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October 2016

www.blacklensnews.com

Vol. 2 Issue No. 9

Spokane's Black Community News Source

THE

BLACK LENS

SPOKANE

TM

NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

BLACK LENS ELECTION EDITION

Candidates Respond to Questions from The Black Lens

U.S. Congressional Representative

Cathy McMorris Rodgers



Prefers Republican Party

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*****NOTE: The Black Lens contacted the campaigns of both Cathy McMorris Rogers and Joe Pakootas MULTIPLE times by e-mail and by phone during the month of September. Neither candidate responded with answers to the questions.***

THANK YOU FROM THE BLACK LENS EDITOR

The Black Lens would like to thank all of the candidates, regardless of their political affiliation, who showed respect for this paper and for Spokane's African American community by making time in their incredibly busy schedules to answer the questions. All too often marginalized communities are ignored or overlooked in the political process by both sides of the aisle, despite messages to the contrary. The candidates that answered these questions, as well

as those who attended the NAACP candidate forums, made an extra effort to reach out. In turn, Black Lens readers are encouraged to take time to read the answers and get to know the candidates BEFORE voting. Contact information has been provided for the candidates so that you can get additional information or contact them directly if you desire. The online voter's guide also has more detailed information about the candidates, as well as information about the ballot initiatives: <http://www.spokanecounty.org/180/Online-Voters-Guide>



I have spent the last 7 years working alongside everyday people in our community. I've worked with community leaders and lawmakers from both sides of the aisle because I believe we all care about the issues that impact our community. That's why I'm running to be your **Representative for the 6th District** - I believe that elected leaders need to work together to solve the issues facing our community. *I humbly ask for your vote.*

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Paid for by People to Elect Shar Lichty



ON MY MIND

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR



by Sandra Williams

Oh No He Didn't!!!

I can still remember clearly the November evening in 2008 when it became clear that Barack Obama was going to win the election and become the next President of the United States. I remember clearly the look of pride that registered on the faces of my parents and the tears that welled up in my mother's eyes.

I remember the excited phone calls coming to and going from our house. Friends and relatives who were overjoyed at the significance of the moment, a moment that they thought would never come in their lifetime, and wanting to share in a sort of communal celebration at how Obama's accomplishment had signified to them just how far the African American community had finally come. Finally.

I thought about that evening when I heard about the speech that Obama gave to the Congressional Black Caucus in September. I thought about how I too had been caught up in the profound importance of the moment that November evening. Despite the fact that, from a policy perspective, I had not been an Obama supporter during the primaries, but instead had been a staunch supporter of Dennis Kucinich, because to me Obama was just another in a string of Democratic candidates that represented the movement of the Democratic party further and further away from the progressive ideals that I felt had been their core. Nevertheless, on that November evening, standing with my Black parents, I was a proud Black American.

It has been a VERY long nearly eight years since the exuberance of that evening, and unfortunately, the Black community didn't get to bask in their joy for very long. In the wake of that historic election, it seems that there were portions of this country, many who were in congress I might add, that seemed to rise up and dig in their heels in an unprecedented effort to degrade, obstruct, and discredit this Black president at every turn, and along every step of his journey. And because of the obviously overt, and not so obviously covert, and even sometimes surprisingly over the top, racism that Obama and his family had to endure during his time in office, I admit that I have probably been less critical of his positions, less challenging of his policies, and less outspoken about my displeasure and disappointment with some of the opportunities lost during this presidency than I otherwise would have been. That's a difficult place to be in.



Home > Nation

'I Will Consider It A Personal Insult:'

Obama Urges Blacks To Vote For

Hillary Clinton

The president says his legacy is at stake.

Written By Nigel Roberts
3 days ago

And sometimes I grow weary of feeling the need to reconcile disparate feelings, and also feeling like I am the lone voice crying out in the wilderness, even amongst those that I should be standing shoulder to shoulder with.

I have learned to not trust the media's reporting on events, even though I am a part of the very industry that I currently have little respect for, and because of that, I read the text of Obama's speech to the Congressional Black Caucus for myself. Just as I suspected, the media was, as usual, over the top in their sensationalistic, headline grabbing presentation of what Obama's words actually were.

However, that having been said, aside from Obama's admonition that Blacks should get out and vote, which I wholeheartedly agree with, the intention that was embedded in Obama's speech, clearly evident between the carefully chosen words, was absolutely clear. With his powerful metaphors and the fiery oratory that he has come to use so effectively to fire up the African American masses when needed, the President was clearly telling Black people that it is our responsibility, out of some sense of loyalty to him, that we need to save the Democratic party. Hmmmm.

I realized that Obama was doing to Black people the same thing that we Black folks accuse white people in positions of power of doing to us all of the time. Telling us what we SHOULD do. Telling us what is BEST for us. Well, I don't accept it when others do it, and I'm sorry Mr. President, but I don't accept it if from you either.



Re-Elect

Marcus

Riccelli

State Representative | D | 3rd LD

WORKING FOR ALL OUR FAMILIES!

I remain committed to the belief that the zip code you are born in should not determine your life's path.

In Olympia, I work every day to ensure that every Spokane family has the same chance at opportunity and quality of life. This session, I have been working to:

- Reduce class sizes for kids
- Hold corporations accountable
- Promote living wage jobs in our community
- Improve quality care for mental health and substance abuse treatment

Together we've accomplished a lot in the past four years—a down payment on a great future for Spokane. But there is so much work left to be done. I remain focused on investing in our neighborhood schools, protecting our most vulnerable and creating family-wage jobs to grow our economy. **I have been honored to serve as your State Representative and I ask for your vote.**

ABOUT MARCUS

- Husband and Father of two young children
- Youth T-Ball & Soccer Coach
- Alumnus, Gonzaga University
- Project Manager, CHAS Health
- Adjunct Professor, EWU
- North Spokane YMCA
- Advisory Board member
- 2016 Washington State Democrats
- Elected Official of the Year
- 2013 Chase Youth Foundation Champion
- of Youth Award for Government
- Washington State Presidential Elector
- casting an electoral vote for the
- Honorable Barack Obama in 2008

YOU SHOULD KNOW

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

ART AND HISTORY *by Bertoni Jones Bey* (jbaguart@yahoo.com)

Lewis Latimer

Lewis Latimer was born September 4, 1848 in Chelsea, Massachusetts, the son of fugitive slaves who fled as stowaways aboard a ship headed for Boston.

Young Lewis was a newspaper boy selling *The Liberator*, a paper published by abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison. He spent time to himself reading as many books as he could, writing essays, drawing, and penning poetry.

With the Civil War on the horizon, sixteen-year old Lewis joined the Union cause. He was assigned to the Navy as a landsman aboard the U.S.S. *Masasoit*, a gun-boat that was part of a strategic blockade against Confederate supply runs along the James River in Virginia.

After the war Lewis worked as an office worker for Crosby and Gould, a Boston law office specializing in copyright law and patents. He immersed himself into his work and met men in his office making an excellent living as draftsmen. Lewis saved up money for drafting supplies and after a full day's work went home and practiced drafting for hours.

By twenty-five years of age, Lewis was head draftsman for the patent company. In 1873 he married Mary Wilson, producing two daughters, one went to The Pratt Institute for Art, the other Juillard Music School.

Being surrounded by mechanical drawings Lewis began to consider inventions of his own. By his twenty-sixth birthday he had his first two inventions: improving railroad car bathrooms called water-closets and an early prototype for an air-conditioning unit. He drafted the patent for Alexander Graham Bell's telephone and became immersed in the new field of electricity

ignited by Thomas Edison's invention of the incandescent light bulb.

Lewis began reading and studying everything he could on electricity, even conducting his own experiments. He caught the attention of the United States Electric Lighting Company, creating some of his best patent work with Joseph V. Nichols for attaching lighting filaments in lamp bulbs. His greatest patent came in 1882 creating the best process for large production of lighting filaments.

Lewis went to major cities to manage the installation of electric lighting in some of the finest buildings across the country and London. While in London managing factory production he met resistance from the English workers who weren't used to taking orders from someone who looked like Lewis. His talent and know-how quickly eliminated any resistance.

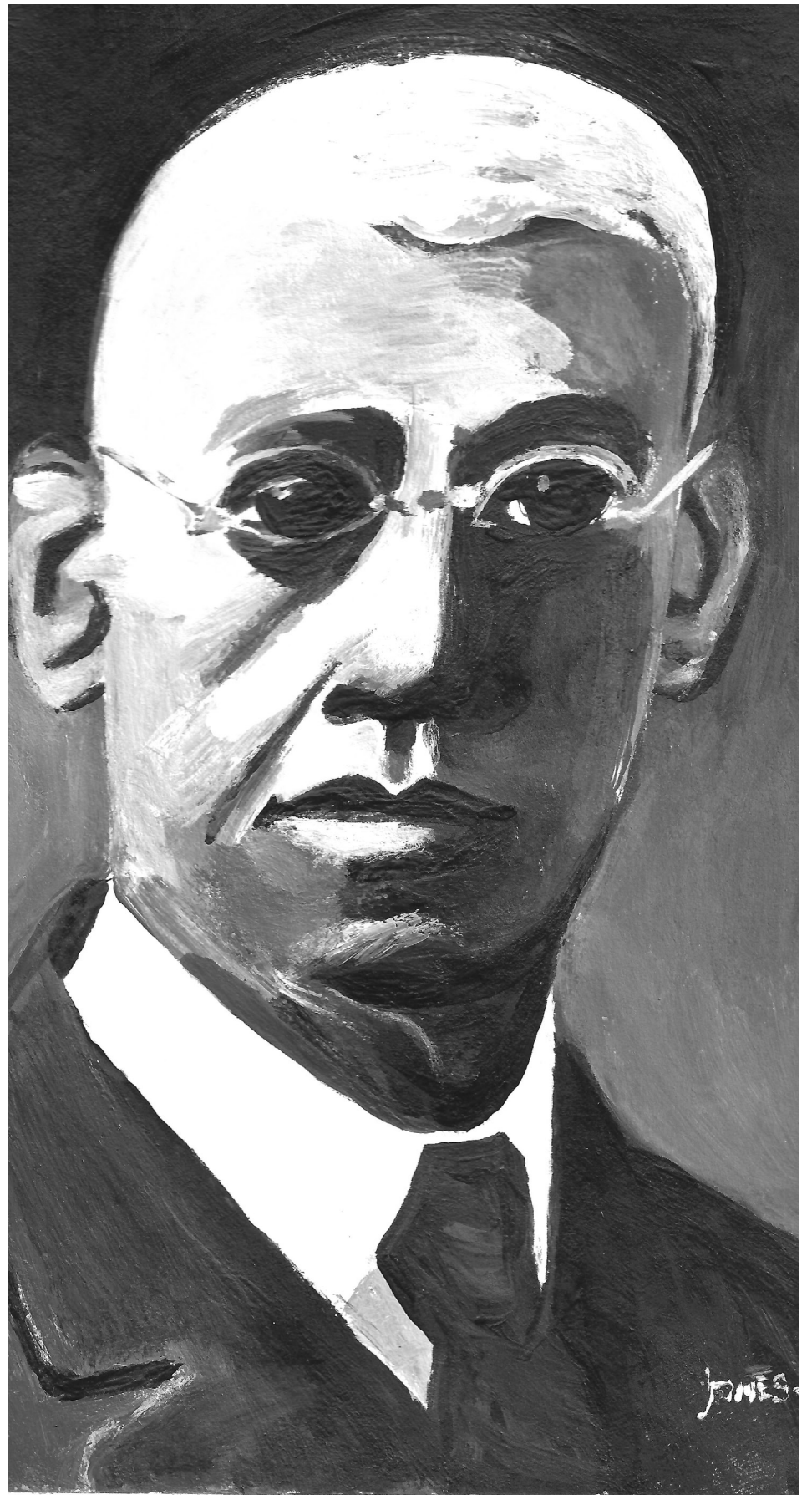
Lewis knew Edison's work so well that by 1890 he published his first book entitled "Incandescent Electric Lighting: A Practical Description of the Edison System". He eventually worked with Edison in patent protection and by 1918 Lewis was personally selected by Edison to be a member of the Edison Pioneers, his group of electricity experts.

In later years Lewis was a painter, self-taught in flute, and wrote theatrical comedies. As a lifelong reader he believed that education either formal or informal was the pathway to success and his refusal to accept anything but the highest gave him all he aspired to.

Lewis Latimer passed December 11, 1928 in Flushing, Queens, New York.

