to invest our resources in a way that lifts up and supports African American small business owners, entrepreneurs, and the entire community," said Breed.

The initiative will be an investment by the Office of Economic and Workforce Development and is also a part of the city's Dream Keeper Initiative.

17 Black-serving community organizations will receive funding "to provide services and achieve

improved economic development outcomes for African American businesses, entrepreneurs, and the African American and Black communities in San Francisco more broadly. Investments focus on helping African American small businesses and entrepreneurs in San Francisco start, stabilize, or grow their businesses."

"This funding represents an investment in the community and addressing the wealth and opportunity gaps created by years of biased policies and approaches," said Sheryl Davis, Executive Director of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission.

"There is tremendous talent and potential that has been stifled by our biased policies and strategies. Through this process we will see the implementation of creative and innovative programs that have the potential to support and benefit all of San Francisco and not just the Black community," she continued.

The Dream Keeper Initiative was created in 2020 in the wake of the murder of George Floyd by former police officer Derek Chauvin in Minneapolis. It is part of a larger plan to redirect resources from the San Francisco Police Department to support the city's African American community.

Morehouse College in Atlanta Reports Largest Group of New Students

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

Morehouse College in Atlanta, one of the nation's most prestigious historically Black colleges, has announced that it has the largest entering class in the history of the educational institution.

The 973 new traditional and online students represent an increase of 70 percent compared with fall 2020. The 701 traditional residential students in the new student group is a 23 percent increase from fall 2020 and includes 637 first-time freshmen and 64 transfer students.

The group also includes the inaugural class of 272 non-traditional men in Morehouse's online de-

gree completion program, with an average age of 39.

The fall 2021 first-time freshman class of traditional students represents an increasingly selective cadre, with an average grade point average of 3.51, compared with average GPAs of 3.33 and 3.28 for the fall 2020 and fall 2019 classes, respectively.

"Morehouse continues to find new ways to extend our uniquely transformative experience to more talented students," said David A. Thomas, president of Morehouse College.



BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Rev. Jesse Jackson Moved to Rehab Center After COVID-19 Diagnosis, Wife Jacqueline Moved to ICU



WASHINGTON, DC - SEPTEMBER 15: (L-R) Jesse Jackson and his wife Jacqueline Brown attend the Phoenix Dinner for the 48th Annual Congressional Black Caucus Foundation on September 15, 2018 in Washington, DC. (Photo by Earl Gibson III/Getty Images)

(Source: J.L. Cook, theroot.com)

The family of the Rev. Jesse Jackson announced last week that the civil rights icon has been transferred to a rehabilitation facility and his wife, Jacqueline, was moved to the intensive care unit as they continue treatment for COVID-19.

The Jacksons were initially admitted to Chicago’s Northwestern Memorial Hospital a week ago after testing positive for the virus.

ABC News 7 in Chicago reported that while Rev. Jackson, 79, has recovered from COVID-19, his family says the symptoms of his Parkinson’s disease have “become more in focus.” He is now at the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab, according to ABC 7, where he will undergo intensive occupational and physical therapy.

Meanwhile, ABC 7 reports that Jacqueline Jackson, 77, is receiving increased oxygen at Northwestern Memorial’s ICU. She is still breathing on her own and hasn’t been placed on a ventilator.

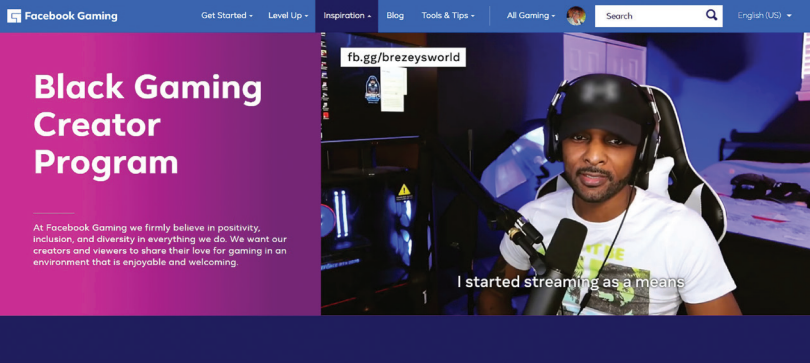
The family praised the medical care Jackson and his wife are receiving, and urged everyone who has not yet been vaccinated to do so “immediately.”

“We continue to receive the love that is being poured out to our family from around the world and it is greatly appreciated, as we express our love and concern for the millions of people who have been victimized by the COVID-19 virus and its variants. We know this is a dangerous disease so please remain prayerful for all of those who are suffering as a result,” the family said in a statement.

Rev. Jackson received his first dose of the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine during a January news conference, and has encouraged Black communities to do the same. A Jackson family spokesman told NBC Chicago that Jacqueline Jackson has not been vaccinated. He declined to elaborate further.

Rev. Jackson and Jacqueline have been married for nearly 60 years. The couple has six children.

Facebook Reopens Applications For \$10M Black Gaming Creator Program



(Source Alexa Imani Spencer, black-enterprise.com)

Facebook Gaming is helping Black gamers take their gaming career to the next level through its Black Gaming Creator Program. The two-year initiative supports the Black gaming community with \$10 million in funding, in addition to other benefits.

The program reopened its applications in August.

The Black Gaming Creator Program, which was introduced last December, is part of the \$200 million commitment Facebook made to Black-owned businesses and nonprofits last June, according to Adweek.

The company also made a \$25 million commitment to support Black creators via its We the Culture program last June.

Program benefits include:

- ~Receiving guaranteed monthly pay
- ~Receiving early access to new streaming features and tools to help gaming creators grow their community
- ~Taking part in regular feedback sessions with Facebook Gaming’s product teams to help create the platform’s future
- ~Becoming an official Facebook Gaming Partner, with badges added to participants’ pages on Facebook Gaming
- ~Gaining access to a private Facebook group with members of the Facebook Gaming team
- ~Attending bi-monthly summits focused on mentorship and training and featuring established Black

gaming creators who will provide encouragement and guidance

~Applying to onboard monetization features including Fan Subscriptions, Live Ads and Stars, as long as the participant meets Facebook’s integrity-based requirements for these products

Facebook’s Director of Global Gaming Creator Partnerships Luis Renato said in a statement, “We’re excited to reopen applications for the Black Gaming Creator Program’s second year and are eager to see the next wave of great gaming creators at Facebook Gaming. With many new partners in the first year, this program is proof of the growing excitement for entertaining, diverse and creative personalities and new communities within game streaming.”

A first-year participant, The Fierce Diva said the gaming space offered a unique way to give back to communities in a need. “For the majority of my life, I struggled to find what I wanted to do. However, the central concept to my professional endeavors was assisting or advocating for communities in need,” the gamer said. “Through streaming, I found that I could do this at a broader scale and build a community for people to become better versions of themselves. Streaming on Facebook has given me an opportunity to engage with people and give back to a community in the gaming space.”

To apply for the program visit: <https://www.facebook.com/fbgaminghome/creators/black-gaming-creators-program> Applications close 10/29/21.

HBCU Recruits Teen Basketball Player With One Arm

Source: blacknews.com

Nationwide — Hansel Emmanuel Donato Dominguez, a 17-year old from Florida who is a star basketball player with just one arm, has been offered a full scholarship to play for Tennessee State University, an HBCU in Nashville.

At the age of 6, Emmanuel had his left arm amputated when a wall collapsed on him while he was playing in his native Dominican Republic. His father was able to rescue him but only after 2 hours of being trapped, causing him to lose his arm.

Despite the limitation, Emmanuel pushed through and became a skillful basketball player. He moved to the United States in 2020 after receiving a scholarship to play basketball at Life Christian Academy school in Kissimmee, Florida.



Most recently, he earned his first Division I offer. He took to his Instagram, “Blessed to receive my first D1 offer from Tennessee State University.”

His parents are proud of him, especially his



father Hansel Salvador Donato, who is a former pro basketball player in the Dominican Republic.

“My life fell apart when Hansel’s accident happened. I was the one with him and

when they had to amputate his arm, I felt like it was all over. But God grabbed us and led us down this path,” his father told the Orlando Sentinel.

“You remember everything [from the accident] because a blow like this is not forgotten, so quickly regardless of all that he is achieving, thanks to God.”

Moreover, Emmanuel is still in the process of learning the English language but said that his teammates had been helpful to him and they “understand each other between shots to the basket.” He said his faith in God also helps him to become successful in what he does.

“It’s not about what I want to achieve or do in life, it’s what God wants from me,” he said.

AFRICA NEWS

News Highlights From and About the Continent of Africa

Resistance Among Young African Women

By BlackPressUSA (NNPA NEWSWIRE)

WASHINGTON, DC – “It is only by being “too much” that new cracks in the wall of patriarchal dictatorships can emerge.”

These words from award-winning blogger and Pan-African feminist activist, Rosebell Kagumire in her essay entitled “African Young Women Resisting Beyond Borders” underscores young African women’s utilization of the Internet to bring attention to sexual violence, police brutality, and gender disparities. A recent chain of events emphasizing resistance on a global stage, has opened the doors for the composition to make its way to the forefront of conversations again.

At the Tokyo Olympics, United States gymnast, Simone Biles, sent shock waves throughout the world when she withdrew from the team competition and later individual events, to focus on her mental health. Citing the necessity of having her body and mind in sync, the now seven-time Olympic medalist chose not to follow the status quo of “pushing through.” Instead, she used her platform to emphasize the power of using one’s voice and actions to draw attention to unrealistic expectations, supremacy structures, and the muting of victims.

Kagumire does the same by highlighting the various ways these women have developed a collective voice to demand an end to experienced injustices. Her essay begins with an explanation regarding last year’s Twitter uproar after dozens of Ugandan women disclosed they’re victims of sexual assault and harassment. Referencing movements that have pushed for accountability and consequences, Kagumire referred to the viral revealing as “Uganda’s own #MeToo movement.”

“These young women were building on the bravery of women who had earlier told their stories despite the public wrath they faced.”

Noting mounting displeasure, Kagumire explains how the “patriarchal power” structure uses its authority to silence women. Standing in the gap for those afraid to



Women and men at the #ArewaMeToo rally in Kano State, Nigeria.
Photo Credit: Abubakar Shehu at African Arguments

speak publicly, Sheena Bageine, a social media activist, anonymously posted their stories online. Subsequently, her arrest triggered a new Twitter hashtag.

“Young Ugandan women responded, from lawyers to mental health specialists to social media warriors, and the #FreeSheena hashtag trended. Within a few hours, she had become a liability for compromised police who released her on bail. Sheena’s case is still ongoing. But the actions of her peers and the solidarity she evoked shows how agile young women’s mobilization in the digital age is, despite the entrenched hegemonies that still prevail in daily life.”

Kagumire contends in her essay that despite the resistance, “millions of young women across the African continent have found a common voice for community building, organizing, and mobilization, taking advantage of the steady increase of Internet penetration and the proliferation of cheaper smartphones.”

To support this fact, she references a 2019 Afrobarometer report stating, “women who regularly use the Internet has more

than doubled over the past five years in 34 African countries.” The percentage increased from 11 to 26. Despite the rise, women are still less likely to own a mobile phone, computer, or phone with Internet capabilities, access the Internet regularly, or receive their news from an online source.

Although accessibility is limited, women like Biles continue to seize opportunities to underline injustices as they arise. Later, in her writing, Kagumire steers the conversation back to the use of hashtags to create awareness around long perceived “women’s issues.”

The #SudanWomenProtest, which began in 2019, targeted the leadership of Omar al Bashir (former Sudan head of state). Thousands of women united in rejecting policies that gave credence to sexist and discriminatory laws. The revolt was a shock to many despite the years of resistance from Sudanese women. Social media provided them with a platform to spread their message abroad, resulting in an overthrow of the Bashir regime.

In areas where online access remains limited, “young feminist movements and collectives remain marginalized even in young people’s movements pushing for political changes.” Kagumire stated. “Young people in Africa are increasingly organizing in search of radical change in the way African nations are governed, to deliver dignity and respect for citizens’ voices. Without the equal participation and leadership of young feminists, however, such a social transformation will remain elusive.”

Absolutes such as these are the reasons it’s imperative for women to gather to strategize and implement plans of action. While the organization of like-minded individuals in many African countries is becoming more of a focus in mainstream media, the years of work is evident.

In 2006, women from various African countries met to establish the African Feminist Forum. According to charter documents, “the space was crafted as an autonomous space in which African feminists from all walks of life at different levels of engagement within the feminist movement such as mobilizing at local levels for women’s empowerment to academia, could reflect on a collective basis and chart ways to strengthen and grow the feminist movement on the continent.”

As many of the movements have hinged upon grassroots efforts, Kagumire points out the necessity of women in parliament positions to generate lasting change. To create a power shift, women must continue to demand that their humanity be recognized even if it’s deemed as “asking for too much.”