Sources:

Now! Is your Time – Walter Dean Myers
Biography.com/people/lewis-howard-latimer-9374422#edison.rutgers.edu/latimer/lat-pats.html



THE BLACK LENS NEWS

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

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Subscription: Delivered monthly by mail - \$45/year

Submission/Advertising Deadline: 15th of the month

Website: www.blacklensnews.com

Facebook: [blacklensnews](https://www.facebook.com/blacklensnews); Copyright (c) 2016

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BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World



AT LAST: OBAMA DEDICATES NEW BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM

By D. Kevin McNeir

Special to the Trice Edney News Wire from The Washington Informer

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - The idea of erecting a museum that would highlight the contributions of African-Americans first received public attention more than a century ago after Black veterans of the Civil War proposed the idea. But the real push occurred when Georgia Congressman John Lewis took up the mantle, securing the support of several of his colleagues. Finally, in 2003, then-President George W. Bush signed legislation that allowed the project to begin.

On Saturday, Sept. 24, with the ringing of a bell borrowed from the First Baptist Church of Williamsburg, one of the nation’s oldest Black churches founded in 1776, President Barack Obama officially dedicated the newest addition to the family of Smithsonian institutions located on the National Mall — the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC).

In his address, the president said that the museum was an essential part of America’s story.

“What we can see of this beautiful building tells us that it is truly a sight to behold. But what makes it special are the stories contained inside,” Obama said. “It is this national museum that will help tell a fuller story of who we are. The African-American story is not a sidebar or a secondary tale. No, it is central to the American story — a glorious story that illustrates how African-Americans have been able to rise again and again from tragedy to triumph.”

Still, given the recent outbursts of civil unrest that have taken place in Charlotte, N.C. and Tulsa, Okla., following the shooting deaths of unarmed Black men by police officers, the president also commented on what the museum cannot do.

“This museum won’t end job discrimination, violence in our cities, or so many other ills and examples of injustice that we face – those things are up to us to change – by speaking out, protesting and voting,” he said. “Hopeful-

ly it will help us begin to talk to one another, really see one another and listen to one another.”

The president’s remarks served as the finale to a program attended by several hundred guests, many of whom were donors in a remarkably long fundraising initiative, led by Lonnie G. Bunch III, the founding director of the NMAAHC.

Meanwhile, as far as the eye could see, hundreds and hundreds of men, women and children lined the grounds surrounding the museum, watching the program on Jumbotrons, periodically shouting their affirmations throughout as participants including Stevie Wonder, Will Smith, Oprah Winfrey, Robert De Niro, Angela Bassett, Patti LaBelle and an a capella jazz choir from Howard University mounted the stage. President George W. Bush and his wife, Laura, also joined the special guests onstage.

Bush, passionate in his remarks, shared one statement that elicited a roar of agreement from the crowd and which Obama would reiterate during his address.

“A great nation does not shy away from the truth,” Bush said, referring to the countless lessons that he believes the new museum, through its many artifacts and exhibits, could provide to all Americans.

Ken Chenault, one of the NMAAHC advisory council members and the CEO and chairman of American Express, commented on the willingness of so many to answer the clarion call to raise the millions of dollars that were needed to start the museum project.

“I look at this building with a great sense of pride,” said Chenault. “Donors came from all across the planet — large donations and small donations — because so many people believed in the importance of building this museum. It will always remind us that what brings us together is stronger than what tears us apart.”

Bunch, overwhelmed with emotion, began his remarks by saying, “Today, a dream too long deferred is a dream no longer.”

For more information, visit: <https://nmaahc.si.edu>

Representative Eric Pettigrew Receives Seattle Times Endorsement



(Source: <http://www.seattletimes.com>)

Eric Pettigrew, Representative for the 37th Legislative District, House Democratic Caucus Chair, and the highest ranking African American in the Washington State Legislature, received the endorsement of the Seattle Times editorial board in September.

Describing Pettigrew’s strengths as communication and consensus-building, the Times said he is “the kind of thoughtful leader who pushes other lawmakers to seek compromise and can step beyond traditional party or interest-group agendas.”

Pettigrew, who has been in the legislature for fourteen years, represents South King County, a district that stretches from southeast Seattle to Renton and Tukwila and is home to many low-income families, diverse communities and immigrants.

According to the Time, Pettigrew should be best known as a lawmaker who cares deeply about children, families and education.

Russell Simmons Offers Brandon Marshall Deal After Others Dropped Him For National Anthem Protest



(Source: Kiersten Willis, <http://atlantablackstar.com>)

The Atlanta Black Star reported that Denver Broncos linebacker Brandon Marshall lost two sponsors in the days after protesting the national anthem. Air Academy Federal Credit Union and telecommunications group CenturyLink dropped Marshall after he joined 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick in kneeling during the “Star Spangled Banner,” despite stating that they “respect” Marshall’s right to freedom of expression.

Russell Simmons, Chairman and CEO of Rush Communications, co-founder of hip-hop music label Def Jam Recordings, and creator of the clothing line Phat Farm, responded to Marshall’s ouster by offering him an endorsement deal with Simmons’ Rush Card.

Simmons and Rush Card recently launched a video series that is focused on bringing attention to police brutality and its effect on the Black community. “My hope is that these videos will be a starting point for a nuanced discussion about issues that affect our community and the entire country,” Simmons said.

Federal Judges Rule Banning Dreadlocks In The Workplace Is Not Discrimination



(Source: By Sydney Scott, <http://www.essence.com>, Taryn Finley, <http://huffingtonpost.com>)

A federal appeals court ruled that banning an employee from wearing their hair in locs is not racial discrimination. In a 3-0 decision, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed a case brought by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) against a company that refused to hire a woman because she wouldn’t cut off her locs.

According to the Wall Street Journal, Chastity Jones applied to work at Catastrophe Management Solutions in 2010 and was initially hired, but the role came with one condition. Jones was told that she’d have to cut off her locs in order to comply with the company’s grooming policy. The white human resources manager told her that her locs were against company policy since they “tend to get messy.” Jones refused and the job offer was rescinded.

Similar cases have been presented before and while federal law bans employment discrimination based on race, courts have interpreted race as skin color and fixed traits. An EEOC spokeswoman stated, “We believe the court was incorrect when it held that the employer’s actions could not be proven to be race discrimination.”

BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

ROBERTA WILBURN NAMED YWCA WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT



The YWCA Spokane recently announced the winners of the 2016 Women of Achievement Awards. The seven women will be honored at the 2016 Women of Achievement Impact Luncheon, held at the Davenport Grand Hotel on Friday, Oct. 7, 2016, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

For 34 years the YWCA Spokane has celebrated successful women in the community for their achievements combined with their commitment to give back. Winners of a YWCA Woman of Achievement award embody the agency’s mission of eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all by giving generously of themselves to make Spokane a better place for all citizens to live. Awards are given out in six categories: Education; Science, Technology & Environment; Business & Industry, Arts & Culture; Community Enhancement; and the Carl Maxey Racial & Social Justice Award. This year a Lifetime Achievement Award will also be presented.

Roberta Wilburn, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies in Education & Diversity Initiatives at Whitworth University, will be presented this year’s Carl Maxey Racial & Social Justice Award.

Wilburn joined Whitworth University 10 years ago and has devoted more than 35 years in the field of education. She provides oversight for all diversity initiatives in the School of Education and also serves on the Institutional Diversity Committee at the recommendation of the president and the provost. Wilburn has also taken her diversity work into the community, where she advocates for

parents and children of color in Spokane Public Schools (SPS) by accompanying parents to conferences, meeting with the superintendent, and serving as a part of the SPS Community Action Team. Under her leadership, the education graduate programs at Whitworth have grown to 14 graduate programs and the population of minority ethnicity students, professors and staff on the campus has increased.

In response to being recognized, Wilburn reflected on the award’s namesake, Carl Maxey. “It is very humbling and affirming to receive such significant recognition for my life’s passion with an award named after Carl Maxey, Spokane’s premier racial and social justice champion,” says Wilburn. “I do the work that I do not for recognition but because I hate to see people marginalized and I believe in the inherent value of every human being and the right to justice for all.”

This year’s Women of Achievement Luncheon, which is the YWCA Spokane’s largest fundraising event, will feature actress and humanitarian, Ashley Judd. All proceeds raised will directly benefit the YWCA’s services for domestic violence victims and their children, including emergency shelter, counseling, legal services, job readiness, child care, and Pre-K programs for low income children.

Other Women of Achievement recipients for this year include Mari Clack, Jan Wigen, Joyce M. Cameron, Dr. Robbie Paul, Dr. Chrissy Davis Jones, and Lisa Shaffer. For more information about the Women of Achievement recipients or to get tickets for the October 7 luncheon, visit the YWCA Spokane website at <http://jwycaspokane.org> or call (509) 326-1190.

Darren Seals: Ferguson Leader Found Shot, Burnt



(Sources: Kirsten West Savali, <http://www.theroot.com>; Brett Myers, <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/youth-radio-youth-media-international>)

The St. Louis American reported on September 7 that twenty-nine year old Darren Seals, a Ferguson, Mo., protester and one of the most visible activists who rose to prominence in the aftermath of the 2014 extrajudicial killing of Michael Brown Jr. by Police Officer Darren Wilson, was found dead on September 6, his charred body discovered in his black, jeep wrangler in North St. Louis County. According to police investigators, Seals was shot before he was placed in the car that was then set on fire. The death is being investigated as a homicide.

According to the St. Louis American, Seals was extremely vocal about issues surrounding Brown’s death and the St. Louis region. He was featured in national news outlets such as The Washington Post and Al Jazeera, and recently uploaded a Facebook Live video sharing his own encounter with the Ferguson Police Department, saying police drew guns on him and his younger brother.

A Huffington Post article titled: ‘Unsolved: The Murder of Ferguson Activist Darren Seals’, listed five other St. Louis area men that are said to have died in similar circumstances in the last two years. Darnell Robinson (9/4/2014), Antonio Jones (11/10/2014), De Andre Joshua (11/25/14), Terrell Beasley (12/19/2014), and Vincent Cascella (2/15/15), were all found shot to death inside burning vehicles. Even though some of these murders have led to arrests, rumors swirl about the possibility that they are somehow connected. For example, DeAndre Joshua was found shot once in the head inside a burning Pontiac Grand Prix, right next to Canfield Green Apartments, where Michael Brown Jr. was slain. There have been no arrests in DeAndre Joshua’s case.

There have also been no arrests in the Darren Seals, case nearly a month after his death. “We’ve been having instance after instance of police murdering people,”- said Seals’ friend, activist Bassem Masri. “We’re in the same situation that we were in two years ago. Nothing changed.” Masri added, “people swarmed to Ferguson in those early days of protests searching for ‘riot porn’ and they left as soon as they found it.” But, he says, “after the cameras left, Darren was still there trying to create change and heal our community.” The community has questioned the police investigation and Masri is trying to hire a private investigator to look into the murder.

NFL Steelers’ DeAngelo Williams Honors Mom by- Paying for 53 Mammograms



(Source: Jarvis Greer, <http://www.wlox.com>, Iyana Robertson, <http://vibe.com>)

MEMPHIS, TN (WMC) - October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Pittsburgh Steelers running back DeAngelo Williams has announced that his nonprofit organization, The DeAngelo Williams Foundation, will cover the cost of 53 mammograms at hospitals located in Charlotte, North Carolina and Pittsburgh.

Williams, a former University of Memphis All American, is a staunch supporter of breast cancer awareness.

In 2014, Williams’ mother, Sandra Hill, died after battling breast cancer. She was just 53 years old. He also lost his four aunts to the disease, but not before leading a push in 2009 to allow NFL players to wear pink cleats throughout October for Breast Cancer Awareness.

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Study Finds a False Promise of Trade School Education for Low-Income Black Youth

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



A new study by scholars at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and the University at Buffalo of the State University of New York System finds that Black students who enroll at for-profit trade schools with the hope they will receive quick training that will allow them to get a good job, often wind up more in debt and with fewer job prospects than their peers who enrolled at two-year or four-year nonprofit educational institutions.

The study, “Why Wait Years to Become Something? Low-Income African American Youth and the Costly Career Search in For-Profit Trade Schools,” was published on the website of the journal Sociology of Education, a quarterly peer-reviewed journal of the American Sociological Association. The full text of the study can be found at sage journals, <http://soe.sagepub.com>.