Rosebell Kagumire is also a writer and communications strategist. She is the current curator and editor of African-Feminism.com. Kagumire is also the co-editor of ‘The Role of Patriarchy in the Roll-back of Democracy, focusing on East Africa and the Horn of Africa (available for free to download visit <https://ke.boell.org/en/2020/05/21/challenging-patriarchythe-role-patriarchy-roll-back-democracy>).

Two Arch Enemies Embrace and Put Civil War Behind Them

(TriceEdneyWire.com/GIN)

“I’m happy to see you!” With those warm words of welcome, Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara hugged his former arch enemy and rival Laurent Gbagbo, 10 years after the two were locked in ethnically-fueled combat over a disputed election.

Former president Gbagbo has now returned to the land of his birth one year after his acquittal by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for alleged crimes against humanity.

Gbagbo, 76, was the first former head of state to face trial at the ICC. He was charged with murder, rape and other inhuman crimes resulting from post-electoral violence in 2010-11 in which some 3,000 people died.

On his arrival this week at the airport in Abidjan, Gbagbo was cheered by hundreds of supporters - those who were able to access the airport as well as relatives and officials from his Ivorian Popular Front party.

Both men are now calling for peace and reconciliation. At a news conference upon their meeting, President Ouattara declared that turmoil was behind them. “What is important for Ivory Coast is peace in our country,” he said.

Koudou Laurent Gbagbo was president of Côte d’Ivoire from 2000 until his arrest in April 2011 for refusing to hand over power when the country’s independent electoral



commission pronounced Ouattara as winner of the national election. Gbagbo dug in his heels at his apparent defeat and the crisis escalated into full-scale military conflict between forces loyal to Mr. Gbagbo and Mr. Ouattara.

Ouattara’s forces seized control of most of the country with the help of the UN and African institutions, among them the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). France deployed Operation Unicorn and the U.S. called for Gbagbo to step down.

International organizations reported human rights violations by both sides. In the city of Duékoué, Ouattara’s forces killed hundreds of people but casualties were reported on both sides.

Despite a promise by ECOWAS for a “safe and dignified exit for Gbagbo and his family if he conceded the election”, forces loyal to Ouattara broke into Gbagbo’s underground bunker and arrested him and his family who were still in their night clothes.

“It is important for everyone to know that we have decided to restore trust and ensure that Ivorians reconcile and trust each other as well. The past events have been painful. Too many died and we must try to put that behind us,” Ouattara was quoted by France24 to say.

However prospects for a lasting peace were downplayed by Ivorian writer, poet and novelist Veronique Tadjo. She blamed a generational conflict where youth feel left out even after years of economic growth.

The meeting of the two leaders signaled a first step for a national dialogue and the release of political prisoners from jail but little is expected for the next few weeks until after the National Day of Independence, a public holiday, celebrated on Aug. 7.

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.



HEALTHY KIDS ARE BETTER STUDENTS

There is a strong connection between academic performance and a student’s health. The Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Medicaid provide children (through 18) with the care needed to improve their ability to participate in the classroom and meet school health requirements.

MOST UNINSURED CHILDREN ARE ELIGIBLE FOR COVERAGE



87% Nearly 87% of all eligible uninsured children are school-aged.

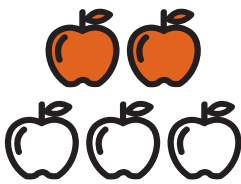
Percentage of school-aged students (ages 6-18) that receive health coverage through Medicaid and CHIP.



37%
ALL STUDENTS



79%
STUDENTS LIVING IN POVERTY



Almost 2 out of 5 school-aged children received their health coverage through Medicaid and CHIP in 2016.

DID YOU KNOW?

Your child may qualify for free or low-cost health coverage through Medicaid or CHIP.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Children in a household of four earning up to \$56,000 annually may qualify for free medical coverage. Families of four earning up to \$84,000 annually may be eligible for low-cost coverage with premiums of \$20 or \$30 each month for each child (no copays or deductibles).

Children with Medicaid and CHIP have access to immunizations, check-ups, eye exams, dental visits, mental health care, and prescriptions.

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Backpacks and Haircuts

MLK Center Hosts Back to School Community Fair



Martin Luther King Center Receives Bank of America Grant to Support Summer Youth Employment Program

SPOKANE, Wash.— As a part of its \$1.25 billion, five-year commitment to advance racial equality and economic opportunity, Bank of America provided the Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center in Spokane's East Central Neighborhood with an \$80,000 grant for their Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP).

The SYEP connects high school students with career exploration opportunities and paid work experience during the summer. Participants will explore their interests and career pathways, develop workplace training and engage in learning experiences that help develop social, civic and leadership skills.

With help from the bank's grant, students will also receive a wage of \$14/hour for the four-week program. They will also have the option to continue work once school begins.

"Washington is ranked 10th in the nation for teenage unemployment. This means our youth, especially those who are at-risk or low-in-

come, are missing out on important skill building opportunities to prepare them for their futures," said Freda Gandy, MLK Executive Director.

The MLK Center will place participants with local small businesses and minority-owned businesses like Native Project, Wishing Tree Books, Wake Up Call and Larry's Barber Shop. Through the SYEP program, business owners will have the opportunity to help develop a diverse pipeline of talent by serving as mentors and providing critical workforce experience while addressing the worker shortage and receiving additional support.

SYEP participants will be asked to dedicate 25 hours a week to the business they are placed with. Another five hours will go towards workshops covering money management and developing other soft skills.

Applications from students and businesses were accepted through August 15. For more information email Freda Gandy: fgandy@mlkspokane.org.

I got the COVID-19 vaccine because I want to see my parents. And I want to give every person I know a big hug.

Freda Gandy
Martin Luther King Jr.
Family Outreach Center

When it comes to vaccines, education is key.

Freda has helped people get informed about the vaccine, with a focus on communities of color. "Vaccines are the way to some sort of normalcy. I encourage people to make an educated decision to get vaccinated."

To schedule a vaccine, visit CovidVaccineWa.org



SERA's East Central Community Celebration 2021



Spokane Eastside Reunion Association (SERA) hosted their annual East Central Community Celebration at Underhill Park on Saturday, August 14 from 12 - 3pm. Each year the event brings the community together to celebrate the end of SERA's summer basketball camp, as well as shining a spotlight on the great things that are happening in the East Central neighborhood.

SERA provided free hot dogs, drinks, a bag of chips and a slice of cake for each attendee. There were games and activities for all ages, a watermelon eating contest, and a raffle that gave away tricycles and bicycles to a lucky few.

The highlight of the afternoon, however, was Michael Brown presenting certificates and trophies to each one of SERA's basketball campers, as parents, friends and community members cheered them on.

For more information about SERA visit: spokaneeastsidereunionassociation.com



If you know someone who seems to be

STRUGGLING EMOTIONALLY

here are some steps you can take to help:

Ask

It’s OK to ask a friend or loved one directly if they are struggling emotionally.



Be There

Listen with compassion and empathy and without dismissing or judging.



Keep Them Safe

If your friend is in crisis or considering self-harm, separate them from anything they could use to hurt themselves.

Follow Up

Check in with the person on a regular basis. Contacting a friend who is going through a time of emotional pain can make a big difference.

Help Them Connect

Help connect your loved one to a support system, whether it’s family, friends, clergy, coaches, or therapists. You can also give them information about calling WAListens, 1.833.681.0211, to speak to a support specialist or the regional crisis line, 1.877.266.1818, if they need immediate help.



covid.srhd.org/mental-health-and-coping

Despite Short-Term Rental Eviction Reprieve, No Permanent Solution Found

By Charlene Crowell

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - On August 4, an estimated 11 million American consumers facing imminent evictions gained a short-term reprieve, thanks to an eviction moratorium extension ordered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Effective August 3 through October 3, counties experiencing substantial and high levels of COVID-19 levels, many of which are driven by the surging delta variant are eligible for 75% of the approved \$46 billion still available. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has an online Rental Assistance Finder at www.consumerfinance.gov/renthelp, designed to connect renters and landlords with state and local programs distributing federal emergency rental assistance (ERA) nationwide.

It is critical for states and localities to turn their attention to distributing ERA funds more quickly. Program administrators can and should utilize the flexibilities the Treasury Department provided, and ensure that programs' barriers – like burdensome documentation requirements – are minimized.

According to CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky, “The emergence of the delta variant has led to a rapid acceleration of community transmission in the United States, putting more Americans at increased risk, especially if they are unvaccinated. This moratorium is the right thing to do to keep people in their homes and out of congregate settings where COVID-19 spreads.”

The action came on the heels of a ‘sleep-in’ protest on the steps of the Capitol, led by freshman legislator Rep. Cori Bush. Representing St. Louis and adjoining areas, Ms. Bush herself was once a homeless single mother, and vowed that the peaceful protest would continue until actions were taken to protect renters. She is also a registered nurse, ordained pastor, and the Deputy Whip for the Congressional Progressive Caucus. Her activism first gained public



U. S. Rep. Cori Bush (D-Mo.) stages a protest outside the U. S. Capitol Building, drawing national attention to homelessness and the need for the eviction reprieve. The Rev. Jesse Jackson (left) and Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas) stand in support of her. PHOTO: Roy Lewis/Trice Edney News Wire

attention following the death of Michael Brown, Jr. in Ferguson, MO.

Upon learning of the CDC moratorium extension, Rep. Bush said, “Over the last five days, our movement has received support from many of our House and Senate colleagues. Especially as a formerly unhoused person, I am grateful to each and every one of them for recognizing and working to end this eviction emergency and for amplifying the call to extend the eviction moratorium. It will take all of us working together to get this done. Each day that passes without a federal moratorium is another day of evictions, uncertainty, and instability for millions of people who are at risk of being removed from their homes.”

Only a few days earlier on July 27, the House Select Subcommittee on the Coro-

navirus Crisis, led by South Carolina Congressman Jim Clyburn, heard from another single mother, Katrina Chism of metro Atlanta, who testified to her lengthy and ongoing struggle to keep a roof over her family’s head.

“The fear of homelessness became a reality for me,” testified Ms.Chism. “I had never faced this type of stress before and I had no idea what I was going to be able to do with little income and no home.... In May, I ended up moving to another county further outside Atlanta, where I felt forced into a lease where my rent increased by several hundred dollars per month. I went from paying \$1245 to \$1600. It was really expensive to move. I had to pay for (movers, a U-Haul junk remover, a large deposit, application fees, etc.).”

Her testimony went on to recount details of the personal ordeal she endured that began with an August 2020 job layoff. During the two months it took to secure alternative work, she fell two months behind on her rent. On February 12 of this year, she applied for rental assistance - the first day that the Tenant-Landlord Assistance Coalition in DeKalb County began accepting applications. Her approved application was sent to Atlanta Legal Aid to help negotiate a resolution with her landlord using rental assistance through the county.

A month later in March, Ms. Chism again lost her job. Her legal aid attorney tried to negotiate repayments with the landlord over several weeks, including an updated proposal with higher numbers when another month’s rent was due. But by mid-April, the landlord rejected the proposal and issued notice that the lease set to expire in mid-May would not be renewed. The alternative housing for herself and her son prevented the family from becoming homeless; but the rent charged with the new landlord rose by \$355 each month.

“I felt expendable, and they showed me I was”, testified Ms. Chism. “I was not given any consideration as a long-term tenant with no evictions on my record ever. I felt as if I had broken the law somehow while we were in the middle of a pandemic.... There are so many people in this situation, and it is unfair. There is assistance out there to help relieve everyone of financial burden, but when corporations are greedy, they ignore the everyday person doing everything they can to survive.”

According to a related Aspen Institute report. “Currently, 22% of Black renters and 17% of Latinx renters are in debt to their landlords, compared to 15% overall and 11% of White renters. Rental debt is also challenging for renters with children, with 19% unable to make payments.”

Continued on Page 31



Behind on Your Rent or Mortgage?

Need Help with Utilities?

We Can Help.

The Carl Maxey Center has partnered with the City of Spokane, LiveStories and Better Health Together to provide emergency rental & utility assistance and mortgage assistance to address the disproportionate hardships faced by African Americans and people of color due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is designed to assist residents of the City of Spokane who qualify based on their income and are impacted by COVID-19, who are currently (or will be) struggling with past due, current due or future rent, utilities and past due residential mortgage payments.

Check To See If You Qualify

Visit CarlMaxeyCenter.org

For questions or application assistance call 509-309-2175.

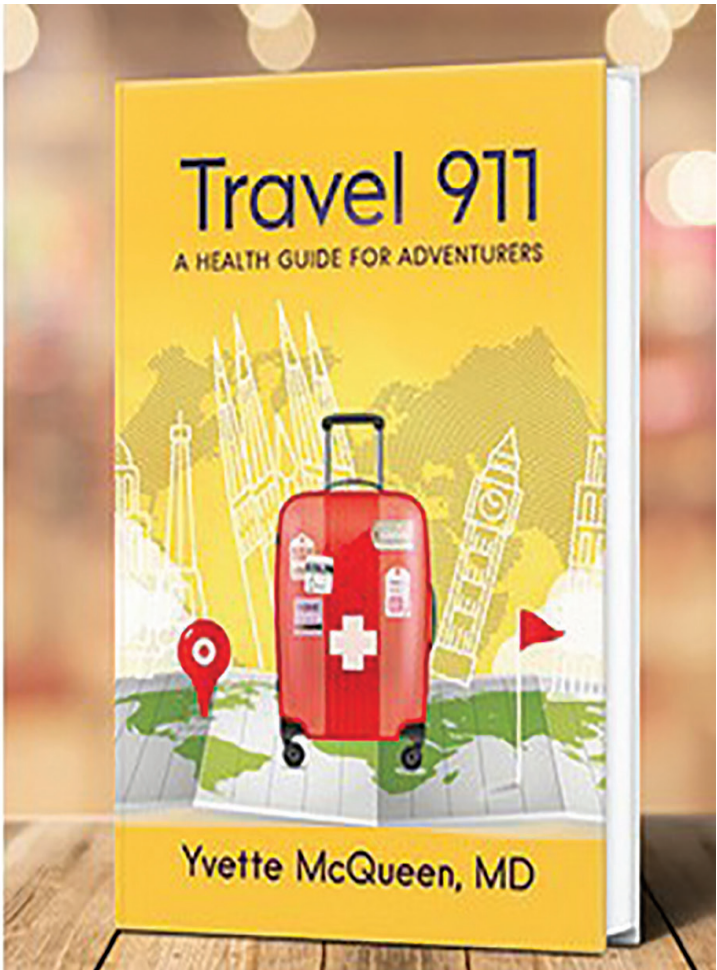


Afraid of Getting Sick While Traveling? Physician's New Book Offers Solutions

Atlanta, GA — COVID is not the only disease we have to worry about when we travel. While COVID has changed how we travel and shed light on how easily disease can spread throughout the population, there are a number of medical concerns that travelers should be aware of while jet-setting to their favorite destinations. In this newest release by global traveling physician Dr. Yvette McQueen, *Travel 911: A Health Guide for Adventurers*, she offers the solution to safe travel for those that are ready to dust off their suitcases safely.

“You have planned and paid for your [travel] experience, but the one thing you probably didn’t plan for is sickness and emergencies,” states Dr. McQueen. In this book, she provides guidance for handling common medical concerns while traveling. From what to pack to traveler’s diarrhea to skin issues, you will be introduced to and advised on a wide range of possible, unfortunate occurrences that could affect not only how pleasant your trip is but also how well you recover from unexpected medical events.

Dr. McQueen is an Emergency Medicine physician, working across the US and the Caribbean. She has traveled to 40+ international countries for exploring; organizes medical missions to Africa; hospital training/teaching in



Rwanda and Tanzania; and participates in international church missions.

It is her mission to educate the masses about health, travel wellness, and disease prevention and she hopes this book will do just that. This book is your

answer to common medical problems that may occur and also provides preventative measures and quick first aid tips that will hopefully help you avoid unforeseen health hazards. A Doctor in your pocket.

Travel 911: A Health Guide for Adventurers can be purchased at Travel-911Book.com

For information or review copies, please email dryvette@yvettemcqueenmd.com

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A study recently published in the Journal of the American College of Radiology* suggests that annual screening mammograms, beginning at age 40, provide women the best chance at finding, treating and surviving breast cancer. To schedule your annual mammogram, call 509.455.4455, or visit inlandimaging.com/schedule. **EARLY DETECTION SAVES LIVES.**

* The study was conducted by Samir B. Patel, MD, of Elkhart General Hospital in Elkhart, Indiana.

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Deen Centric

A Column from Spokane's Black Muslim Community



By Fatmah Pennekamp

My name is Fatmah Pennekamp. I was born and raised in a small town in Uganda called Soroti. I was also born and raised as a Muslim. Practicing Islam was what we were taught from childhood. We went to the mosque to pray every Friday at noon. The schools we attended let us leave school for one hour to attend Friday prayers. We also went to “Madrassa,” the Arabic word for school, every weekend to learn Arabic and read the holy Quran. My community raised us like that saying, “it takes a village to raise a child.” We lived with fear because you know someone is watching you every minute. If it is not the community, it is Allah “God.”

Practicing Islam was done with confidence, but after coming to America, the culture of life is different. It is like you have places you can wear your hijab, and there are places I feel uncomfortable wearing a hijab, especially being a Muslim

and of African descent. Why wouldn't the people living on this earth love, live, and respect one another no matter where, how, and who they are. The Quran and the bible both say we are all created in his image.

One aspect I miss about my place of birth is that all Muslim children and employees get a chance to be home with their families during Islamic holidays. Here in Spokane, I have come across all Muslim friends working during the Islamic holidays, and if asking for the day off, you have to take your vacation time. It is not a paid vacation. According to Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, employers with more than 15 employees must make reasonable accommodations for an individual's religious observations as long as it will not cause undue hardship to the employer. I understand the challenge that many employers face due to the realities of EID not falling on the same day every year, due to it following the lunar cycle as observed by either local Islamic authorities, a set lunar calendar, or the leaders in Saudi Arabia.

The unfortunate aspect that I have run into is more straightforward than that, and it is the mentality aimed at minority religious groups in the United States on public display from the most powerful offices in the land. Living in a relatively conservative area that has been identified as the last white refuge by extremist groups, how are we supposed to feel comfortable even asking for some small accommodation one or two days a year.

WASHINGTON NONPROFITS: Supporting Nonprofits So You Can Support Your Community

- LEARNING
- ADVOCACY
- COLLABORATION

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Plus: Baked goods including breads & sweets • Honey • Teas • Health & beauty items • Hot food • Specialties • Cheese • Jewelry & leatherwork

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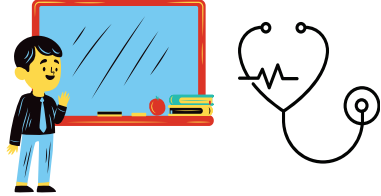
More info at market.emersongarfield.org

JOIN THE COMMUNITY VOICES COUNCIL!



WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY VOICES COUNCIL?

The Community Voices Council believes no one in our region should experience a difference in access to care due to their identity, income, or ability. The Council makes recommendations to Better Health Together and local health care leaders to support this vision.



ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

You're eligible to join the Community Voices Council if you:

- are currently on medicaid (Apple Health)
- have first-hand experience accessing health care or social services and are comfortable talking to others about those experiences
- like to talk to their neighbors and community about what issues are impacting them
- enjoy coming up with thoughtful ideas that help their community and neighbors
- have the time to attend the monthly meeting



WHY JOIN THE COMMUNITY VOICES COUNCIL?

It is an opportunity to make your voice heard, represent your community, and be part of meaningful change in the healthcare field.

Eligible participants receive a stipend for participating in monthly meetings.

HOW DO YOU JOIN?

If you're interested or have questions, please get in touch with Reese Holford by emailing reese@betterhealthtogether.org.

Apply online: tinyurl.com/rdmrym6f

Learn more about us at www.betterhealthtogether.org

Your Voice is Needed

By Erin Bartlett Lipsker and Cyndi Parris

We are two passionate parents who know that children of color deserve a school environment that is loving, nurturing, and supportive of their young growing personalities. After the Spokane School Board passed their Equity Resolution last year, we partnered with education nonprofit Stand for Children and hosted our first monthly listening session for parents and caregivers with students of color in Spokane Public Schools. One year and eleven listening sessions later, we are inspired by the commitment of families who have shared their stories with us and are encouraged by the value school board members, teachers, staff and administrators have gained from these sessions.

It is our intention that these meetings will continue to be a safe space for families to express their concerns and share their experiences. We hope that by bringing our community together we can hold our district accountable and make lasting change for every BIPOC student who will walk the halls of our schools. Because our sessions were attended by Spokane Public Schools administrators Nicole Jenkins-Rosenkrantz and Dr. Oscar Harris, our stories were heard, acknowledged, and addressed directly. Nicole and Dr. Harris also helped us navigate the often hard-to-find resources available to our families.

Through our own experiences, and the experiences of our students, we have long known that there are teachers in our schools who support racist ideologies. We know the pain of feeling unheard and unseen, and the heartbreak of watching our students give up trying to make change. Every month, parents from across the district have shown up to share their struggles, frustration, and gratitude. We have found strength in our common stories and in knowing that other parents like us were longing for this type of community space.

As one parent eloquently shared, “For me, it’s been a privilege to participate and learn in the monthly listening sessions. As parents and family members, I think sometimes our past experiences make us hesitant to speak up. We don’t want to make a big deal of anything or make it harder for our children, but when we do speak up and are brave and courageous even when it’s scary, we’re not only standing up for our children, we’re standing up for others too.”

Katie McCrea, a Support Specialist in SPS, reflected to us about the sessions and their impact on her as a white woman: “I have been rocked to the core by these sessions... We can read books and attend workshops on racial equity but hearing directly from the voices of parents in SPS has been truly invaluable.”



As the school year approaches, we plan to continue this valuable and necessary work. We would love to hear from you! Please join us online on the second Monday of every month at 6:30pm.

Our first meeting of the 2021-22 school year will be September 13th (Register: bit.ly/listeningspokane).

We hope you’ll join us to share your experiences, have an opportunity to listen, and help us advance towards a more equitable and just future together.

For more information visit: <http://stand.org/washington>

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Do You Know A Human Rights Champion?

Nominations Due Sept 8

Spokane's Human Rights Organizations: The City of Spokane's Human Rights Commission (SHRC) & The Spokane County Human Rights Task Force (SCHRTF), in partnership with Gonzaga Institute for Hate Studies (GIHS) are planning a gala Human Rights Awards Event to be held on November 6th, 2021, provided conditions allow.

In partnership with Gonzaga Institute for Hate Studies, the event will also honor this year's winners of the "Eva Lassman Take Action Against Hate Award".

The three organizations are asking for help to find the 2021 Spokane Human Rights Award Champions who will be celebrated at the dinner.

We all work, live, or play with special people, even special organizations, or groups. Those en-

lightened friends, neighbors, or co-workers who, alone or in concert with others, find ways day in and day out to help others in need. This is how we can thank them, honor them, promote who and what they are, what they do, selflessly.

Visit: <https://bit.ly/3DwdDyR> to complete the nomination form.

Nominations are due September 8, 2021. During the month of September, we will select the recipients and video the nominees. The videos will be presented the night of the gala as the recipients receive their awards. Both the nominee videos and the award presentations will be available to share on YouTube following the event.

If you have any questions, please contact us at SpokaneHumanRightsAward@gmail.com.



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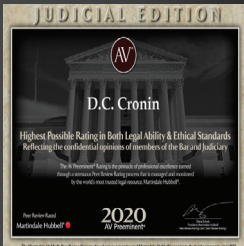
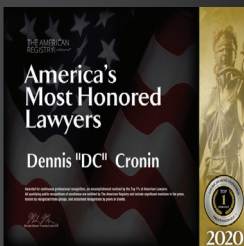
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Message From COVID to Black America: A Rising Tide Doesn't Lift All Boats

By Glenn Ellis

NEWS ANALYSIS

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - For the first time in six months, we're seeing a return to 100,000 new COVID cases each day! Dr. Anthony Fauci says the trajectory is moving towards 200,000/day; levels we saw before there were COVID vaccines. Things are not going in the right direction...by any means.

Clearly, this frightening, upward trend is fueled by several things: the number of unvaccinated people; the increasing, unwillingness of people to comply with wearing face masks; total "pandemic fatigue"; and the rise of variants - most notably the powerful Delta variant; which has shattered the original estimates for 60 percent of all Americans to be fully vaccinated against the original virus strain in order to reach herd immunity. And as long as people keep getting infected, we will keep getting new variants.

The Delta spread has moved the needle for us to reach herd immunity to well over 80 percent and approaching 90 percent. There are currently, still, over 100-million unvaccinated people in this country. We've only just reached 50 percent of the population being fully vaccinated.

It is embarrassing since only 2 percent of the people on the entire continent of Africa has received at least one dose. Meanwhile, richer countries in the West, including the US, are beginning to give 3rd doses (boosters) instead of ensuring that everyone on the planet get access to vaccines.

In over 400 years, our experiences with the United States healthcare and medical system don't allow Black Americans the luxury of ignoring our lived experiences. We see HIV/AIDS, after 40 years, remain an epidemic in Black America, yet it is a chronic condition for White America - while the same public health officials who have helmed the ship question Black skepticism and hesitancy.