AI Robots Judging Beauty Pageant Prefer Lighter Skin



Lu Sophia
Age: 18
Real age prediction: 13
Perceived age prediction: 15
AnAge score: 2
FPMI score: 1.3
BMMI score: 1
MADIS score: 91
Symmetry Master score: 5.2



Margeri Otis
Age: 27
Real age prediction: 23
Perceived age prediction: 23
AnAge score: 2
FPMI score: 1.2
BMMI score: 3
MADIS score: 96
Symmetry Master score: 3.1



Kerri Kinney
Age: 20
Real age prediction: 18
Perceived age prediction: 16
AnAge score: 33
FPMI score: 1.2
BMMI score: 5
MADIS score: 96
Symmetry Master score: 14.0

(Source: Sam Levin, <https://www.theguardian.com/technology>)

The first international beauty contest judged by “machines”, using artificial intelligence, was supposed to use objective factors such as facial symmetry and wrinkles to identify the most attractive contestants. Roughly 6,000 people from more than 100 countries submitted photos Beauty.AI in the hopes that artificial intelligence, supported by complex algorithms, would determine that their faces most closely resembled “human beauty”. But when the results came in, the creators were dismayed to see that there was a glaring factor linking the winners: the robots did not seem to like people with dark skin.

Although many people of color submitted photos, including large groups from India and Africa, out of 44 winners, nearly all were white, a handful were Asian, and only one had dark skin. The controversy that followed has sparked renewed debates about the ways in which algorithms can perpetuate biases, yielding unintended and often offensive results.

While the seemingly racist beauty pageant has prompted jokes and mockery, computer science experts and social justice advocates say that in other industries and arenas, the growing use of prejudiced AI systems is no laughing matter. In some cases, it can have devastating consequences for people of color, for example the use of computer-based law enforcement forecasting tools, which use data to predict where future crimes will occur.

The “deep learning” group Youth Laboratories, supported by Microsoft, created Beauty.AI by relying on large datasets of photos to build an algorithm that assessed “beauty”. Alex Zhavoronkov, Beauty. AI’s Chief Science Officer says that while there are a number of reasons why the algorithm favored white people, “the main problem was that the data the project used to establish standards of attractiveness did not include enough minorities.” While the group did not build the algorithm to treat light skin as a sign of beauty, their input data effectively led the robot judges to reach that conclusion.

The simplest explanation for biased algorithms is that the humans who create them have their own deeply entrenched biases. That means that despite perceptions that algorithms are somehow neutral and uniquely objective, they can often reproduce and amplify existing prejudices. Bernard Harcourt, Columbia University Professor of Law and Political Science says, this case is a reminder that “humans are really doing the thinking, even when it’s couched as algorithms and we think it’s neutral and scientific.”

SPOKANE COUNTY COMMMISSIONER

Josh KernsDistrict 1Candace Mumm

Prefers Republican Party

1) Highlight 2-3 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate as it relates to Spokane's African American community?

I am a small business owner, have experience working for the Washington State House of Representatives, and am a lifelong resident of this community. I understand what makes Spokane such an amazing place to call home for everyone.

2) What is your experience with Diversity in Spokane?

Working for the Washington State House of Representatives, I work with people from diverse populations on a regular basis. Everyone, regardless of race, gender, age, or political view, interacts with government and I have had the pleasure to help countless people navigate government agencies to reach acceptable resolutions to problems.

3) Are there ways that Spokane could be more inclusive?

Everyone in our community has room to improve in all aspects of our lives. Everyone can strive to be more inclusive. One of the best ways is to listen to the views of everyone. Listening and learning is how we grow as a community.

4) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in Spokane and what are your thoughts on how you can address the challenge(s) if you are elected?

The biggest challenge facing our community as a whole is job opportunity. We are seeing strong recovery in certain industries, but many people are not yet seeing the benefits of the economic recovery. We need to attract more jobs to Spokane so everyone can find employment if they are looking. I am committed to making Spokane County the best place to live work and raise a family for everyone in our community.

5) What is your understanding of the terms implicit bias & structural racism, and how they impact people of color?

Implicit bias is a bias that people often don't realize they have or tend toward, that often occurs unknowingly and sub-



consciously. Structural racism refers to the way society is structured sometimes resulting in the exclusion of people from minority populations from taking part in the community.

6) How have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in Spokane? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

Working for the Washington State House of Representatives, I regularly work with people from the African American community on issues the legislature is facing, whether it be legislation, constituent work with an agency, or a visit to the Capitol for an organization's day on the hill. People of all races, genders, and ages need to stay in contact with elected officials to share ideas and keep an open dialogue to move our community forward.

7) As it relates to diversity, where do you see Spokane in the next ten years and what do you see as the city/county's role?

I see growth in all aspects of our community. I see more participation in government, more job opportunities, more community involvement. The county's role in this is to keep an open dialogue and always be available and accessible.

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www.joshkerns.com

Prefers Democratic Party

1) Highlight 2-3 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate as it relates to Spokane's African American community?

My qualifications include representing the residents of Northwest Spokane as their Spokane City Councilwoman. While in office I co-launched a Gender and Racial Equity Task Force and report, which showed a lack of proportional hiring of African Americans at the City. I have also supported the Justice Blueprint for reform, which outlines strategies to reduce disproportionate contact, arrest and conviction of African Americans. As County Commissioner I intend to work to implement these changes.

2) What is your experience with Diversity in Spokane?

The Gender and Racial Equity Report started out as a pay equity assessment. As the data were collected, differences in employment and promotions were discovered as well. We made more than 20 recommendations for the City that could also be implemented at the County, a similar sized employer in the region. I also have experience working with the Native American Tribes, most recently on cultural recognition and supporting their economic plans.

3) Are there ways that Spokane could be more inclusive?

There are absolutely many ways Spokane could be more inclusive. We need a workforce, elected officials and volunteers on our public Boards and Commissions that better reflect the makeup of our community. I have been working to include more women and people of diverse cultural backgrounds in our hiring practices and appointments. We need to make sure there are seats at the table from stakeholders, not just everyone who looks and thinks the same.

4) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in Spokane and what are your thoughts on how you can address the challenge(s) if you are elected?

The biggest challenge is economic security and opportunity. Since African Americans are typically paid less, especially women, compared with white men, they are seriously disadvantaged, especially when they retire. As a former Financial Planner, I have seen this too many times. Living on just Social Security pegged to lower lifetime wages is an extreme challenge. Opportunities are also more limited for youth who need to gain on the job experiences and access to affordable college opportunities.

5) What is your understanding of the terms implicit bias & structural



racism, and how they impact people of color?

Implicit bias is the kind of racism built into one's upbringing in the privileged white class. They don't realize the benefits that have come their way. People will say they are not biased, but don't realize they actually are. They can also have "cultural blindness," saying we are all the same. Structural racism is the historical framework of our organizations and society that excludes people from minority backgrounds from participating.

6) How have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in Spokane? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

I have had wonderful shared experiences through my church, NAACP events, communication with African American leaders, and along with my husband supporting music, sports and other cultural events. Current plans include improving our hiring and recruiting outreach, communication opportunities on our Boards, Commissions and Task Forces, and expanding cultural awareness.

7) As it relates to diversity, where do you see Spokane in the next ten years and what do you see as the city/county's role?

Based on national trends, I would expect Spokane County to become more urban. Sitting on the Spokane Transit Authority I have seen a 40% increase in ridership in the last decade. This is a good thing. It saves our citizens money, gives them more equal access to jobs and saves our streets. The County's role is to support a city's growth and not compete with it. We need to work together, plan together and recognize our community's color is changing. Better access to jobs, education and services makes for a more equal society.

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REV. WALTER J. KENDRICKS, PASTOR

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SPOKANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Andrew Biviano

District 2

Shelly O'Quinn

Prefers Democratic Party

1) Highlight 2-3 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate as it relates to Spokane's African American community?

I am a civil rights attorney with a focus on remedying and ending discrimination in employment and the justice system, a former prosecutor, and former mental health case manager. My primary goal as commissioner will be to make Spokane County more just and inclusive. I will begin by addressing systemic inequality and racism, particularly in the justice system.

2) What is your experience with Diversity in Spokane?

I come from a mixed-race family: with an African American brother and African American and Vietnamese sister. We grew up in Spokane and experienced its racism and relative lack of diversity (in contrast to what I saw living and working in Seattle after college). I have experienced Spokane's challenges with diversity in my work as a mental health case manager and lawyer, fighting the more difficult challenges faced by my African American clients.

3) Are there ways that Spokane could be more inclusive?

Absolutely. Spokane values inclusivity but still has work to do. I would very much like to see our minority populations expand and grow. We should have more minorities in government and other leadership positions. And I would like our citizens to talk and think more about inclusivity in all things: schools, work, the arts, housing, business, etc.

4) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in Spokane and what are your thoughts on how you can address the challenge(s) if you are elected?

I don't feel qualified to opine on the biggest challenge facing African Americans in Spokane. I believe my role is to listen and learn from people in this community. The most productive role I can play, and something I am good at, is to help serve as a bridge between communities to get more people listening and learning, and also to transform goals into action steps.

5) What is your understanding of the terms implicit bias & structural racism, and how they impact people of color?

To me, implicit bias refers to subconscious attitudes and judgments that affect our thoughts and actions without us realizing it. Structural racism refers



to the way institutions and systems (such as schools, workplaces, housing, or justice systems) are designed or implemented to exclude or disadvantage people of color. Both are especially pernicious because they diffuse responsibility for the inequities that result, and allow people who perpetuate or benefit from the inequities to feign innocence.

6) How have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in Spokane? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

I worked at the Odessa Brown Children's Center in Seattle with hundreds of people in the African American community to help kids and their families. I have also helped a number of African Americans in Spokane get their freedom from unjust incarceration, fighting implicit bias and structural racism. I am a member of the NAACP and look forward to collaborating with it as often as possible as a Commissioner, particularly around criminal justice reform.

7) As it relates to diversity, where do you see Spokane in the next ten years and what do you see as the city/county's role?

I see it increasing its diversity by being a welcoming and inclusive place. Government should be proactive by including members of minority communities in planning and direction and by being a model for how to end structural racism. Public hiring should be a model of inclusion, and our justice system must be fair. Leaders should work to get more diversity in our police force, judiciary, political offices, and business community.

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Prefers Republican Party

1) Highlight 2-3 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate as it relates to Spokane's African American community?

I bring a unique background to the commission that includes diverse experiences from small business development in Honduras to running a homeless mission/outreach ministry in Florida to business and non-profit management in our local community. My experience with the injustice minorities face has not come from simply studying the issues, but from time spent on the ground with those affected working to effect social change. Whitworth Grad 1997. MBA- Middlebury Institute of International Studies in 2001.

2) What is your experience with Diversity in Spokane?

In the direct service role, I served as the Family Services Director for Habitat for Humanity - Spokane for 4+ years, helping low income, and often minority, families on their path to homeownership. In my current position as County Commissioner, I have had the opportunity to work with diverse individuals and groups in the community on a variety of issues.

3) Are there ways that Spokane could be more inclusive?

I know of no place which has reached a level of inclusion that would allow us to stop working on it. Education and experience with those who are different from ourselves is the killer of prejudice. We need to seize every opportunity to expose children (and adults!) to diverse peoples.

4) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in Spokane and what are your thoughts on how you can address the challenge(s) if you are elected?

Spokane's minority population is small, relative to many areas around the country. This does not mean that the structural challenges facing minorities are fewer. In fact, they can be greater. Minorities in Spokane face similar challenges, but without the support of a large community that one would find in other places. The primary issue with diversity in Spokane is maintaining focus when there is not a "crisis". It is all too easy for the community to forget the problems facing minority communities. We need to continue to highlight and work together to address the challenges faced by our minority communities.

5) What is your understanding of the terms implicit bias & structural racism, and how they impact people of color?



Implicit bias refers to the way people unconsciously exhibit bias towards other individuals and groups. Implicit bias can reveal itself in different ways, such as by the words we use to express our feelings and behavior towards people of color. While conscious bias and preferential treatment are mostly forbidden by laws and culture, unconscious mechanisms are deeply embedded in various aspects of our lives. Implicit bias is often found embedded in our institutions and systems where fairness is critical, including our criminal justice system.

6) How have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in Spokane? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

In my current role as Commissioner, I have had the opportunity to work with members of the African American community to address the racial and ethnic disparities prevalent in our criminal justice system. This is important work we must continue to invest in, but we must not stop there. We must continue to work together to ensure that Spokane County is a great place to live, work and play... regardless of the color of one's skin or ethnic background!

7) As it relates to diversity, where do you see Spokane in the next ten years and what do you see as the city/county's role?

Spokane's population continues to become more diverse. I believe that diversity – in belief systems, in culture, in language, in race – make us a better and healthier community. We must strive to build a sense of community amongst a diverse population and ensure that we provide a safe and just community for all. This is the responsibility of all of us... whether we are elected or not.

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WA STATE SENATOR - DISTRICT 3

James Apker

Prefers Libertarian Party

1) Highlight 2-3 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate as it relates to Spokane’s African American community?