The narrative of information being disseminated from public health officials, politicians, and the media is shaped on the assumption that, "a rising tide lifts all boats". This would be true if all the boats were seaworthy before the tide went down.
-Glenn Ellis

We couldn't get tested; couldn't work from home; we weren't ethically prioritized to receive the vaccines; and are now left totally confused on how to protect our young children. There are specific aspects of how this pandemic negatively impacts Black communities in unique ways. We need to know what those aspects are and get as much information as possible.

Throughout our history in this hemisphere, Blacks have had to find their way out of the maze of ups and downs that have been a part of this country's medical history. This pandemic is no different.

As soon as the FDA officially approves the vaccines, currently being used under Emergency Use Authorization, we can expect state and local authorities to make it possible for our children to be in classrooms and schools, surrounded by unmasked, unvaccinated adults, while they sit vulnerable without the benefit of an available vaccine for young children. This phase of the pandemic has raised the stakes to their highest, in terms of our children's health and safety. There is no doubt that the "official" messaging on children, school, and vaccines is confusing, in addition to being conflicting at times. The American Academy of Pediatrics strongly recommends in-person learning and urges all who are eligible to be vaccinated to protect against COVID-19. CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.

Yet, across this country, we see state and local guidelines making it possible for unmasked, unvaccinated young children to attend schools where teachers and staff are likely to also be unvaccinated and unmasked.

On top of it all, "back-to-school" is not going to be a walk in the park academically! According to the New York Times, over one million students from the poorest communities didn't enroll in kindergarten last year. Over 340,000 of them were 5-year-old children. Imagine tens of thousands of 6-year-olds beginning first grade (under COVID conditions) having totally missed out on the traditional kindergarten experience.

Just one year ago, child COVID-19 cases made up only around 3 percent of the U.S. total; COVID infections in children now account for more than a fifth of new coronavirus cases!

Continued on Page 26

"I got the COVID-19 vaccine because we need human connection. Sitting around a dinner table with friends and family and seeing live music again."

**Ginger Ewing
Terrain**

**To move forward,
we have to reflect.**

It's important to remember everything we lost in 2020. "Some people haven't survived. Some businesses haven't survived. It's important to collectively acknowledge what we've gone through."

To schedule a vaccine, visit
CovidVaccineWa.org



Terrain

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Despite COVID-19 Unity in the Community Celebrates 27 Years

By Amber D. Dodd
Community Journalism Fund
Spokesman Review Partnership

NW Unity and Spokane Teachers Credit Union hosted the 27th annual Unity in the Community in Riverfront Park on August 21. The event showcases cultures around the world through food, performance and educational opportunities, like language and geography right in the city.

“You watch these sparks between people just go off during this event,” said Mareesa Henderson, a lead organizer of the event with April Anderson. “The experience you see with the kids being excited about saying something in a different language? That’s what it’s about, building the roots in our youth so they can continue it on.”

Unity in the Community has become a summer staple in the Spokane area. Henderson recalled that many felt its absence last year. The event was cancelled since COVID-19 protocols prohibited mass events. Henderson said Unity in the Community would’ve been the “perfect event” to soothe some of the social and racial issues swarming the nation.

“It was June or so and we had decided we’re gonna have to cancel,” Henderson said. “With the pandemic, social unrest, and isolation we’ve never experienced before, Unity in the Community was something that was so badly needed.”

Instead, Henderson and Anderson decided to pack up school supplies for children to celebrate 26 years of the event. The impromptu tradition continued with children receiving books that aligned with Unity in the Community’s purpose.

Laela Burns, 6, sported white and pink butterflies painted across her tanned, brown forehead while carrying her new children’s book, ‘Human Computer’ by Andi Diehn. The book honors Mary Jackson, a STEM pioneer as a Black, female mathematician and aerospace engineer from the 1950’s. Laela’s father Jamaal Burns has been in Spokane since 2011.

“As the years have gone by, I’ve seen more people who look like me come out,” Jamaal, who is a Black man from southern Virginia, said. “That’s why I like to be out



at events like this and meet more people outside of my bubble.”

His focus is now on diversifying Laela’s early interactions with people. Through booths about Guatemala and Finland at the park, Jamaal said he appreciates the way Unity in the Community is enriching Laela’s experiences.

“It’s nice to have things (like this) that invite her,” Jamaal said. “I want her to have different walks of life available to her.”

Unity in the Community also made space for local Black organizations and cultural showcases. Black business owner and keynote speaker Dennis Mitchell of the Dennis Mitchell Empowerment Seminars was the master of ceremonies for the performances. City Councilmember Betsy Wilkerson, of District 2, reflected on the first Unity in the Community Celebration in Liberty Park twenty-seven years ago before introducing Spokane Mayor Nadine Woodward to offer opening remarks. Esther Kelley, of Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, sang both the national anthem and Lift E’vry Voice & Sing, commonly known as the Black National Anthem.

Unity in the Community was Ashiah Ulibarri’s first event as an intern with the Carl Maxey Center, a local organization with a focus on addressing racial disparities. Ulibarri spent the day answering questions and shar-

ing with community members about the center’s work and its focus on uplifting the Black community in Spokane.

“Being (from here), helping out underserved communities isn’t something some people have received well,” Ulibarri said. “Working at the Carl Maxey Center, a lot of people are supportive and want to get involved.”

Freedom Project East set up shop to discuss social issues of restoration after incarcerated Black people return to their communities. Jermaine Williams, the director of Freedom Project East, said Unity in the Community was a chance for him to speak on incarceration without a censor and to present his organization’s tough challenge in transparency.

“We weren’t limited to what we could or couldn’t say or do,” Williams said. “No one pulled me to the side for a separate conversation or pre-game huddle. I feel privileged and honored that they made space for us to be involved. Unity in the Community

showed up for organizations by creating free space for us to be involved.”

Charles Williams, the Project Coordinator for Northeast Washington Educational Service’s local youth gang intervention program, supports the event and opportunity it creates for organizations to connect. His program just earned their grant funding in March, so Unity in the Community was a great chance for publicity and partnerships. “Our mission is a safe community,” Williams said. “We’re here to help everyone to be safe and that correlates really well with Unity in the Community to help seek out partnerships with everyone here so we can work together.”

While Spokane residents enjoyed the mass display of diversity, community, and entertainment, Unity in the Community may be the last mass outdoor event for a while in Spokane.

The delta variant of COVID-19 is wreaking havoc on America, with only half of eligible Americans vaccinated. Just 49% of Spokane County is considered fully vaccinated. Transmission of the delta variant is running at high-risk in the county as well. At the event, organizers tried to do their part, encouraging social distancing and masking. Less cultural presenters attended the event. Food truck vendors sold food with more packaging and ensured workers were vaccinated with signs.

“April and I have been walking around the park and saying, ‘Aw man great turnout,’ but at the same time, I’m scared and I need people to govern themselves as they enjoy,” Henderson said. “My biggest hope is that they keep their distance, they’re masking, they’re carrying hand sanitizer. The hope is that everyone does what’s right for themselves.”



Unity in the Community 2021



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*Dr. Benjamin Danielson,
Pediatrician, Seattle, WA*



The Impact of COVID-19 on Our Children’s Education

By Dr. Jeanne Aston Baynes

While Black Americans are working essential jobs to support the U.S. during the COVID-19 pandemic, many factors will continue to contribute to the inequity of education for African Americans. Stress due to the existence of COVID-19, including the worry of contracting the virus, loss of jobs and income, stress of family members contracting the virus, and grief from losing family members can tax mental capacity and cognitive functioning. African Americans disproportionately represented during COVID-19 will also bear the brunt of these stress reactions, which will inevitably impact their ability to teach their children. Studies have shown the relationship between stress and cognitive function. Even when controlling for factors such as age, education, and depressive symptoms, increased stress impacted cognitive performance.

As many schools transitioned to virtual learning in 2020, many home environments were not prepared or able to provide a comparable learning environment for children. Even if a parent could stay home and assist in educating their children during the pandemic, there were necessary items for its success. Only 66% of Black households in the U.S. had home broadband service in 2019. Only 45% of Black Americans owned a desktop or laptop computer in 2015. Without access to the internet or a computer, Black parents are at a disadvantage in educating their children.

Along with the possible decline in progress for vulnerable students from moving to an online format, it is also essential to consider the summer break that just ended. Research shows vulnerable populations are susceptible to losing academic gains, (summer slide) over the summer. Additionally, students who do not have access to continued learning over the summer are at risk of maintaining the achievement gaps. The schools in Spokane County provided laptops to students. However, many did not have access to the internet. Organizations in the community provided hot spots for families so that they access the internet, but many had fallen behind in their assignments.

Communities should be concerned about the negative consequences this period of stay-at-home orders related to COVID-19 has had on children’s educational attainment. Schools can expect higher levels



Photo: Shutterstock

of Black children represented in special education when schools reopen in the fall. More Black children will be likely to receive lower test scores than their same-aged White peers upon return to in-person learning. The importance of considering the timing of learning disability evaluations is high.

African American students are at critical risk for overidentification in the special education system. The coronavirus pandemic has highlighted and could increase these risks for our students. Through addressing the systemic inequities that result in the overidentification, the achievement gap can lessen.

As we look forward to the fall and a new school year

Although the 2020–21 academic year ended on a higher note—with rising vaccination rates, outdoor in-person graduations, and access to at least some in-person learning for 98 percent of students—it was as a whole perhaps one of the most challenging for educators and students in our nation’s history.¹ And the crisis had an impact on not just academics but also the broader health and well-being of students, with more than 35 percent of parents very or extremely concerned about their children’s mental health.

Although it is too early to fully assess the effectiveness of postpandemic solutions to

unfinished learning, the scope of action is already clear. The immediate imperative is to not only reopen schools and recover unfinished learning but also reimagine education systems for the long term. Across all of these priorities it will be critical to take a holistic approach, listening to students and parents and designing programs that meet academic and nonacademic needs alike.

While all types of students experiencing unfinished learning, some groups were disproportionately affected. Students of color and low-income students suffered most. Students in majority-Black schools ended the school year six months behind in both math and reading, while students in majority-white schools ended up just four months behind in math and three months behind in reading.⁸ Students in predominantly low-income schools and in urban locations also lost more learning during the pandemic than their peers in high-income rural and suburban schools.

In reading articles about the reports from parents, many reported increases in clinical mental health conditions among their children, with a five-percentage-point increase in anxiety and a six-percentage-point increase in depression. They also reported increase in behaviors such as social withdrawal, self-isolation, lethargy, and irrational fears.

Even if students re-enroll in effective learning environments in the fall, many will still

be several months behind academically and may struggle to reintegrate into a traditional learning environment. Some school districts are creating strategies to support students as they work to make up unfinished learning and as they work through mental health issues and social reintegration.

However, many students are still far behind where they need to be, especially those from historically marginalized groups. Left unchecked, unfinished learning could have severe consequences for students’ opportunities and prospects. In the long term, it could exact a heavy toll on the economy. Districts and states now have the opportunity to spend that money effectively to support our nation’s students.

I agree that schools need to reopen for in person learning, reengaging students into effective learning environments, support students in recovering unfinished learning and broader needs, recommit and reimagine our education systems for long term. In addition, year around schools are an option and should be considered or possibly lengthening the school year.

Commitment to our Students

During this past year, I worked as a mentor to high school students encouraging and supporting them in their quest to complete a successful year. In building relationships, I made personal contacts through conversations with them and their parents, and meeting them at their respective high school. Stressing that remote learning is temporary but their education would ensure that they have the tools needed to survive, get a job, learn how to work and be productive. Education has been an essential part of every society and it was important to strive for it. Furthermore, there were community members such as Pastor Shon Davis, William Davis, and others who served as mentors encouraging students to stay on task, seek out resources and complete as many assignments as they could. Some received food and school supplies. Quite a few were students of color. As members of the Spokane Community, it is our mission to support our students.

Resources:
Hough, Heather J, “Covid-19, the Educational Equity Crisis, and the Opportunity Ahead. Brookings Institution, April 29, 2021.
Dorn, Emma, et. al., “COVID-19 and Education: The Lingering Effects of Unfinished Learning: By Dorn, Emma, et. al 2021. McKinsey and Company, July 2021.