To be honest, I don’t think that any one can truly relate to an ethnic group/ community unless they have been in their shoes. I can tell you about my experiences being Mexican in this community from the time I moved here in Junior High to now and let you make the judgment to see if your experiences match or are close to mine. I can tell when folks look at me for the first time, I have always gotten ‘the look’, because I am a big man. But people have always looked at me differently because of my size, skin color, ethnicity, being a “half breed.” You get used to it, but at the same point in time, you don’t. So I have always treated people like I want to be treated. With humor, honesty, respect, compassion and friendship.

2) What is your experience with Diversity in Spokane?

When I arrived in Spokane 27 years ago I was, literally, the only Mexican people had ever met. Coming from California, Mexicans are every where, along with Blacks, Koreans, Indians, Russians, Japanese, etc. It was strange to see nothing but a sea of white and only 3 faces that were different. When people meet me and I tell them I am Mexican, there is a look of shock and they say, “You are the biggest Mexican I have ever seen!” or they will ask “What tribe are you with”. I giggle and smile and realize that I am not what they expect.

3) Are there ways that Spokane and the surrounding areas could be more inclusive?

I will be honest, I have not ever sought out inclusion. I have always done my own thing and blazed my trail. I have applied for jobs with the local and state governments, have put Mexican as my “race” and have not ever gotten past the first stage. In my experience, in this state, the Federal Affirmative Action is a joke and a waste of time and doesn’t work. As a matter of fact, I think we need t o encourage everyone to do their own thing, and blaze a new trail for ethnic minorities in our city. With my ideas on how to start, maintain and grow new small business, we will level the playing field so we can serve our people and not rely on a broken system.

4) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in the Spokane area and what are your thoughts on how you can address the challenge(s) if you are elected?

I see the the biggest challenge not only for one ethnicity, but for all ethnicities, is employment. In Spokane we have 6.1% unemployment and in the Valley we have 6.4%. If we go across the boarder to Idaho that number drops to 4% in Post Falls and 3.4% in CDA. This is unacceptable. We need a small business friendly environment from our state and from our city. As the only right and true small business owner, who is also struggling just to make ends means. Reforming our regulations and tax



structure, keeping us as a no income tax state, and actively looking for new businesses to bring to our region will drop our unemployment rate and ensure that everyone who wants a job, has a job.

5) What is your understanding of the terms implicit bias & structural racism, and how they impact people of color?

To be honest with you I have not ever thought about it or have looked up the terms until I was asked this question. So I had to look up these terms and can relate them to my own life. I have experienced implicit bias & structural racism. I just boiled those down to ignorance and white privileged progressives trying to tell me how I should live my life. I think that is why I don’t rely on the state or other people to chart my course.

6) How have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in the Spokane area? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

In the trades you look at people’s skill and not the color of their skin. You can either do the job or not. To answer the first question yes I have effectively worked with members of the African American community. I am always looking for collaboration with anyone.

7) As it relates to diversity, where do you see Spokane County in the next ten years and what do you see as the city/county’s role?

I see a Spokane where anyone who wants a job has a job. Anyone who wants to start a business can start a business. Anyone who wants to own a farm can own a farm, or who has a great idea and wants to explore that great idea can and prosper. I see a Spokane where people are not judged my the color of their skin or by the accent in their voice but by the content of their heart and character. I see a Spokane where my children can be and do anything their hearts and minds will take them. This is where I see Spokane being in ten years with someone who is going to fight for and protect your individual rights, school choice, lower taxes, a pro small business/pro growth and equal and level ground for everyone who has the passion to start and finish something great!

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Andy Billig

Prefers Democratic Party

1) Highlight 2-3 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate as it relates to Spokane’s African American community?

I have been proud to represent Spokane for the past six years and during that time I have shown a willingness to listen to, and act on behalf of, everyone in Spokane, including the African American Community. Two items in particular: 1) I regularly attend events that allow me to listen to concerns of the African American Community including at NAACP events, the Spokane Solidarity rally at the Courthouse, and many more. 2) Working with Pastor Mitchell and other leaders, I helped secure critical state funding for the Emanuel Life Center.

2) What is your experience with Diversity in Spokane?

I have been active in the community, both as a listener and activist, in a wide variety of communities and situations around Spokane. My experience at different times has been one of both pride and frustration.

3) Are there ways that Spokane and the surrounding areas could be more inclusive?

I believe Spokane is making progress in diversity and inclusiveness but we have a long way to go. We have a lot of successful events that celebrate inclusiveness (MLK March, Pride Parade, Unity in the Community, etc.), which are terrific, but we have to go further and make it a part of everyday life throughout our community.

4) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in the Spokane area and what are your thoughts on how you can address the challenge(s) if you are elected?

I want to hear about what the African American community believes the challenges are and then work collaboratively to solve them. I am easy to contact via my e-mail andy@andybillig.com or via my cell phone at 509-990-9219. I welcome your input!

5) What is your understanding of the terms implicit bias & structural



racism, and how they impact people of color?

I understand these ideas and know that they negatively impact people of color. Structural racism is embedded in ways that many of us don’t realize so we need to be particularly active in our effort to identify and address it.

6) How have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in the Spokane area? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

Yes, I have worked collaboratively with the African American Community and look forward to future opportunities.

7) As it relates to diversity, where do you see Spokane County in the next ten years and what do you see as the city/county’s role?

In the next 10 years, I hope Spokane will continue to become more diverse and, in turn, our community will be more inclusive. The city, county and state play a role in many ways. Here are just a few examples: Fostering a positive relationship between the police and communities of color, securing state funding for facilities used by communities of color, and through school policies that identify structural racism and addresses it.

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WA STATE REPRESENTATIVE - DISTRICT 3

Randy McGlenn II

Position 1

Marcus Riccelli

Prefers Libertarian Party

1) Highlight 2-3 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate as it relates to Spokane’s African American community?

As a Libertarian, I take very serious the protection of the rights and liberties of ALL people. Our platform is the clearest of any that supports the openness and diversity of our culture, from immigration to equal opportunity under the law. I will be able to represent our community without being tied to party lines, free to represent us. With experience in project management, I have the ability to work with people of differing abilities, knowledge and background to bring them together to accomplish a common goal.

2) What is your experience with Diversity in Spokane?

I have worked at SKILS’KIN, a non-profit organization that provides assistance to people of various developmental and physical abilities. This organization impacts people of all ethnic backgrounds and I have had the privilege to get to work with people from all parts of the world who have settled here and have contributed to this great organization.

3) Are there ways that Spokane and the surrounding areas could be more inclusive?

Absolutely! I think offering multi-cultural activities within our community is a great way to break down cultural barriers. What better way to do this than to share ethnic cuisine and music? Allow people to experience a little bit of everywhere around the world in a fun way and we will begin to focus more on the positives of our cultural backgrounds.

4) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in the Spokane area and what are your thoughts on how you can address the challenge(s) if you are elected?

I feel the biggest challenge is overcoming social bias that affects people of color not just in Spokane, but the entire country. One way I feel that we can help overcome this is to build on multi-cultural social programs to help develop our children to learn, work, and play together without the social biases. If we can get our children to grow up without these, we can eventually wipe out the bias, but it may take generations to do so.

5) What is your understanding of the terms implicit bias & structural racism, and how they impact people of color?

Implicit bias and structural racism identifies the cultural divisiveness that we



experience in our country. Our society has been ingrained with predisposed biases based on our ethnic background and our country has had a long history of exclusiveness of participation of differing ethnicities in our government and community. This has had a huge setback to the inclusion of people of color and continues to affect the level of engagement and stake-hold they have in our community.

6) How have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in the Spokane area? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

My primary collaboration has initially been at a professional level. With my involvement in recent years running for office, I am beginning to work with various people of the community. As a leader of the county party, it is my goal to reach out to all people, including people of color, to build a strong, diverse organization to promote the values of liberty and equal opportunity. It is my hope through that effort I can help encourage young kids of all cultural backgrounds to be future leaders of our community.

7) As it relates to diversity, where do you see Spokane County in the next ten years and what do you see as the city/county’s role?

If I am elected I will see through a plan to rebuild our economy and job-market here in Eastern Washington. This will build better economic opportunities for everyone. I believe I can promote a business friendly environment that will see business owners from all backgrounds emerge successful to bring a vibrant business community to Spokane and compete head on with Seattle.

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Prefers Democratic Party

1) Highlight 2-3 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate as it relates to Spokane’s African American community?

I believe my track record supporting and strongly advocating for policies like paycheck fairness, increasing the minimum wage, paid sick and safe leave, and evidence-based restorative justice practices make me the most qualified. Specifically, as a member of the Capital Budget Committee, I have helped deliver for important community projects like funding for the Emmanuel Family Life Center and the MLK Jr. Family Outreach Center.

2) What is your experience with Diversity in Spokane?

I strive to be accessible and responsive to all those I have the honor to represent in the legislature. I am engaged with and look for opportunities to make certain that we are much more inclusive in our public policymaking. I support policies and movements that are working to ensure all humans experience dignity, justice and respect regardless of race, disability, age, religion, gender, ethnicity, gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation.

3) Are there ways that Spokane and the surrounding areas could be more inclusive?

Too often, when talking about the challenges of our education system in the wake of the recession, we forget that there are many people in our community who have never been served by it, and that legacy continues. This is particularly true for communities of color. We need to invest resources in early learning and smaller class sizes to help all kids have a fair shot to thrive.

4) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in the Spokane area and what are your thoughts on how you can address the challenge(s) if you are elected?

I believe public resources should be invested fairly to reverse inequities rather than to perpetuate the status quo. This means ensuring that communities of color and low-income communities have additional resources for early learning and smaller class sizes to help close the opportunity gap. I also believe that we need to double-down on college and career readiness support and financial aid for people in these situations to help bolster their success after high school.

5) What is your understanding of the terms implicit bias & structural



racism, and how they impact people of color?

As a straight white man my response is this – here is my cell 509-879-7805, let’s go to coffee where I will listen and be educated by anyone willing to share with me their understanding. From my position I don’t feel it is for me to try and respond in 75 words how people of color are impacted.

6) How have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in the Spokane area? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

I have been effective by working with our communities of color to identify important community projects, initiatives and state legislative priorities and then strongly advocate and deliver on them. I have brought together a group of stakeholders to discuss the prospects for building a dental clinic in East Central. There is momentum around jail diversion in our community, I would like to help find ways we can support this effort at the state level.

7) As it relates to diversity, where do you see Spokane County in the next ten years and what do you see as the city/county’s role?

Right now as babies are born in Sacred Heart, Holy Family or Deaconess, people are projecting bleak outcomes for their educational attainment, their lifetime income, their likelihood of being incarcerated and how long they will live because of the zip code they were born in. It’s time we take serious action in our City, County and State to level the playing field to give every person a truly fair shot.

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WA STATE REPRESENTATIVE - DISTRICT 3

Laura Carder

Position 2

Timm Ormsby

Prefers Republican Party

1) Highlight 2-3 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate as it relates to Spokane’s African American community?

I’m for defunding Planned Parenthood, founded by Margaret Sanger, who wanted to make it easier for blacks to eliminate their own through abortions, yet pretended to be their friend. I oppose illegal migration. Most blacks in Southern California don’t like it because illegal migrants are taking over their neighborhoods and many of their jobs. I want government to get off the backs of small businesses so they can better afford to hire people including blacks.

2) What is your experience with Diversity in Spokane?

I volunteer for Meals On Wheels. Some clients are blacks, some Native American Indians, one from Iran, some Latinos, etc. I have some Ukrainian friends, and occasionally played viola in the orchestras of three Russian language churches. I’m learning a few Russian and Ukrainian words. I attended a Marshall Islander church a few years ago on a Christmas. I would’ve enjoyed their music if it weren’t so loud. Would being a Republican in Spokane city also be an example of diversity?

3) Are there ways that Spokane and the surrounding areas could be more inclusive?

Maybe, but we should focus more on unity as the human race, in the English language and as Americans. People who want to be included should take the initiative to venture out rather than just stay in their own groups or wait to be invited.

4) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in the Spokane area and what are your thoughts on how you can address the challenge(s) if you are elected?

Getting off the welfare system and finding employment is challenging. The system encourages fathers to leave their families so government could be better providers. But their biggest



challenge is the attitude that they need government help in order to get out of the rut because “they are not as good as others”. Many who can do it without such assistance, like black conservatives and achievers, are often despised and sometimes called “Uncle Tom”.

5) What is your understanding of the terms implicit bias & structural racism, and how they impact people of color?

All I could say is what I said about the welfare system and the general attitude.

6) How have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in the Spokane area? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

I haven’t, but I intend to participate at the candidate forum put on by the NAACP.

7) As it relates to diversity, where do you see Spokane County in the next ten years and what do you see as the city/county’s role?

If our city council continues is it is, and if Hillary becomes our next President, there will be many mid-Eastern “refugees”, not including the Christians being persecuted, imposing their own laws on us, similar to what is going on in Europe. We need to focus more on unity and assimilation. We need to think of ourselves as Americans first, rather than focus on our race or ethnicity.

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Prefers Democratic Party

1) Highlight 2-3 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate as it relates to Spokane’s African American community?

As a member of the House Democratic Caucus, a dynamic 3rd Legislative District team and the labor movement, I place a very high value on the equality of political, educational, social and economic rights for all people in a concerted effort to address race-based discrimination. I have become more skilled and able to identify within myself and our community inherent biases and work to eliminate them.

2) What is your experience with Diversity in Spokane?

I believe our local communities are becoming more diverse and accepting. We have come a long way, but have much further to go. I have seen Spokane “grow up” to realize the importance of diversity for our collective growth, benefit and quality of life. Local law enforcement, community and political leaders are increasingly and publicly accepting responsibility to play a more effective role in inclusion.

3) Are there ways that Spokane and the surrounding areas could be more inclusive?

We need to be much more intentional in reaching out to everyone in our community who feels marginalized. There are still far too many of our neighbors who feel unaccepted based on race, culture, gender, age and orientation. We must address the perception, and in many cases the reality, that only the privileged few should make important decisions for everyone. We need to be more sensitive to the fact that the way we conduct business is viewed by many as patronizing and demeaning.

4) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in the Spokane area and what are your thoughts on how you can address the challenge(s) if you are elected?

The biggest challenges I see include people feeling accepted and valued. The single most important action we can take in the Legislature is to adequately the state programs that provide services so everyone has equal access to education, quality child care, nutrition, and job skill enhancements that are truly the economic equalizers.

5) What is your understanding of the terms implicit bias & structural racism, and how they impact people of color?



ism, and how they impact people of color?

To me, implicit bias is being favorable or unfavorable to a person or group of people without conscious awareness. Structural racism is normalization of biases that routinely disadvantage people of color. Neither is good for a healthy society that celebrates diversity, and we must take intentional steps to address it. Both are huge barriers to inclusion, individual and family success as well as a thriving, vibrant and prosperous community.

6) How have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in the Spokane area? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

I feel the best example of my efforts to fight structural racism and to be a positive agent for change in my community as a legislator is my work to create safe places, buildings and programs that provide the services to ensure all folks have access to what they need to be a valued member of our community. The completion of and upgrades to the Emmanuel Life Center and working to provide the MLK center with a new facility for young folks and families.

7) As it relates to diversity, where do you see Spokane County in the next ten years and what do you see as the city/county’s role?

Spokane County, like the rest of the country, will become more diverse over the next decade. We must have a rigorous, robust and ongoing community dialogue to evaluate whether we are aware of our changing population and that we are cultivating the proper environment for everyone to be successful.

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www.timmormsby.com

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Initiative 735 is a grassroots movement to make Washington the 18th state to ask Congress to overturn Citizens United.

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Vote YES on I-735 and join the movement sweeping our country to **Get BIG Money out of Elections!** When Washington State passes this Initiative in November we become the **18th** state to call for a Constitutional Amendment to clarify that **corporations are not people, money is not political speech** and **campaign donations should be transparent and regulated.**

Just how profitable has Citizens United been for corporations? The Sunlight Foundation did a study of the top 200 politically active corporations to calculate the rate of return for every dollar that they “invested” in the political system. What they found is that **for every dollar that they spent, the average corporation gains \$760 back in the form of favorable tax rates and subsidies.**

And where does that leave “We the People”? A recent Princeton study of 20 years of data concluded **“The preferences of the average American appear to have only a minuscule, near-zero, statistically non-significant impact upon public policy”.** This is clearly NOT a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

Throughout the years, corporations have been deemed to be “people” for the purposes of accessing the benefits of our Constitutional rights. **At present, corporations have claimed the First, Fourth, Fifth, Fourteenth Amendments and the Commerce Clause.** This means that:

First Amendment: Corporations have the right to use almost unlimited money to as freedom of speech in the political system using Super Pacs which shield their donations from the public eye.

Fourth Amendment: Corporations can refuse surprise searches from OSHA and EPA inspectors because as people, they are protected against a search without a warrant even though scheduling such visits may permit a company to hide threats to public health and safety.

Fourteenth Amendment: Corporations can claim equal protection under the law to force themselves into communities even as citizens are trying to protect local businesses from corporate chain encroachment.

We say a corporation is NOT a person under the law - only a person should have the rights of a person!

A Bloomberg poll has shown that **80% of Republicans and 83% of Democrats support overturning Citizen's United.** And banded together, the people can make a change. Let's bring the power to the people and **vote Yes on I-735 in November!**

Content Provided by The Washington Coalition to Amend the Constitution <http://www.wamend.org>



Now is the perfect time to join our chamber of diversity.



Our vision is to create an economically robust and civically engaged community through the acceptance of diversity throughout our region. Our 2017 membership drive and directory sales are now in process. Contact our membership staff for details.

Charles Smaltz
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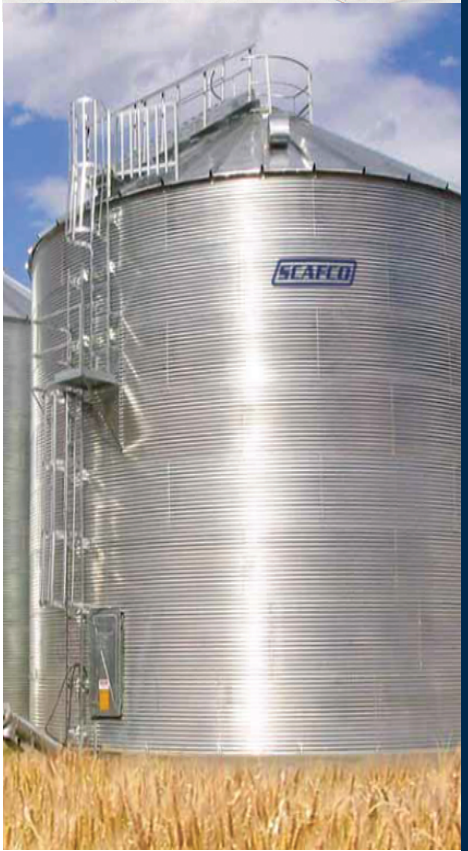
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FANS FLOCK TO SEE SIMONE AND GABBY

Spokane First Stop on Tour for Olympic Champion Gymnasts



It appears that United States Olympic Gymnasts Simone Biles and Gabby Douglas, along with the rest of the U.S. gymnastics team, have inspired a new generation of young African American girls (and boys) who are now interested in a sport that in the past rarely featured athletes who looked like them.

Following on the heels of a highly successful Olympic competition, the two World Champion athletes are participating in a 36-city Kellogg's Tour of Gymnastics Champions, which kicked off on September. 15, at the Spokane Arena. The program featured crowd favorites from the Women's gymnasts team, Simone Biles, Gabby Douglas, Laurie Hernandez, and Aly Raisman, as well as members of the men's gymnastics team, and athletes from rhythmic gymnasts and trampoline.

The fast faced and choreographed performances combined elite gymnastic skills with modern performance art, in a show that was nothing like a traditional gymnastics event, and from the applause and cheering that could be heard around the arena, it appears that the fans loved it.

Many of the fans in the audience, like James and Roberta Wilburn, were there to support all of the gymnasts, but in particular were excited to show their support for Simone Biles and Gabby Douglas. "I'm excited about two African American gymnasts that are excelling in their sport," Roberta commented.

Arnetta Mitchell and her daughter Destiney were there because they wanted the opportunity to see an Olympic gymnast in person. Arnetta had aspirations of her own. She was a gymnast when she was younger, "although not as good as Simone," she said smiling.

Other fans, like Carol Gray and her daughters Cinnaiah and LaDrea Gray were there because they have been inspired by Simone Biles and Gabby Douglas and now want to be gymnasts themselves. In the case of Savannah Gordon, the inspiration that she has gotten from Simone Biles in particular has prompted her to begin using videos on YouTube to teach herself beginning gymnastic moves, and according to her mother, Carla Gordon, she's pretty good.

Who knows, as these young girls begin to see themselves reflected more and more, perhaps the next Simone Biles or Gabby Douglas or Laurie Hernandez will rise right out of the city of Spokane.

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



Elect

Andrew

BIVIANO

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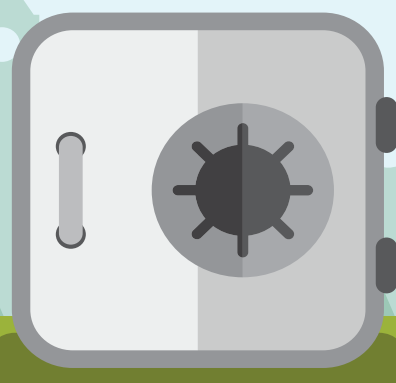
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NAACP POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Ballot Initiatives on the November Ballot

NAACP
SPOKANE

http://www.SpokaneNAACP.com

Note: This information is provided by the Political Action Committee of the Spokane NAACP. The Spokane NAACP takes no stand on these initiatives. We urge you to look up the “pros and cons” and “supporters and opponents” if you are undecided on how to vote on a particular initiative.

Initiative 1433
Washington Minimum Wage Increase
This measure would increase the State hourly minimum wage to \$11.00 in 2017, \$11.50 in 2018, \$12.00 in 2019 and \$13.50 in 2020 for employees who are at least 18. The measure would require employers to provide paid sick leave starting in 2018, that employees could use in certain circumstance, including to care for family members (as defined).
Full text found here(http://sos.wa.gov/assets/elections/initiatives/FinalText_954.pdf)

Initiative 1464
Washington State-Provided Campaign Financing Funded by a Non-Resident Sales Tax
This measure would create a state-funded campaign finance program allowing residents to direct up to three \$50 contributions to candidates for certain state offices. It would repeal the non-resident sales tax exemption, directing resulting funds to the program. It would restrict lobbying employment by certain former public employees; restrict campaign contributions from lobbyists and state contractors; increase penalties for campaign finance violations; increase campaign finance administration and enforcement; and revise campaign finance disclosure laws.
Full text found here (http://sos.wa.gov/assets/elections/initiatives/FinalText_997.pdf)

Initiative 1491
Washington Individual Gun Access Prevention by Court Order
This measure would authorize the courts, upon petition by police or a “family or household member,” to issue an “extreme risk protection order” to prevent an individual from accessing firearms for a specified time period, if the court finds that the individual poses a significant danger of causing personal injury to himself or others with a firearm. Temporary ex parte orders could be issued where there is sufficient evidence of significant danger in the near future.
Full text found here (http://sos.wa.gov/assets/elections/initiatives/FinalText_1016.pdf)

Initiative 1501
Washington Increased penalties for Crimes Against Vulnerable Individuals
This measure would increase penalties for criminal identity theft and civil penalties for consumer fraud when persons over sixty-five or vulnerable individuals are targeted. It would exempt certain information, including names, addresses and other personally identifying information, of vulnerable individuals and in-home caregivers for vulnerable populations from public disclosure. It would also prohibit the state and state agencies from releasing certain information of vulnerable individuals and in-home caregivers of vulnerable populations except in limited situations.
Full Text found here (http://sos.wa.gov/assets/elections/initiatives/FinalText_1024.pdf)

Initiative 732
Washington Carbon Emission Tax and Sales Tax Reduction
This initiative was sent to the Washington State legislature in the spring 2016. The legislature failed to make any rulings/adjustments in the initiative wording or meaning. There are two different groups working on carbon emissions. I-732 is the work of one of these groups, Carbon Washington. The measure would impose a carbon emission tax on the sale or use of certain fossil fuels and fossil-fuel-generated electricity; reduce the sales tax by one percentage point, increase low-income exemption and reduce certain manufacturing taxes.
Full Text found here (http://sos.wa.gov/assets/elections/initiatives/FinalText_779.pdf)

Initiative 735
Washington Advisory Question about the Rights of Corporations and Money as Free Speech (Citizens United vs Federal Elections Commission)
This measure would urge the Washington state congressional delegation to propose a federal constitutional amendment clarifying that constitutional rights belong only to individuals, not corporations; that spending money is not free speech under the First Amendment; that governments are fully empowered to regulate political contributions and expenditures to prevent undue influence; and that political contributions and expenditures must be promptly disclosed to the public. This measure would urge the legislature to ratify such an amendment.
Full Text found here (http://sos.wa.gov/assets/elections/initiatives/FinalText_735.pdf)

For more information about the initiatives on the November ballot visit the Spokane County Online Voters Guide at: <http://www.spokanecounty.org/180/Online-Voters-Guide>



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WA STATE REPRESENTATIVE - DISTRICT 4

Matt Shea

Scott Stucker

Prefers Republican Party

Did not submit any responses to the questions.