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Freedom Project East Hosts Pop-Up Vaccination Clinic

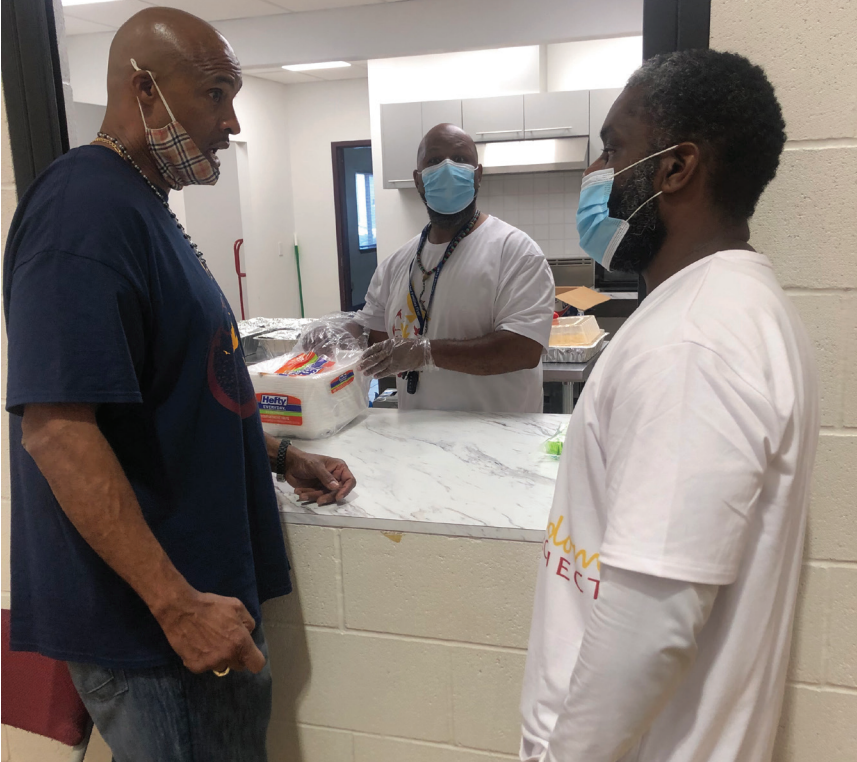


Making sure that the COVID-19 vaccination is available to anyone who wants it was the goal of the pop-up vaccination clinic that was held on Saturday, August 28 at the Emmanuel Family Life Center by Freedom Project East, a local organization working to dismantle the institution of mass incarceration and heal its traumatic effects.

With funding from Better Health Together and All in Washington, Jermaine Williams, Freedom Project East's Director, partnered with the Carl Maxey Center, the Way to Justice, the Tenants Union, and the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance to offer resources to community members.

Chas Medical clinic staff was on hand to help uninsured community members get connected to health insurance, Soul Lounge provided lunch to the volunteers and the Spokane Regional Health District provided the COVID-19 vaccinations.

For more information about Freedom Project WA visit: <https://freedomprojectwa.org>. Freedom Project East can be found on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/FreedomProjectEast>



A Look at the Black Church Through Pew Research Survey

Continued From Page 18

Churchgoers who are Protestant were most likely to attend Black congregations (67%), vs. those who were Catholic (17%) or of other faiths (29%).

Younger worshippers are less likely to attend Black churches than older worshippers. Only half of Gen Z and millennial Black worshippers (53%) attend Black congregations, vs two-thirds of boomer and older Black worshippers (66%). And a full 25 percent of Gen Z Black worshippers attend a white (or other) congregation, while only 9 percent of boomers and older Black worshippers do likewise.

“One might observe that Black churches have done well with spiritual nurturing the Black community through historic tough times and with fighting social and political injustice but not as well with pursuing an ecclesial vision for racial/ethnic inclusion,” said Antipas Harris, the president of Jakes Divinity School. “As a result, more white-led, multicultural churches are drawing Black millennials and Gen Zers into movements that do not have a clear or full vision for social and political racial c.5 Only 1 in 4 Black Protestants identify with one of the eight historic denominations that compose the Conference

Young Black Americans are less likely to have grown up in a majority-Black congregation

% of Black adults who say that, as children, they attended a congregation where all or most people were Black



*This includes a very small number of those in the Greatest Generation (born before 1928). Source: Survey conducted Nov. 19, 2019-June 3, 2020, among U.S. adults. "Faith Among Black Americans"

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of National Black Churches. Larger shares identify with evangelical or mainline denominations (30%) or offered a vague descriptor such as “just Baptist” or “just Pentecostal” (32%). The remainder said they were nondenominational (15%).

Among churchgoers, Black Republicans are less likely than Black Democrats to attend a Black congregation (43% vs. 64%) and more likely to attend a white congregation (22% vs. 11%).

And while Black “nones” are growing—now comprising almost 1 in 5 Black adults (18%)—most of the unaffiliated still credit Black churches with improving racial equality (66%) and more say that Black churches have too little influence in society (35%) than too much influence (19%). However, 6 in 10 of all Black adults agree that “historically Black congregations should diversify” (61%). And those who worship at Black (61%), white/other (66%), or multiracial (62%) congregations agree slightly more than those who seldom or never attend (60%).

“It is important to note that ‘multicultural’ generally means ‘monoculture with multicolors’ since most of the churches that fit this description tend to be white-led churches that have attracted Blacks and not the other way around,” said Jeff Wright, the CEO of Urban Ministries.

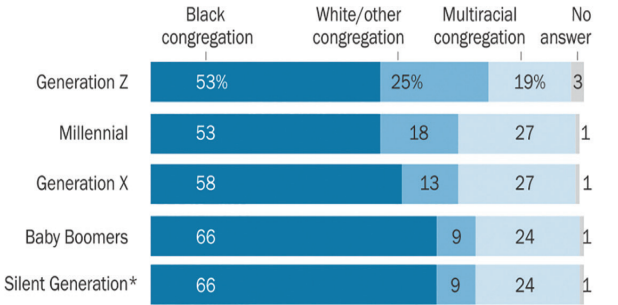
The dominant culture’s “expectation” of “unilateral assimilation,” is something that Jacqueline Dyer, an associate professor of social work at Simmons University, has also noticed.

“I have had conversations with clergy who are noticing that in the wake of COVID-19, George Floyd and political unrest some Black church members in predominantly white churches are leaving to return to the Black Church,” she said. “The departing Black members are feeling disenfranchised.”

A continued one-way migration threatens the gifts the Black church offers not only to the Black community, but to the Body of Christ as a whole, says Oneya Okuwobi, a researcher who studies the sociology of organizations, race, and religion.

Younger Black adults less likely to attend predominantly Black congregations

Among Black Americans who attend religious services at least a few times a year, % who attend a ...



*This includes a very small number of those in the Greatest Generation (born before 1928). Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding. Source: Survey conducted Nov. 19, 2019-June 3, 2020, among U.S. adults. "Faith Among Black Americans"

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“If we lose the spiritual heritage of the Black church as people and resources flow to other expressions, we will all be impoverished in the process,” said Okuwobi.

Meanwhile, 6 in 10 of all Black adults agree that when church shopping, finding a new congregation where most attendees share their race would be “not too important” or “not at all important” (63%). A majority of those who worship at black congregations agree (58%), though they are less likely to do so than those who attend white/other (75%) or multiracial (69%) congregations or those who seldom or never attend (65%).

“If most Black Americans say these congregations should diversify and the race of other attendees isn’t a top priority to them, what leads so many Black Americans to attend predominantly Black congregations?” stated Pew researchers. “The survey indicates that Black congregations are distinctive in numerous ways beyond just their racial makeup.

Continued on Page 25

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A Message From COVID
to Black America

Continued From Page 19

States with large outbreaks are seeing rising case numbers among children as well as adults. As it reaches into our communities, how does the Delta strain affect children, and how can we help them safely navigate their days?

Lastly, Blacks should be particularly concerned about “Long Haulers” and chronic conditions. Little to no attention is devoted in public health messaging on how this aftereffect of COVID infection in some result in a myriad of systemic health problems. With a significant segment of the Black population living with chronic conditions, long before the pandemic, how well-prepared is the primary care network to handle this new burden to an already overtaxed system? Who’s paying attention to this accident waiting to happen?

It has become apparent, after what the pandemic has shown us, that there are two different systems addressing the health of Americans and the well-being of communities. There is the one system that protects the needs and interests of some; while the other system leaves the rest of the population to, basically, fend for themselves.

Most harmful to the Black population throughout the course of the COVID pandemic, has been the absence of information that speaks, directly, to their needs and interests. The narrative of information being disseminated from public health official; politicians; and the media is shaped on the assumption that, “a rising tide lifts all boats”. This would be true if all the boats were seaworthy before the tide went down. But we know that Blacks, in this country, have some of, if not the worst health outcomes in every category - long before the pandemic.

Going into the pandemic, we were disproportionately vulnerable and at higher risk. The country’s efforts and resources are directed at “promoting the common good”. Regrettably, that obviously doesn’t, and has never included us. At the very least, these eye-opening “realities” should give Blacks enough pause to stop and think about the information, and the understanding that is needed to make good, informed decisions about surviving this pandemic. Don’t ever forget that information is the best medicine.

Glenn Ellis, MPH is a Visiting Scholar at The National Bioethics Center at Tuskegee University and 2018 and 2020 Harvard Medical School Bioethics Fellow. For more good health information visit: www.glennellis.com or [@glennhealth](https://twitter.com/glennhealth)



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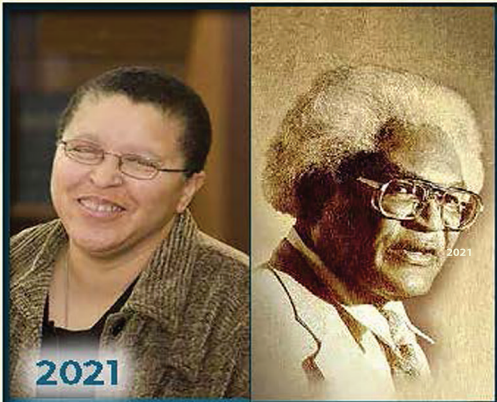
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Prior to his tenure with GEG, Krauter served as interim executive director of Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority, where he also held the roles of director of planning and engineering and deputy executive director. A graduate of Ohio State University, Krauter is also an accredited airport executive and a licensed member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.



LILLIAN "SUG" VILLELLA

Center Director
Southeast Day Care Center

As a young girl, Lillian, known to all as Sug, was called upon to help raise several of her family members. At the age of 18, she joined the United States Marine Core and served in Vietnam. After leaving the service she relocated to Spokane, where she married and began to raise a family of her own.

For 32 years, Sug has been a great inspiration and motivation for everyone who has ever been affiliated with the Southeast Day Care Center. She shows great love and direction toward the staff and children.



Debby Ryan

Community Assembly Representative
East Central Neighborhood Council

As the Community Assembly Representative and treasurer, Debby works closely with the East Central Neighborhood Council. A member of East Spokane Business Association. Former COPS volunteer and graduate of the Citizens Academy. Her professional career was spent in Public Health. Six of those years were at the East Central Community Center, with the Women Infants and Children (WIC) program. She serves on the boards of East Central Community Organization, East Spokane Kiwanis and the Washington State AARP Executive Committee.

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Haiti Earthquake

Continued From Page 1

Joanne Williams of Barrington Associates, Inc., a trusted Trice Edney News Wire source, forwarded the following information on the day of the earthquake in Haiti, Saturday, August 14: "There are no streetlights. There are no grocery stores. Water is scarce, if at all available. And, there is no more school building that was just about to be finished...Jean-Michel [Voltaire] and his organizational effort, Reunion Sportive d'Haiti are credible sources to receive and appropriately manage your contributions...whatever the amount you can spare. Your dollars hit the ground and are spent responsibly. I encourage you to share and give at any level you can manage. My heart breaks, but I also know the differences collective financial resources can make. Here's the website to donate: www.rshaiti.org

Dr. Ron Daniels, president/CEO of the Institute of the Black World 2st Century, who led a group of journalists to Port-au-Prince Haiti in the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake and whose long time mantra has been, "For the Love of Haiti," recommends the following websites for credible opportunities to give.