Contact:
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www.voteshea.com

Prefers Democratic Party

I have been stewing over these questions since you first sent them. I was unable to answer your questions as for my life I have never really lived in a diverse area. Spokane being 90% white and only 2% percent African American there still isn't too much diversity. I would love to see that change, but would not personally know how to make Spokane more inviting. Below is my answer to the group of questions. If you can use this great, if it doesn't fall in line with your story I understand. Thank you for your publication and bringing these issues to the forefront.

I have accepted that white privilege exists and have never had to deal with oppression. These things make it hard for me answer these questions individually. The fact that we still have to ask these questions really irritates me and I wish we were at a place where race weren't an issue. I am not trying to walk the All Live Matter line with that statement, because right now I see repeatedly in the news that another unarmed African American has been shot, and that there is a serious problem when some peoples



first response is to call this victim of structural racism a "thug" just because of the color of his or her skin. Black Lives Matter, period. As a state representative I would love to work with leader's within the African American community to better understand the challenges they face in our area.

Thank you,
Scott Stucker

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Why are Black Women NOT Elected to Statewide Offices Throughout the Nation?

By: Tom Hodson

(This article is an excerpt from the Spectrum Radio Program Spectrum, heard on WOUB Digital)

There are only two black women in the nation who hold statewide elective executive offices, according to the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University. Spectrum wants to know why.

Although there are numerous women of color elected to state and federal legislative offices, the numbers don't translate to statewide executive offices, according to Dr. Kira Sanbonmatsu, senior scholar at the Center for American for American Women in Politics.

She points to several reasons for this paucity of statewide public officeholders of color. First, she says legislative districts are usually more minority based than statewide populations – therefore, making it easier to win in a select district.

Secondly, she notes that black women may have fewer campaign resources available than white women and men, thereby limiting spending amounts in campaigns.

Also, the majority of black women candidates are Democrats, according to Sanbonmatsu, and Republicans recently have been making greater strides in controlling statehouses.

Finally, she said there are often racial and gender stereotypes working against black female candidates among the electorate.

Spectrum also talked with two African-American women politicians in the swing-state of Ohio to get their perspectives: former State Senator Nina Turner who ran unsuccessfully for Sec. of State in 2014 and Judge Gayle Williams-Byers, an elected judge in Ohio from a diverse district.

Both found it unacceptable that in 2016 there have been no black women governors and such a small number of statewide officeholders across the nation. This is especially true, they say, since African-American women and other women of color constitute the largest voting constituency in the country.



"We get everyone else elected but ourselves," said Sen. Tuner.

Both Judge Williams-Byers and Sen. Turner confirmed that it has been difficult for Black women candidates to raise the kind of money that is needed to be successful in winning a statewide office. They don't get the same amount of money as white candidates.

They also agreed that they face a "double whammy" of being black and being women when running statewide. However, they spoke of more difficulty confronting racial issues than gender bias.

Often, negative stereotypes are used against African American women as being ineffective and just plain angry. Passion for equality and fairness is often mischaracterized as being just an "angry black woman," says Sen. Turner.

When asked what it will take to change the current status of so few black women in statewide offices, both agreed: 1) Consciousness of the problem of under-representation, 2) commitments from individuals and party leaders to getting black women elected, and 3) consequences for failing to grapple with this overarching problem.

To hear this Spectrum radio program in its entirety visit: <http://woub.org/2016/09/14/why-are-black-women-not-elected-to-statewide-offices-throughout-the-nation>

CAWP fact sheet on women of color in office: <http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/fact-sheets-women-color>

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Jessica Campbell is a national leader of Showing Up for Racial Justice and co-director of Oregon's Rural Organizing Project. She has worked with some of the most rural communities in Oregon to fight for the commons from post offices to public parks, to support communities on the frontlines of the militia movement, and to envision what healthy and vibrant rural communities could look like.

Evening Workshop
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for Social Change:
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Workshop Leader Jessica Campbell

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Register Today at www.pjals.org/calling-us-all-in

WA STATE REPRESENTATIVE - DISTRICT 6

Lynette Vehrs

Position 1

Mike Volz

Prefers Democratic Party

1) Highlight 2-3 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate as it relates to Spokane’s African American community?

I am a Registered Nurse and have just retired from teaching at WSU College of Nursing. I am now volunteering at the House of Charity Medical Clinic for the homeless and low economic population. It is also through my experience as a Home Care Nurse for 18 years and psychiatric nurse that I have gained experience with the marginalized communities. I have also attended some meetings of our local NAACP.

2) What is your experience with Diversity in Spokane?

I have had limited experience, except for the above. Spokane unfortunately has limited minority diversity.

3) Are there ways that Spokane and the surrounding areas could be more inclusive?

Spokane must work to contact and include the diversity that does exist in our area. We have around 2% of our population that is African American, a little more that is Asian and a similar American Indian population. The total is around 7% of the City of Spokane. We need to recognize and include this vital part of our city.

4) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in the Spokane area and what are your thoughts on how you can address the challenge(s) if you are elected?

A challenge facing African Americans as well as other minorities is to be “discovered”. We need to educate the Spokane community to the minority cultures and their contributions to the city. “Cultural Competency” is a subject taught and woven into the curriculum at the College of Nursing. In many ways we are biased and may not be aware of it.

5) What is your understanding of the terms implicit bias & structural racism, and how they impact people of color?

Implicit bias is bias that is buried deep in people’s unconscious, so deep they often are not even aware of it. The one thing to know is that we all have biases. This includes creating preferences or



animosity toward people of different races or ethnicities. In fact, implicit bias can, and often does, affect conscious decision-making. Structural racism can be seen in institutional philanthropy and those making decisions about loan making strategy are no exception.

6) How have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in the Spokane area? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

I have had the opportunity to work with members of the African American community while working on the health care exchange program. It is highly important to blend our communities when working on issues of health and well-being. We can better network and understand the “messaging” our groups respond to.

7) As it relates to diversity, where do you see Spokane County in the next ten years and what do you see as the city/county’s role?

If elected as your State Representative in the 6th Legislative District I hope to give Spokane the necessary tools and resources to be more inclusive. The present City Council appears to desire just that, inclusion of minorities. We need to be accountable for who we hire and why. The City Council has just conducted a study on the number of minorities and women hired in varied position levels. This is sadly telling of our deficiencies.

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Prefers Republican Party

Did not submit any responses to the questions.



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PERSPECTIVES

WA STATE REPRESENTATIVE - DISTRICT 6

Jeff Holy Position 2 Shar Lichty

Prefers Republican Party

1) Highlight 2-3 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate as it relates to Spokane's African American community?

My 22 years as a Spokane Police Officer, 26 years as an attorney & 4 years as a politician give you three reasons to question my sanity already... But those very reasons are why I am a good fit to represent you. Serving in all three branches of government provide a real world perspective of how the system works. It also gives me the tools to achieve results for all of Spokane's communities.

2) What is your experience with Diversity in Spokane?

Spokane doesn't have as much diversity as other cities our size. Still, my 22 years with Spokane PD exposed me to every demographic, income level, race and culture that Spokane has to offer. Daily real life involvement in peoples personal affairs as a police officer, provided insights and experiences that can only be learned from being there. People are people, most are good, a few are bad. I learned to look past appearances.

3) Are there ways that Spokane and the surrounding areas could be more inclusive?

Tough question. Identifying a common goal that everyone would aspire to accomplish would be a start. This isn't a matter of community leadership naming a goal, but rather people realizing what is important and finding value in moving towards it.

4) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in the Spokane area and what are your thoughts on how you can address the challenge(s) if you are elected?

Everybody in this region has the same challenge - lack of opportunity. Spokane is largely a service based economy, and asking if you "want a latte" or "want fries with your order" are neither a career path nor a living wage job. Aspiring people move away because opportunity exists elsewhere, and as a result our largest negative economic impact is talent flight. Since day one in office, I have worked to establish a manufacturing, industrial, institutional, supply chain based economy for Spokane, so that opportunity will exist here.



5) What is your understanding of the terms implicit bias & structural racism, and how they impact people of color?

Structural racism exists. Yet I find that the existence and impact of racism and bias seem to be lessening with each succeeding generation. Hopefully this trend will continue.

6) How have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in the Spokane area? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

As a police officer, I met with and worked with community leaders many times. The Maxeys, the Watkins - Percy and I worked together at SPD for years. As an attorney, I worked with whoever wanted my counsel. As a state representative, it is my job to represent the people of my district. As issues arise, I would hope that community leaders would consider me someone worth including in the conversation.

7) As it relates to diversity, where do you see Spokane County in the next ten years and what do you see as the city/county's role?

I view Spokane City and County's role as providing opportunity for all residents to participate in defining, designing and building a community that meets everyone's needs. At the state level, I find my role as providing people a voice in state government, but more importantly to help Spokane develop into a place where people come because opportunity exists. We will find out over the next 10 years if I made a difference.

Contact:
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votejeffholy@gmail.com
www.votejeffholy.com

Prefers Democratic Party

1) Highlight 2-3 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate as it relates to Spokane's African American community?

As an organizer I have been committed to applying an intersectional racial justice lens to the policy work I have been a part of. I have sought leadership and insight from individuals who are directly and/or disproportionately impacted by these policies. I try to do this in a non-tokenizing manner by attending meetings and events hosted by communities of color to hear from them and building genuine relationships. I will continue these efforts regardless of election results.

2) What is your experience with Diversity in Spokane?

I grew up in a very diverse community and Spokane's lack of racial diversity was a bit of a culture shock for me when I moved here 21 years ago. In recent years, I have seen some progress and increased diversity but would like to see more. I believe we need to become a more welcoming community for all in order to increase our diversity. This begins with individuals meeting and getting to know individuals unlike themselves.

3) Are there ways that Spokane and the surrounding areas could be more inclusive?

We need to make intentional attempts to reduce/eliminate barriers to all marginalized populations, seek input from groups negatively impacted by these barriers, and work to create a community with equitable opportunities and outcomes for all.

4) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in the Spokane area and what are your thoughts on how you can address the challenge(s) if you are elected?

Disparities in outcomes in education and disproportionate interactions with all levels of law enforcement and incarceration rates are two of the biggest challenges. Addressing these challenges through support of organizations led by communities of color, applying an intersectional racial equity lens to policy, standing up against all racist policies and acts of hate, and creating a more welcoming community for people of color are some of the things I will do if elected.

5) What is your understanding of the terms implicit bias & structural racism, and how they impact people of color?

Implicit bias is the individual uncon-



scious bias we all have as a result of our lived experience and the influence of societal and media representations of individuals different than us. An example of its manifestation can be seen in the large number of shootings of unarmed black men. Structural racism is societies biases strengthened by these same representations over several centuries. An example of its manifestation can be seen in the negative public response to Kaepernick's protest.

6) How have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in the Spokane area? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

I have been fortunate in my current job to have opportunities to work with diverse populations on a variety of issues and build genuine relationships with individuals. I am a NAACP member and active on their political action committee. If you seek to work collaboratively with particular populations, you must go where they are, listen, learn, and begin to build genuine relationships.

7) As it relates to diversity, where do you see Spokane County in the next ten years and what do you see as the city/county's role?

I see increasing diversity during the next ten years as a result of some intentional efforts by the City and County to work with communities of color to address racial disparities in education, criminal justice, and employment. Addressing and changing policies and practices that increase institutional racism is a critical role for the city/county. I will be using an intersectional racial equity lens on all policy work at the state level.

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SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Erin Jones

1) Highlight 2-3 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate as it relates to the African American community in Spokane and Washington State?

Having lived in Spokane as an educator and an African American woman, with 3 children in public schools, I understand the challenges/opportunities for African Americans in the area. I won the Milken Educator of the year, in part for the work I did for African American children and other children of color. I've been honored by the White House as a Champion of Change for African American students for closing opportunity gaps, and have trained over 20,000 educators on those strategies.

2) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in the public school system and what are your thoughts on how you can address the challenge(s) if you are elected?

In Washington State gaps are widening, not closing. There are 4 ways I believe we need to do business significantly differently: 1. Recruit, hire, train and support adults who are effective with African American students. 2. Promote authentic family/community engagement. 3. Create systems to address the whole child - intellectual, physical, social-emotional and cultural. 4. Ensure smooth transitions for all students from one level to the next and one classroom to the next.