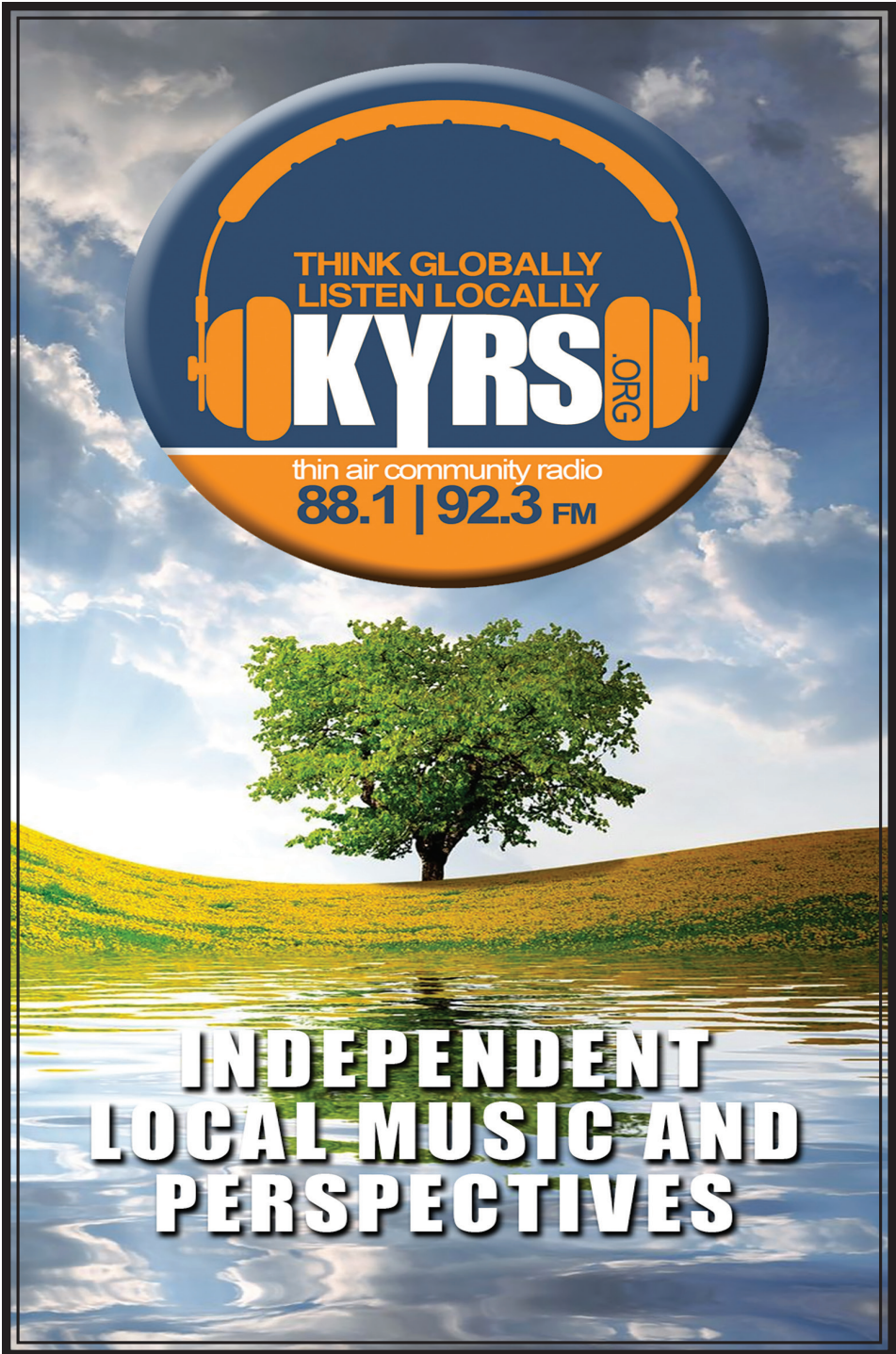
Dr. Daniels says the following organizations are trusted and located in most affected areas:

- COFHED in Camp Perrin: <https://www.cofhed.org>
- Hope for Haiti in Les Cayes: <https://hopeforhaiti.com>
- Locally Haiti in Petit Trou de Nippes: <https://www.locallyhaiti.org>
- PRODEV network of schools in south and Grand Anse: www.prodevhaiti.org
- FONKOZE, throughout the affected zones: <https://fonkoze.org>
- Health Equity International/Saint Boniface Hospital treating wounded in Fond des Blancs: <https://healthequityintl.org>
- ESPWA Haiti in the Grand Anse: <https://www.espwa-haiti.org>
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Mom and Daughter Team Up to Launch Newest Black Woman-Owned Record Label



(Source: Blacknews.com)

For months, Selena B. Hunter had been agonizing over what to call her new record company. The label would be the embodiment of “Black Girl Magic.” It would be groundbreaking. It would be bold. And it would be built on principles rarely, if ever, seen in an industry often riddled with misogyny and exploitation. Artists would be endowed with a real voice. They’d be empowered to fully and organically embrace their own, unique brand of creativity. The name would have to somehow convey all of that.

She pored over branding and marketing materials for a diverse mix of products and businesses, along with that of Fortune 500 companies too, but her answer would finally come within the pages of a book by marketing guru Seth Godin. It inspired her to do more research online and she was instantly drawn to the story of an effervescent Egyptian goddess. “She’s half-woman, a nod to femininity, and also half cow, which speaks to being sacred and valuable,” remembers Selena, 51, a 30-year industry vet. “She was the goddess of the stars, the goddess of love, the goddess of women, and the goddess of music; all of which is very appropriate for what I wanted to represent.”

In that moment, Hathor Entertainment was born in Los Angeles, California as, what Selena asserts is, “the first Black-owned, majority woman-owned and led independent record label designed to meet the underserved needs of women in the R&B, hip hop, and pop genres.” It officially launches this month and Selena plans to hit the ground running, starting the roster off with her own daughter and Co-CEO, solo progressive R&B artist Nia, a former The Lion King star on Broadway. And that’s just the beginning. Selena’s ultimate goal is to develop and support 100 women musical artists, bringing something fresh, unique and, well, needed.

“I have heard so many stories of women being abused, physically, mentally, and financially in

the industry and it’s time for that to stop,” contends Selena, who stepped out on faith in 2020, shutting down the 25-year tax and business management firm she shared with her husband and business partner to pursue her record label dreams. “That’s why I am trying to do my part,” she says. “I feel like I’m creating a safe space. I feel like I’m creating a place where, for the first time in the music industry, women can feel valued and protected; every song will be looked at as a way to engage and empower women.”

If Selena has her way, the “Black Girl Magic” won’t stop with just the artists and the music they produce, the Hathor Entertainment Experience, she says, will extend to wraparound services and support too. For example, plans are underway for artists to receive protection from an all-female security firm and a resident mental health therapist, a Black woman, will be on the payroll, providing mental and emotional support for all artists. “As we’ve seen recently with the world-class athletes such as Simone Biles, Naomi Osaka, and tennis great Serena Williams, mental health matters, and at Hathor Entertainment it will not be an afterthought, it will be a priority,” says Selena. “We plan to be proactive with supporting our artists fully; mind, body, and soul!”

Selena, who grew up in a family of entrepreneurs in Chicago, has been working nonstop (and loving it, by the way), helping Nia bring the vision for her upcoming Night & Day EP to life, all while scouting out new musical talent. She insists it’s all a labor of love, her gift to the industry for which she has dedicated her life. Adds Selena: “I’m just using music as a catalyst to fight for women’s equality and reach women on a global level all over the world.”

Selena and Nia are available to share their inspirational story as two Black women, mother and daughter, building up Hathor Entertainment together and the mark they’re determined to make on an industry in need of substantive change for woman artists. For more information, visit HathorEnt.com

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Black Church Survey

Continued From Page 25

"Sermons are a prime example: Black Americans who attend Black Protestant churches are more likely to say they hear messages from the pulpit about certain topics—such as race relations and criminal justice reform—than are Black Protestant churchgoers who attend multiracial, White or other race churches."

Despite these sermons, in the wake of the pandemic and last year's racial injustice protests, "it became clearer that, while the Black church still has a role, it is no longer the driving force for social justice," said Harris, who also serves as associate pastor at the Potter's House of Dallas. "The onslaught of economic crises and the increase of food deserts challenged mere food pantries and homeless dinners and Saturday lunches. There is a need for a new model of doing church to sustain the essence of the Black church spiritual, social and political involvement in social transformation."

Although church teachings actively address racial injustice, "Protestants who go to Black congregations are somewhat less likely than others to have recently heard a sermon, lecture or group discussion about abortion," stated Pew researchers.

The disparity between teaching social justice issues and theological-biblical teachings related to abortion and human sexuality is "concerning," said Jamal-Dominique Hopkins, associate professor of religion and dean of Dickerson-Green Theological Seminary.

"This suggests that predominantly Black churches focus less on Christian doctrine and spiritual formation and more on social justice issues. The two should not be mutually exclusive."

"The Black Church does well in preaching about 'big' issues of race, criminal justice, and economic disparities," said Quonekuia Day, an instructor of Old Testament and biblical Hebrew at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. "However, issues that impact the individual and families (which eventually impact the community), such as abortion, mental health, domestic violence against women and men, do not receive adequate attention."

Beyond particular sermon topics, many black churches also boast a "distinctive atmosphere for worship." A full 9 in 10 black Americans who attend services at least yearly say their congregation includes "calling out Amen or approval" (89%). Then 6 in 10 say there is dancing, jumping, or shouting; 5 in 10 say there is speaking in tongues; and 4 in 10 say all three take place.

"Taken as a whole, about half of congregants who attend Black Protestant churches [51%] report that the services they attend feature all three of these practices at least some of the time, compared with roughly a quarter of Black Protestants in White or other race churches [27%] and 18% of Black Catholics," stated researchers.

According to Pew's small-group discussions, researchers noted, "Black Americans suggest that these distinctive characteristics may be more important than the churches' racial makeup itself for explaining the continued appeal of these congregations."

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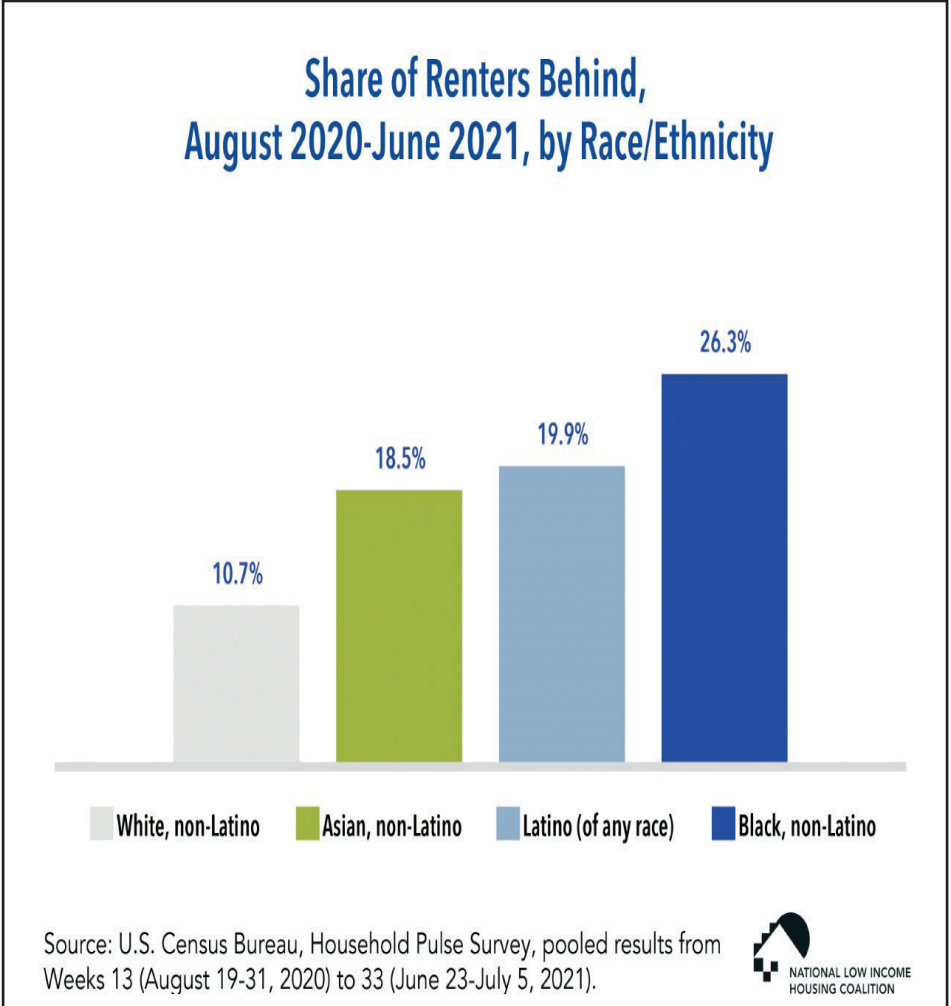
Continued From Page 13

Even so, in early June four private real estate entities joined with the Alabama and Georgia Associations of Realtors in an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court for an emergency ruling to end the nationwide moratorium on evictions and foreclosures.

Suing the Department of Health and Human Services, the CDC, and the U.S. Department of Justice, the plaintiffs said in part that “the CDC shifted the pandemic’s financial burdens from the nation’s 30 to 40 million renters to its 10 to 11 million landlords—most of whom, like applicants, are individuals and small businesses—resulting in over \$13 billion in unpaid rent per month.” The lawsuit also claimed that “the total effect of the CDC’s overreach may reach up to \$200 billion if it remains in effect for a year.”

“In reality, the eviction moratorium has become an instrument of economic policy rather than of disease control,” stated the appeal. “And even if that were debatable, the same cannot be said for the lack of any public interest in prolonging unlawful Executive Branch action.”

In response, on June 29 the Court denied the realtors’ application, leaving the moratorium in place through the end of July. In a concurring one-page opinion written by Associate Justice Brett Kavanaugh wrote, “Because the CDC plans to end the moratorium in only a few weeks, on July 31, and because those few weeks will allow for additional and more orderly distribution of the congressionally appropriated rental assistance funds, I vote at this time to deny the application to vacate the District Court’s stay of its order,” wrote the Associate Justice.



“In my view, clear and specific congressional authorization (via new legislation) would be necessary for the CDC to extend the moratorium past July 31,” concluded Kavanaugh.

This opinion drove White House and lawmaker debates over whether the CDC had the legal authority to extend the eviction moratorium. It also explains President Biden’s remarks on the better-late-than-never order.

"Whether that option will pass constitutional measure with this administration, I can’t tell you. I don’t know," said President Biden. "There are a few scholars who say it will, and others who say it’s not likely to. But, at a minimum, by the time it gets litigated it will probably give some additional time while we’re getting that \$45 billion out to people who are in fact behind in the rent and don’t have the money."

But neither the extension, nor CDC remarks explain why emergency rental assistance sent to state and local jurisdictions is taking so long to reach consumers who desperately needed help.

Two weeks earlier on July 15, the National Council of State Housing Agencies (NCHSA) issued an open letter to landlords, urging swift actions to access available emergency rental assistance (ERA). By the end of June, state programs had processed more than 500,000 renters, roughly \$3 billion in funds was projected to be dedicated by the end of July - leaving over \$40 billion in approved funding untouched.

In other testimony at the July 27 Capitol Hill hearing, Diane Yentel, President and CEO of the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, addressed other reasons for rental assistance delays.

“The ability of states and localities to distribute critical ERA funds was hindered early on by harmful guidance released by the Trump Administration on its last day in office, January 19, 2021. ... The Department of Treasury rescinded the Trump Administration’s harmful FAQ [frequently asked questions] and released a new one in February 2021 that directly addressed the significant flaws in the previous administration’s guidance,” testified Yentel.

With no end in sight for the global pandemic, Congress and the White House still bear the onus of developing more permanent solutions to the nation’s housing crisis.

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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Timberlane Apartments	Family	1-3	5923 W Massachusetts, Spirit Lake ID	(509) 447-0207	tlan@viridianmgt.com
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OUR VOICES

Pushing Back Against the BIPOC Umbrella

By Chris B. Bennett
(Reprinted from WordinBlack.com)

When you ask the average Black person about the term BIPOC, a likely response might be “BIPOC,” what is that? Bi-what? Or, Bi-who? BIPOC – Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. The more I see the term, the more I wonder where it came from, who created it, and why. The fact that many Black folks are not familiar with the term, even though it is broadly used across the country in political and non-profit circles, indicates to me that it is a term that we collectively as Black folks do not embrace.

While the term might be seen as an inclusive compromise towards African Americans who push back against the broad references to people of color, the fact remains that the term BIPOC, simply put, is another broad-based term that is intentionally used by policymakers and bureaucrats to water down the ills that plague our society so they don’t look so bad.

When you really start to analyze the numbers, one thing is constant – the numbers look much different when you isolate Black people away from people of color. When considered in isolation, the statistics related to disparities in America for Black folks jump off the page and usually indicate a problem that should be dealt with right away. While the numbers for people of color, which usually look much better, might indicate something of concern but fall more in line with “let’s just monitor the situation” for a while and see if it gets any worse. This is especially true when you take

into consideration that people of color can now include Asians, Middle Easterners, and immigrants from Africa (not to be confused with descendants of African born slaves in the U.S.). You don’t have to look very far to see that these groups in and of themselves present disparities when it comes to “People of Color.” In many cities across the country, there are areas that were historically inhabited by African Americans that are now under “redevelopment” or gentrification. As you ride down the streets of these historic neighborhoods, you can see many businesses that are owned by people of color, but very few that are owned by Blacks, and yet, policymakers and developers will proudly boast about the number of BIPOC or minority-owned businesses that are in the area, as they conveniently disregard those who were left out.

When you look at unemployment rates, analysis of the numbers shows a similar trend. According to the Economic Policy Institute, the unemployment rate for Q1 of 2021 in Texas was 6.9 percent. A further breakdown of the numbers shows the unemployment rate was 4.9 percent for Whites, 8.0 percent for Hispanics, 5.1 percent for Asian/Asian Pacific Islander and an alarming 11.2 percent for Blacks.

When you look at suspension and expulsion rates in public schools, again the numbers for Black students jump off the page. In 2013-14, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, “about 2.6 million public school students (5.3 percent) received one or more out-of-school suspensions. A higher percentage of Black stu-

dents (13.7 percent) than of students from any other racial/ethnic group received an out-of-school suspension, followed by 6.7 percent of American Indian/Alaska Native students, 5.3 percent of students of two or more races, 4.5 percent each of Hispanic and Pacific Islander students, 3.4 percent of White students, and 1.1 percent of Asian students.”

I could go on and on about other disparities that exist, but I’m sure by now you get the picture. We, as a community, cannot effectively advocate for ourselves if we don’t use knowledge and information that truly represents the realities of our existence. We cannot allow policies based on a misrepresentation of facts to dictate our plight in America and the future for our kids.

The time has come for advocates and leaders from the Black community to push back when presented with the all-inclusive umbrella of BIPOC communities and how policymakers are making a difference as it relates to “people of color.” Asians advocate for Asians and Asian issues; Latinos advocate for Latinos and Latinos issues; so why, when it comes to Black folks, are we and our issues put into an all-inclusive category.

The issues are not all-inclusive when it comes to who is being shot and killed by police; the issues are not all-inclusive when Black families and Black kids are separately suffering from health issues caused by years of environmental racism that has tainted the parks, soil, water and air in the neighborhoods that many of us grew up in. The issues are not all-inclusive when it comes to our kids having to share old recy-



cled books and refurbished iPads in schools that are historically under-performing or when it comes to who is being pulled over by police more often than others. These are examples of things that happen to “Just Us” and often have us looking for the American myth of “Justice For All” in a legal system that hardens more criminals than it reforms.

This message is not to separate us from other groups that are suffering in many ways, but rather, this is a call to action for Black folks in this country to stand up and be vocal about our issues and to get others to truly see how these issues impact Black people and our communities. The numbers don’t lie, and it doesn’t matter what color glasses you put on to see them. When it comes to the plight of African Americans in this country, we are going to continue getting the short end of the stick if we allow policymakers to only look at the rosy side of the bush and blatantly ignore the thorns that are attached to the stem.

There is a time and a place for everything, and now is not the time to let the term BIPOC define who we are and what we do.

Chris B. Bennett is the CEO and publisher of The Seattle Medium (seattlemedium.com). Bennett is a graduate of Morehouse College in Atlanta who holds certificates in advanced editorial studies from the University of Washington.

Professor Clingman Warns Black Folks to Stop Being “Putty”

By A. Peter Bailey
(TriceEdneyWire.com) - One of the most knowledge-expanding, challenging columnists, especially in the arena of collective economics, is Prof. James Clingman. Though illness has prevented him from continuing his valuable column, Blackonomics, one can still learn much from reading his past columns, many of which are included in his must-read book, “Black Money Matters.”

I recently reread one of them entitled, “Blacks are Today’s Putty People,” which was first published in 2015. It includes the following: “We are such a pliable people and the dominate society knows that all to well. We will jump on any superfluous issue the media presents to us and neglect the substantive ones. We are like putty in the hands of folks about whom we complain....” Those he noted includes “...disingenuous politicians, greedy retailers, pompous preachers posing as everything but real preachers and surreptitious interlopers....”

Professor Clingman also warns that “As we continue to major in the minor, constantly allowing ourselves to be dragged down into nonsensical and nonproductive discussions and held hostage by talking head puppets on TV, the world is moving forward at a very fast pace. Our people are

being killed at an alarming rate, not only by cops and fanatics but also by other black folks.”

Many, if not most, may believe that Professor Clingman is overstating his position, but it cannot be denied that we as a people are not nearly focused enough on the most effective and productive ways to promote and protect our group interests in the arenas of health, economics, culture, education, technology, politics and communications.

In each of those arenas we should have talented and committed black folks who will keep us on top of things in his or her arena. And it should be national. There is a sizeable number of black folks working in these arenas in local areas. They should be thanked for their vision and much needed efforts but our need in 2021 is a national organization that oversees the activities in the aforementioned arenas.

If we do this we will definitely avoid being putty in the hands of others. There is absolutely no reason for a group of people who have tenaciously dealt with what we and our ancestors have had to deal with in this country to be putty in anyone’s hands. That’s why we should pay close attention and act on the warning given to us by Professor Clingman.



OUR VOICES

Climate Change Alert: Tuvalu is Sinking

By Julianne Malveaux

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Tuvalu is a tiny Polynesian island nation located midway between Hawaii and Australia. Home to just 11,000 people, it is just 10 square miles. It is smaller today than it was a decade ago. Thanks to world climate change, Tuvalu is sinking, and the evidence is everywhere.

I'd never heard of Tuvalu until I attended COP15, the Copenhagen climate change conference, in 2010. It was an intense experience, partly because white climate change progressives were prepared to disrespect President Obama for not taking an extreme enough position on climate change. It was also intense because many small countries, like Tuvalu, did not have the opportunity to address the assembled delegates. Instead, they had to clamor for attention through booths and flyers in an area outside the main assembly.

Tuvalu is sinking, a man said, grabbing my elbow to get my attention. He is angry, anxious for attention. He describes how beautiful his island once was and how he has seen the destruction from the rising ocean, partly a function of climate change. We talk for more than a few minutes, and we meet for tea before the conference is over. He asks, repeatedly, why the United States won't do more to stop the destruction of the planet. I have no answers.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in a report released August 9 (https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2021/08/IPCC_WGI-AR6-Press-Release_en.pdf) offers both answers and condemnation.

They describe climate change as "widespread, rapid and intensifying." U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres says the report is a "code red for humanity."

"The alarm bells are deafening," he said in a statement. "This report must sound a death knell for coal and fossil fuels before they destroy our planet," he went on to say. Code red means emergency, but few are treating this climate crisis as an emergency. Indifference or the tepid responses to the evidence we are experiencing has led us



into a situation that will worsen before it gets better, a condition requiring world cooperation when such cooperation is rare.

Frank, a 32-year-old Tuvalu native who is quoted in a 2019 piece that appeared in the Guardian, says, "Before, the sand used to stretch out far, and when we swam, we could see the sea floor, and the coral. Now, it is cloudy all the time, and the coral is dead. Tuvalu is sinking."

Tuvalu is sinking, California is burning, the Pacific Northwest, known for its mild weather, is experiencing temperatures sometimes exceed 100 degrees.

Folks, this climate madness is all our fault. The IPCC says that emissions are "unequivocally caused by human activities." They have pushed the global temperature up and will move it further if we don't do something. But climate change deniers seem to think this is all-natural. The 44th President was rabidly vocal on this matter, and his acolytes

deride climate change mitigation as a part of a "woke" Democratic plan. The leader of the pack is a non-Missouri living Missouri Senator, Josh Hawley (his residence issues could be the subject of an entire column). This man has raged against the infrastructure bill, which, though insufficient, represents necessary bipartisanship as we look to the future.

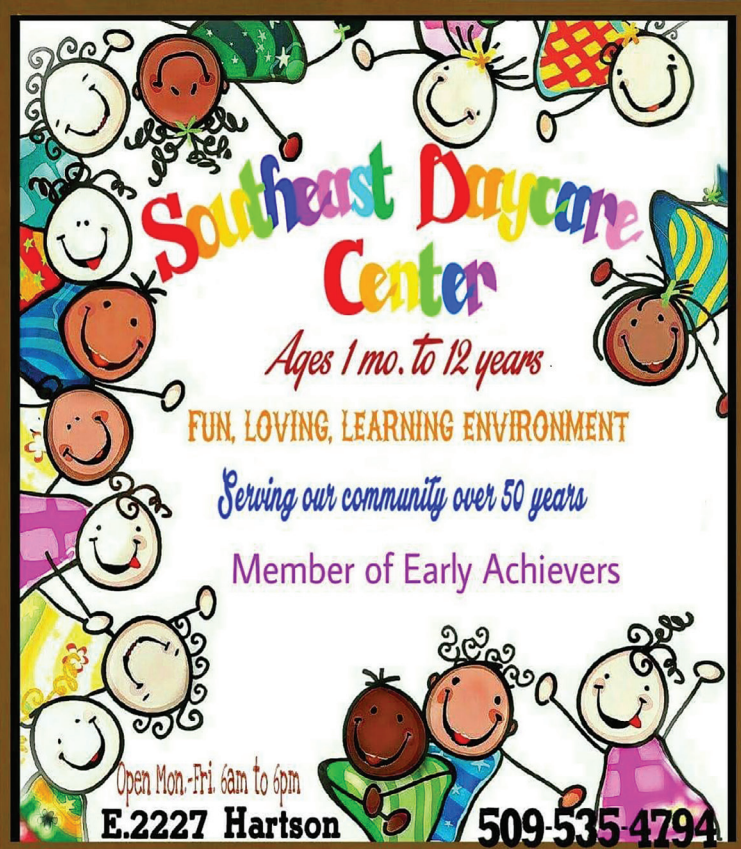
The commitment to spend \$39 billion on transit is significant, especially in the context of climate change. We need to get cars off the road, and we can only do it if people have easy ways to get around. Safe, reliable public transportation could help, but, as always, there is tension. Many would use the \$39 billion for public transportation; some would use it for roads and carbon emissions. If our country and others are committed to combatting climate change, we must consider reducing or eliminating carbon emissions. And we must consider the ways climate change will change the world.