3) What is your understanding of the terms implicit bias & structural racism, and how they impact students of color in the educational system?

We must acknowledge that we have all been socialized to believe certain groups of people are expected to succeed and others are expected to fail. All of us have biases and prejudices, and in order for real change, these must be authentically addressed. Implicit bias shows up in how we think about time, noise, and social interaction. For example, students who come into class quietly, raise their hands and engage with their peers in softer voices are often perceived and treated preferentially. The same is true for students and families who show up early or on-time to events. Not doing so is the origin of many discipline referrals and student-teacher disconnects.

4) How have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in Washington state? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

I've worked with a number of African American organizations: Washington Alliance for Black School Educators, Seattle Alliance for Black School Educators, Black Education Strategy Roundtable, Tabor 100, the Breakfast Group, Ministerial Alliance, and the Black Collective. I've spoken at MLK events in African American communities from Yakima to Seattle over the years, and served as a keynote annually at African American Legislative Day. I've developed strong relationships across that state which I hope to leverage as State Superintendent.

5) Some people of color view charter schools as a viable option to what they see as the failure of public schools to adequately address the needs of students of color. How do you respond to that view?

I acknowledge that public education as a whole has not served African



American children well; however, I do not believe charter schools are THE answer. We must focus on instructional practices, attitudes and opportunities that must be delivered in public schools across the state. We must hold every school district responsible for ensuring every child receives a quality education. There are classrooms and buildings across our state that are serving African American students well, and we must highlight those models.

6) African American students who attend public school in Eastern Washington report that they consistently experience acts of overt racism from other students (ie. name calling, bullying, etc) that is not addressed by teachers or administrators, even when brought to their attention. What do you think needs to be done that is not currently being done?

I find that often educators do not "hear", or wish to acknowledge the frequency with which students (and teachers of color) hear and experience micro and macro aggressions. It is a form of bullying and must be treated as such! We must create safe spaces to talk about issues among adults and give educators strategies to address a fix. We MUST talk about race and the realities of racism. We can't pretend they don't exist.

7) Is there a role for the Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction to address the lack of students of color prepared for STEM careers in Washington State?

Most definitely! In fact, I just attended the MESA annual celebration. MESA is devoted to providing students of color with early and intentional exposure to STEM opportunities. Apparently, there is now consideration about partnership with OSPI to expand these opportunities. Just yesterday I met with WA STEM, a statewide coalition addressing STEM education. One of their top priorities is access to STEM instruction for students of color.

8) If elected, what do you see as your role in increasing the number of teachers of color in public schools, particularly in Eastern Washington?

As the first African-American woman to run for statewide office, my role is critical to increasing people of color in the teaching field. Students must see teaching as a viable, aspirational profession. I have spoken with over 20,000 students in the past year. I believe we must start encouraging young people of color to consider the profession at a much earlier age. Serving in this position provides modeling in a very new and unique way.

<http://www.erinjones2016.org>

Chris Reykdal

1) Highlight 2-3 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate as it relates to the African American community in Spokane and Washington State?

My 20+ years of experience in education policy and research is what makes me the best candidate for our African American students. We don't need more speeches. We need to fully and equitably fund schools and drive resources to communities most in need. I was on the ground, pushing to pass our Equal Opportunity Gap bill (and fund it!) in the Legislature, and I can't wait to expand on that as Superintendent.

2) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in the public school system and what are your thoughts on how you can address the challenge(s) if you are elected?

The biggest challenge facing African American students is the Opportunity Gap. Students of color are systematically discriminated against in the way we fund our schools, our inability to address poverty, our discipline policies, and our standardized tests. I will diversify the OSPI staff, as I did at the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, and no policy will be promoted that does not fully examine the impacts on our diverse communities.

3) What is your understanding of the terms implicit bias & structural racism, and how they impact students of color in the educational system?

Implicit biases are the biases that we may not necessarily know we harbor. These are learned socially, and they often take a conscious effort to overcome. Structural racism is the normalization of systems that routinely advantage whites while disadvantaging minorities. Both of these impact students of color in the educational system in a variety of ways, including disproportionate discipline; lower educational expectations; a lack of teacher diversity, and so much more!

4) How have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in Washington state? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

I have worked effectively with members of the African American community throughout my career, and I have specifically worked to diversify the organizations I have been a part of. We need a massive collaborative effort to diversify our teaching and support staff and to bring diverse voices to all manners of policy making.

5) Some people of color view charter schools as a viable option to what they see as the failure of public schools to adequately address the needs of students of color. How do you respond to that view?

With full funding, we can deploy innovative schools in every community without sacrificing public accountability. Charter schools, if legal, should be authorized by local school boards. The NAACP recently called for a moratorium on new charter schools because they have



seen the data that shows charters increase segregation without sufficient benefits. Let's fully fund our public schools and drive the resources to the communities most in need!

6) African American students who attend public school in Eastern Washington report that they consistently experience acts of overt racism from other students (ie. name calling, bullying, etc) that is not addressed by teachers or administrators, even when brought to their attention. What do you think needs to be done that is not currently being done?

Every teacher, administrator, and school employee should undergo cultural competency training and culturally responsive practices to better serve ALL students. In addition, they should receive additional training on how to handle bullying in our schools and classrooms. Finally, we need to increase our commitment to parent outreach and engagement. Schools cannot solve issues of bullying and other acts that detract from student achievement without the help of parents and the community.

7) Is there a role for the Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction to address the lack of students of color prepared for STEM careers in Washington State?

Yes. In part, this goes back to the full funding issue. With full funding, every school district is empowered to provide expanded and equitable access to STEM courses and programs. We need to be intentional about promoting students of color, and specifically young women, into STEM pathways. Teachers, administrators, and counselors need to be well trained and obligated to push students into rigorous courses and provide the support necessary to achieve success in STEM pathways.

8) If elected, what do you see as your role in increasing the number of teachers of color in public schools, particularly in Eastern Washington?

We must diversify our teaching corps! It begins by creating an expectation of teaching with students at a very young age. Students should teach material as much as they are taught material as early as elementary school. We have to recruit young people of color to teach, provide financial incentives, and then provide comprehensive mentor supports once in the field. And we MUST increase teacher pay to ensure this happens!

<http://www.chrisreykdal.com>

SPOKANE SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE CANDIDATES

Position 10



Ward Andrews

Legal/Judicial Experience: A trial attorney for over 25 years, Ward Andrews has successfully represented thousands of individual and business clients in diverse civil litigation. He has served as an appointed and private arbitrator in multiple jurisdictions.

Other Professional Experience: A supervising trial attorney for a major insurer, Ward Andrews manages and mentors several attorneys. He formerly managed his own law firm.

Education: Gonzaga Law School, JD – University of Washington, BA

Community Service: Past youth coach for YMCA, SYSA, AAU and Spokane Girl's Fastpitch. Financial support to after school food programs, Union Gospel Mission. Mentor of at risk students. Hoopfest volunteer.

Statement: Judicial elections are often overlooked. Voters are asked to elect a non-partisan candidate based upon name recognition, brief candidate statements and word of mouth. Incumbent Judges are rarely challenged. Spokane County, it is time to choose change. While I seek your vote, I am really asking you to hire me for Superior Court Position 10. I will be dedicated and fair.

Important decisions affecting legal rights of citizens in civil and criminal cases are decided daily by our judges. While not everyone will be pleased with the decisions made, I can assure you that if your case is assigned to me, I will studiously prepare, patiently listen, respect all litigants, court staff and counsel, and make well-reasoned, sound decisions based upon the law as it is written. Most important, I will not compromise in my dedication to both serve and protect the citizens of Spokane County.

Spokane has been my home for 24 years. I believe in community service and have been a coach and a mentor for at risk youth. In the spare time I have, my wife and I chase the seven children in our blended family.

I would be honored to receive your vote.

Contact:
(509) 844-5100
electwardandrews@gmail.com
www.wardandrewsforjudge.com



Linda Tompkins

Legal/Judicial Experience: Linda joined the Superior Court in 1997, serving as Presiding Judge, Chief Family Judge, Felony Drug Court Judge, Plea Judge, and presiding over civil, criminal, and juvenile trials. Statewide, she's chaired the Superior Court Civil Rules and Supreme Court Courthouse Facilitator Committees and served as Washington State Judicial College faculty.

Other Professional Experience: Linda practiced In Washington, Idaho and federal courts while serving as President of the Central Valley School Board and Valley Chamber of Commerce and chairing the State Transportation Commission.

Education: Graduated with honors University of Idaho, Gonzaga Law School.

Community Service: Volunteer legal services, Habitat and Spokane Food Bank.

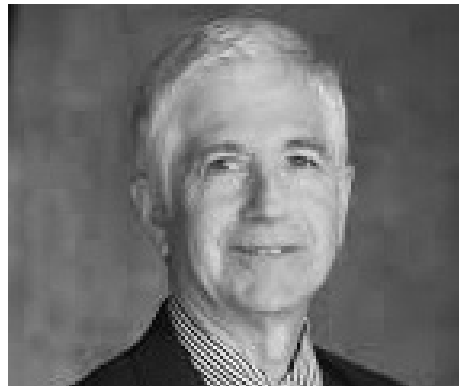
Statement: Although all areas of justice are vitally important, my broad judicial background, especially in therapeutic courts, has prepared me for the exciting challenges in criminal justice today. Right now there are too many dangerous folks on the outside, and too many folks behind bars, who could, with effective supervision and programs, work themselves back to their families, jobs, treatment, and positive lives. This has proven to increase public safety and decrease burgeoning jail and prison costs.

I've also experienced growing caseloads in family and juvenile law, housing law and health related matters. All these areas are gravely lacking counsel because people just can't afford even the filing fees to begin a case. I'm proud to say volunteer lawyers and trained practitioners are stepping up in great numbers. But even those efforts can't fully address the huge number of unmet civil legal needs. Judges must be part of the solution, too.

I was raised to value public service and have dedicated my years on the bench to that mission. More work needs to be done, and that remains my personal commitment as I ask you to retain me as your Superior Court judge. Thank you.

Contact:
(509) 309-6144
reelectjudgetompkins@gmail.com
www.reelectjudgetompkins.com

Position 11



Tim Fennessy

Legal/Judicial Experience: Practicing Attorney: 33 years; private practice in civil matters with trial/mediation/arbitration experience in personal injury, professional malpractice, contract disputes, eminent domain, construction defects, product liability; argued in the Washington Courts of Appeal, the Washington State Supreme Court and the Idaho Supreme Court.

Other Professional Experience: Mediator in Mandatory Mediation Program; Washington State Association of Justice, Eagle Member; Gonzaga Law Board of Advisors, Member; lecturer for CLE programs.

Education: Law Degree, Gonzaga University School of Law (Thomas More Scholar 1980-'82); BA with honors Political Science, Gonzaga University.

Community Service: HEAL Board, Past Member; Hutton Elementary Parent Teacher Group, Past Member.

Statement: The courtroom is a place where money and power should not make a difference. Individuals, corporations and government should all stand toe to toe in demanding fairness and be able to count equally on justice. I am a champion for individuals and my practice centers around real people with legal needs. I have experience representing people from all walks of life in the stress of the courtroom. That work requires honesty, creativity and hard work; all attributes I will continue to apply on the bench.

Born and raised in Montana, I have transitioned from student to lawyer, businessperson, husband and father in Spokane. There have been consistent reminders of the importance the law has in all aspects of the civil union that is our Community, our County, our State and ultimately, our Country. As a Superior Court Judge, I will do the work necessary to make and permit just decisions in all cases.

I seek the opportunity to strengthen and maintain the local judiciary. Rated "well qualified" and "exceptionally well qualified" by county and state organizations, I am proud to have broad community support and appreciate your vote. When you choose Fennessy, you choose justice.

Contact:
(509) 455-8883
fennessyforsuperiorcourt@gmail.com
fennessyforsuperiorcourt.com



Greg Sypolt

Legal/Judicial Experience: Superior Court Judge, Spokane County, 1997–present; Spokane County Assistant Public Defender, 1979-1997.

Other Professional Experience: Superior Court Judges' Association Trustee (2007–2010); Superior Courts Judges' Education Committee Chair (2002–2004); instituted Family Treatment Court (Juvenile Court–2001); Washington State Judicial College Dean, Trustee, and instructor on cultural competency; member of Minority and Justice Commission and Interpreter Commission; chair Access to Justice Board's Justice Without Barriers Committee; chair Diversity Section Spokane County Bar.