Thousands of people are leaving Tuvalu because their lives and livelihoods have been threatened by climate change. Many are moving to Fiji, which has offered the Tuvalu government incentives to relocate to that island. The people of Tuvalu would become the first documented climate change refugees in the world.

Thousands left New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Should they, too, be considered climate change migrants. There will be others as resources become scarce in one community and people are pushed into other communities, straining those resources and creating conflict. We will pay for ignoring climate change one way or another. We will pay now, we will pay later, but we will pay.

Thus the infrastructure bill, while not enough, is to be applauded. The provision of some climate change mitigation in the budget is also commendable. But there is so much more to do, and Tuvalu is sinking.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author and Dean of the College of Ethnic Studies at California State University, Los Angeles. Juliannemalveaux.com.



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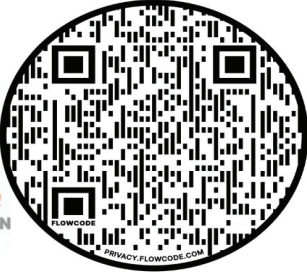
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Call or email Georgina Mitchell for any questions at 509 319-4143 gmitchell@nwagc.org



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www.BetterHealthTogether.org/Careers



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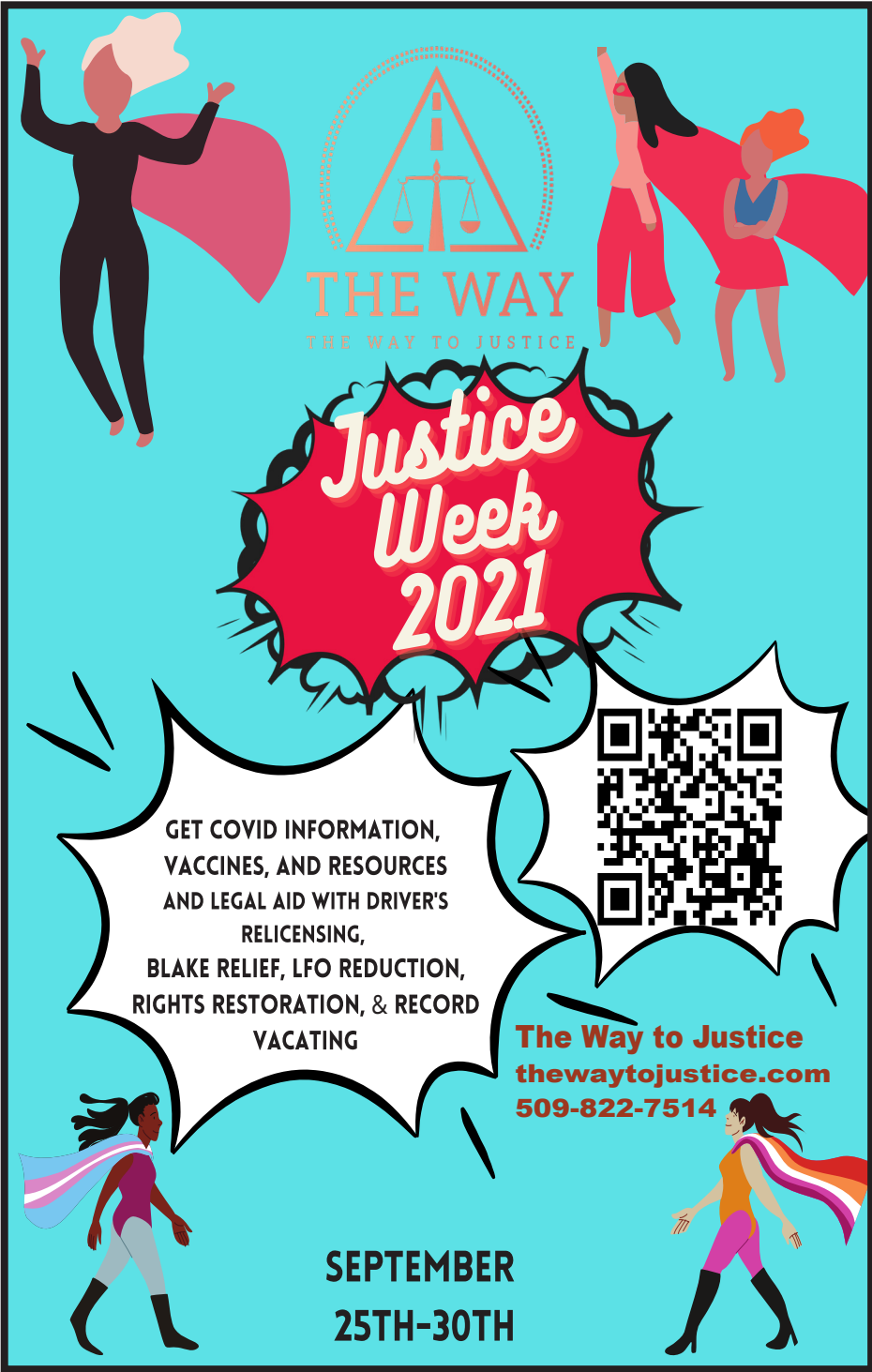
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509-822-7514

SEPTEMBER 25TH-30TH

**LET'S TALK:
THE EFFECTS
OF COVID-19
ON OUR
FAMILIES**

**OCT 2,
2021
1PM – 2 PM**

SPONSORED BY

Kiantha Duncan, Moderator
Panelist to include:
Faith Washington, Retired Nurse Inland Imaging
Simone Gardner, Licensed Social Worker
Dorothy Whitman, CV H.S. Teacher & Parent
Ivan Corley, Principal Lewis & Clark H.S., SPS
Susan Poindexter, Shadle Park H.S. Teacher, SPS

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INNOVIA
FOUNDATION

Transforming Our Community Together
Innovia Foundation Annual Reception
Monday, October 4, 4 – 7 p.m.
Spokane Convention Center

Join us for a celebration of all we have accomplished together and inspiration for the year ahead.

Seating is limited.
Please RSVP by Monday, September 27.
Register for in-person or virtual program.

For details, please visit:
innovia.org/annualreception
or call 509-624-2606



INNOVIA.ORG
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Innovia is Hiring!
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SEPTEMBER EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 4

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Hosted by Omega Psi Phi, Inc Fraternity and Phi Delta Kappa Sorority.

9am - 1pm

Holy Temple COGIC

806 W Indiana Avenue, Spokane 99205

Find information contact b2schoolsdrive@outlook.com or call 509-828-7719

SEPTEMBER 8

FUSE DIVERSITY BOOK CLUB

Solitary: A Biography by Albert Woodfox

National Book Award Finalist; Pulitzer Prize Finalist. Solitary is the unforgettable life story of a man who served more than four decades in solitary confinement—in a 6-foot by 9-foot cell, 23 hours a day, in notorious Angola prison in Louisiana—all for a crime he did not commit. Sustained by the shared solidarity of two fellow Black Panthers, Albert turned his anger into activism and resistance. The Angola 3, as they became known, resolved never to be broken by the grinding inhumanity and corruption that effectively held them for decades as political prisoners.

6:30pm-8pm

Virtual Discussion

Visit the Fuse Book Club Facebook Page:

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

SEPTEMBER 16

SPOKANE COUNTY REDISTRICTING

Get engaged in the process of move our county from 3 to 5 County Commissioners. The Independent Redistricting Committee (IRC) that oversees this process needs your help drawing the most equitable and equal districts for Spokane County. Attend public hearings on September 16 and October 7.

For more information visit: <https://www.redistrictspokaneco.com>

SEPTEMBER 16 - 18

PJALS 2021 ACTION CONFERENCE

Join the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane for 3 days of community events- a panel, live music and virtual conference. Keynote speaker: Ian Haney Lopez - Building a Better Racially Just Future for All. For more information and to register visit: pjals.org/2021-action-conference

SEPTEMBER 20

NAACP GENERAL MEETING

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

SEPTEMBER 21

EAST SPRAGUE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

9TH ANNUAL DINNER

Join ESBA for the 2021 Annual Business After Hours Dinner as we share information, promote awareness of development activities and strengthen partnerships among businesses in the East Central Neighborhood. This year's donation recipient is the Carl Maxey Center. Networking at 5:15 pm | Dinner at 6:15 pm Gonzaga University, Hemmingson Center 702 E Desmet Ave, Spokane, WA 99202. For more information about the 2021 Dinner or ESBA visit esbiz.org

SEPTEMBER 24

EWU NEIGHBORFEST

Hosted by Student Activities Involvement and Leadership

Campus and community networking opportunity that allows new and returning EWU students to connect with on- and off-campus organizations, student groups, and resources.

10am - 2pm

Location: EWU-Cheney Campus Campus Mall, Elm St, Cheney, 99004

For information call 509.359.6200

SEPTEMBER 26

VALLEYFEST - MULTICULTURAL SUNDAY

Storytellers • Musicians • Dancers • Art • Informational Booths • Foods and more!

11am - 6pm

CenterPlace Regional Event Center

West Lawn

2426 Discovery Place Spokane Valley 99216

For information e-mail info@valleyfest.org or call at 509-922-3299.

SEPTEMBER 26

INVESTMENTS FOR BEGINNERS WORKSHOP

Sponsored by the Carl Maxey Center, Black Business Professional Alliance, Hispanic Business Professional Alliance, Gesa Credit Union and Horizon Credit Union. Workshops include investments, financial planning and mortgage loans

2:30pm

MLK Center

500 S. Stone Street, Spokane 99202

Contact CMC for more information at 509-795-1886 or carlmaxeycenter@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 25 - 30

JUSTICE WEEK

Sponsored by The Way to Justice

Get Legal Aid, Drivers Relicensing, Blake Relief, LFO Reduction, Rights Restoration & Records Vacating, as well as COVID-19 information and vaccines.

For information contact The Way to Justice at thewaytojustice.com or 509-822-7514

SEPTEMBER 29

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

Virtual Discussion

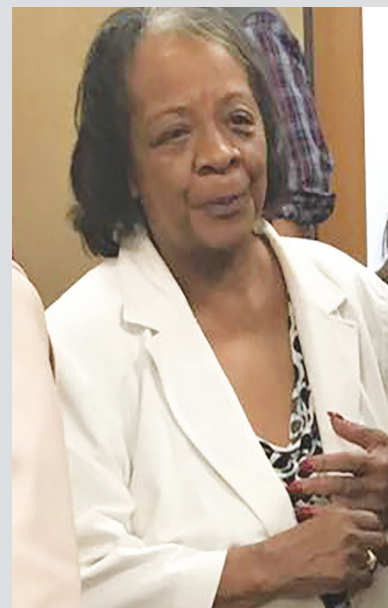
To register visit: <http://ow.ly/dzCd50FaS4v>

Celebration of Life Service

DOROTHY MARIE WEBSTER

Friday, September 10, 2021

6pm



Calvary Baptist Church
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In Lieu of flowers please send contributions to the Dorothy M. Webster Memorial Scholarship Fund, St. Elmo High School Heritage Foundation, 5417 Wear Rd., Grand Bay, AL 36541-3229

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



No Turning Back: Radical Progress and Collective Liberation

PJALS 2021 ACTION CONFERENCE

**September
16th-18th, 2021**

Panel Discussion

Thursday 9/16
7:00-8:00pm

Live Music

Friday 9/17
7:00-9:00pm

Virtual Conference

Saturday 9/18
9:30am-4:00pm

Join PJALS for three days of community events. Hear from local and national activist leaders, attend virtual workshops, and celebrate with us in-person on Friday evening!

Register Online:
pjals.org/2021-action-conference/

Keynote
Building a Better Racially
Just Future For All

Ian Haney López,
Race-Class Academy

Speakers & Facilitators

Phyllis Bennis,
New Internationalism Project
Institute for Policy Studies

Ben Lorber,
Political Research Associates

...and many more!

PJALS
PEACE & JUSTICE
ACTION LEAGUE
OF SPOKANE



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Ride Free Until Sept. 15



***Unlimited free rides on
STA for youth age 6-18
and K-12 students!***

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local libraries in the
STA service area.**

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