Education: Washington and Jefferson College, Pennsylvania, B.A.; Gonzaga University School of Law, Spokane, WA, J.D.

Community Service: Board member: Volunteers of America; Career Path Services; Hispanic Business/Professional Association; Rotary.

Statement: Judge Sypolt was appointed to Superior Court in 1996, after serving as a trial attorney at the Spokane Public Defenders for 17 years. He has presided over hundreds of jury and nonjury trials and proceedings and is currently Chief Criminal Judge.

Judge Sypolt has a passion for the pursuit of justice, treating everyone in court with patience, dignity and respect. A careful listener, he keeps an open mind to all viewpoints in a dispute. He is well respected by attorneys and peers, consistently rating exceptionally well qualified in bar association polls. Judge Sypolt is known for his outstanding judicial temperament, knowledge and experience. He is endorsed by judges locally and throughout the state, including members of the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court.

Judge Sypolt received the Distinguished Judicial Service Award from Gonzaga University in 2012. His commitment to justice and equity for minority persons is a hallmark of his career, having served on the Minority and Justice Commission and the Interpreter Commission of the Supreme Court. Additionally, he created the Diversity Section of the Spokane County Bar Association to promote the retention of minority attorneys locally.

Judge Sypolt respectfully requests your vote.

Contact:
(509) 535-9595
info@judgegregsypolt.com
www.JudgeGregSypolt.com

vote yes on prop 1

YES FOR BUSES

yesforbuses.org

New investment for public transportation will be on the ballot in the upcoming general election. Those Spokane County citizens living in the Public Transportation Benefit Area have the opportunity to vote for this new investment in transit.

Spokane Transit Authority Proposition 1 is a funding measure that will temporarily raise the sales tax rate by 1/10th of 1% in 2017 and an additional 1/10th of 1% in 2019 to fund the STA Moving Forward Plan.

This equates to about 1 penny on a \$10 purchase. The tax would not apply to gasoline or most food purchases and sunsets in 2028.

The STA Moving Forward Plan, adopted by a bipartisan group of Spokane County elected officials, is a collec-

tion of 25 public transportation improvements over a ten-year period.

These improvements include new routes, additional night and weekend service, new service on East Indiana in Spokane Valley to the Providence Medical Park, and a new transit center on the West Plains for Cheney, Airway Heights, Medical Lake, and Fairchild Air Force Base users.

See a list of all projects at www.stamovingforward.com.

Ballots for the General Election will be mailed beginning October 19th and must be postmarked by November 8th at 5:00pm to be counted. If STA Prop 1 is approved, implementation will begin as early as May of 2017.

*Paid for by Yes for Buses, 1810 S. Koren, Spokane Valley, WA 99212
For more information visit: <http://yesforbuses.org>*

OUR VOICES

AFRAID TO CALL 911: BLACK LIFE IN AMERICA

By Nicole Lee

(Special Commentary: reprinted from <http://www.tricedneywire.com>)

Earlier in the week as the news swirled around the killing of Terence Crutcher in Tulsa and Keith Lamont Scott of Charlotte, I decided that my day was too busy to go out. I had a lot of writing to do and my Northwest DC home seemed the best place to do it.

I live in a beautiful multiracial neighborhood, filled with kids and farmer’s markets. It is an oasis for me from the grim realities of human and civil rights work. In order to not disturb my writing flow, mid-day I decided to have lunch delivered. The delivery man, an older African American man, arrived on time with my order, but as I opened the door, it became clear that something was completely off with this transaction.

The first thing I remember seeing is the blood. There was blood all over the delivery man’s bag, down his arm, dripping onto the pavement on the porch. As I looked up at the man’s face and examined the rest of his body, I realized the blood flowing out of the arm opposite of the one holding the delivery.

“Are you OK?” I asked.

“I’m so, so sorry. I’m just so, so sorry.”, he answered.

Immediately I ran to get my phone and called 911. By the time I arrived back to check on him, his blood was pouring all over my porch and he was turning gray. I found out that he had just come from dialysis and couldn’t afford to take the day off. His fistula was bleeding uncontrollably.

“I have an emergency. I need you to come to my house immediately my delivery man is bleeding everywhere. I don’t know how to stop it.”, I blurted.

The dispatcher took down all the information and gave me specific instructions as I tried to help him stop the flow of blood with kitchen towels.

In the midst of exchanging information with the dispatcher, I said something that I did not expect.

“Please tell the first responders that we are expecting, that we are Black.”

“What?” She replied.

“Please. Don’t... I don’t want them to be... confused”, I stuttered. As surprised as I was at what I was saying I couldn’t take it back.

The ambulance arrived. The man, even after losing a lot blood, was calm and eerily coherent. He continued to apologize for being a bother to me and the emergency personnel. The man was taken to the hospital without incident and has recovered.

After the urgency of this situation was all over, I was forced to inventory everything that happened. This reflection looking at my own response to that situation.

In an emergency situation, all of us prioritize the information we are providing. For me, it was the following:
His name.
Is he breathing?
Can you stop the bleeding?
Is he still awake?
Please tell them the person they are there to help is Black.

In the midst of all of this key information for survival, it was also necessary for me to know that the people helping this man in danger were aware he was Black.

As concerned as I was about getting the man medical help, as a Black woman, I was also concerned about how our help would judge us once they arrived. I had to be assured that when they found us on my porch, they would know that we weren’t the threat. They would know that we were in fact the victims.

For some my concern that a 911 call could escalate into violence against me or the delivery man is an overreaction. However, incidents of brutality against injured Black people seeking help or assistance happens far too frequently. Let me share a few examples:

This past Wednesday in Baltimore County, MD, **Tawon Boyd** died after being beaten by police officers called to the scene because Boyd was feeling “disoriented.” According to the family’s attorney, the purpose of the 911 call was to get an ambulance to take him to the nearest hospital. Instead of a positive outcome to what could have been a survivable ailment, Tawon’s family now awaits an autopsy report.

The week before, in Hagerstown, MD, **a 15 year old biracial girl** was hit by a car while riding her bike. Officials say she declined medical treatment, but what ensued next is inexplicable.

According to the video, despite her physical condition and potential injuries, the girl was maced and slammed into the car. ‘All we want to do is make sure she’s OK,’ one officer tells a bystander, explaining that the girl might have lingering brain damage from the collision. Not even a minute later, an officer can be heard telling the girl to ‘put your feet in the car, OK, or you’re going to get sprayed.’ When the frightened girl does not immediately comply, the officers close the door and then spray out their canisters into a crack in the window. The girl can then be heard shrieking in pain, saying ‘I can’t breathe’ multiple times.

While we watch a week of protests in Charlotte, three years ago, **Jonathan Ferrell**, a star college football player, was in a car wreck and sought help by knocking on the door of a house near the crash site. The police arrived and shot and killed him as he ran towards them, very possibly running towards them for help. There was no justice in that case, just a hung jury and no political will to retry the case.

In that same city we watched as **Keith Lamont Scott**’s wife pleaded with officers, telling them he had a traumatic brain injury. Did that reality penetrate the officers’ minds as they pumped bullets into a man, slowly backing away from police officers, who Scott may not have realized were police officers?

African Americans who are in the midst of a mental health crisis face extreme uses of force by the police, even when they are told prior to their arrival that is the issue.

One such call was for **Natasha McKenna**, who died after being restrained and repeatedly shocked with a stun gun. One of the last things we hear Natasha say is “you promised not to kill me.”

Instead of rendering aid, all of these victims were met with force. At a time when they deserved comfort, all they received was malice, injury and, unfortunately death.

There is a painful and insidious message being delivered to Black people in this



country that need help in an emergency: living as a Black person in this country means to never have needs or be vulnerable.

Even with a concussion, unstoppable bleeding, or a mental illness you have to have enough control over your facilities so YOU don’t scare someone into taking your life. “Careful compliance” is difficult enough in the stressful situation of being pulled over by a cop; how possible is it when you are injured or sick.

Because of this, you shouldn’t be surprised that some African Americans talk about not using 911 when they are in crisis. They are worried that it could make a bad situation much worse. They can’t feel safe in crisis. Moreover, despite the taxes Black people pay for these services, more people are talking about creating community based alternatives to calling 911.

Sadly, our society has normalized the fact that even under the most extreme conditions, African Americans haven’t earned the right to live against the founded or unfounded concerns of officers. In the case of my delivery driver, I am grateful the first responders were there to help and care for him. Yet, it is equally disturbing and unacceptable that African Americans cannot assume that in a time of crisis we will be protected or served.

Nicole C. Lee is a strategist, advisor, and coach, grounded in human rights.

SOUL SEARCHING IN A SOULLESS COUNTRY



By Maurice Taylor

My vote for Jill Stein comes from a place of political destitution and desperation. More destitution than hope. I worked for over a year and a half volunteering for the Bernie Sanders Campaign and endured much hardship, seeing that the Black and Latino communities in Massachusetts were treated as if Hillary owned our vote, and white people within the campaign chalked it up as a strategy, being that there was “no way Bernie would get the Black vote”. But when I hit the streets and talked to Black and Latino people, I found that they didn’t

really know Hillary, and when I educated them, they turned to Bernie.

The night during one of the debates when Bernie defended Hillary over the emails, I felt then that I would have to find another candidate, but was hoping not. When at the Democratic National Convention, I found so much disrespect from the Hillary campaign towards Bernie supporters, it was disgusting.

To be honest, before I went to the DNC I already knew that I would support Jill Stein if Bernie was not the Democratic nominee. In fact before the DNC, Jill came to Springfield, MA to March for

Black Lives Matter, We marched together. I have never seen a Presidential candidate march with our communities in a Black Lives Matter march.

I feel that under the leadership of Jill Stein we can address the serious issues that rob the youth of their soul, and go on to institutional oppression with little or no solution. Also Jill Stein’s platform goes further than Bernies. I feel like this is what we need.

After I got back from the DNC, I left the Democratic Party and enrolled in the Republican Party to prove there was little difference between the two. However, I am

actively seeking ways to help the Green Party grow in Massachusetts so I can have a party to join that can feed my soul.

I’m not afraid of a woman in leadership, I’m afraid that if that woman is not Jill Stein, who speaks with integrity, who has a history of healing, rather than stealing, listening, rather shutting people up, giving people voice, rather than taking credit for their programs. If that woman is not Jill Stein, then this country will continue to go down Hill.

Maurice “Soulfighter” Taylor is a Grassroots Cultural Activist/ Spoken Word Artist and DJ.

OUR VOICES

YOUNG BLACKS REJECTING DUOPOLY

By Glen Ford

(Reprinted from *The Black Agenda Report (BAR)*
<http://blackagendareport.com>)

Movements are difficult phenomena to measure. Scholars bicker over where and when to pinpoint the beginnings of social movements, or when they have petered out, or the difference between dead movements and those that are merely dormant. However, we can now be certain that the surge of grassroots Black political action that gained international attention through fierce resistance to police repression in Ferguson, Missouri, two years ago, is a full-blown “movement” with the potential to shake the foundations of the prevailing order.

Real movements have profound, lasting effects on the worldviews of a broad strata of the populations from which they emerge. Lives are no longer simply lived; they are set in motion – towards a goal and against an oppressor. The movement that went under the general heading of Black Lives Matter has permeated the consciousness of young Black people, reigniting the seemingly dead coals of a previous mass movement that was violently crushed two generations ago. The Black Radical Tradition re-emerges in an era when capitalism is in permanent, fatal crisis and the U.S. Empire thrashes about like a vampire exposed at sunrise.

You can be confident that this movement has taken firm root when the Democrats howl in distress at their inability to count on the votes of Black youth -- while most of their elders and the supine and corrupt Black Misleadership Class huddle near the latrine of Hillary Clinton’s obscenely overstuffed Big Tent, now also home to hordes of refugee Republicans, the job-exporting filthy rich, and their retainers in the “national security” and regime-changing, earth-scorching establishment.

Black Millennials will not vote for Donald Trump, the white nationalist, but many see no earthly reason to support Hillary Clinton either. They don’t buy into her reincarnation from the ghoulish co-president who railed against young Black “super-predators,” condemning unprecedented multitudes of Black people to prison, and who endorsed the abandonment of millions of poor women and children to the depredations of a “workfare” marketplace.

“That stuff comes up unprompted,” said Democratic pollster Cornell Belcher, who sounded the alarm to party brass after conducting a series of focus groups with young Blacks in Cleveland, Ohio, and Jacksonville, Florida.

In presenting his findings to his paymasters, Belcher selected statements from the disturbingly large numbers of focus group members that see no urgency in voting for Clinton. “For the fact they got Hillary against Donald Trump,” said a non-college Black man from Cleveland. “It’s to tell you that it’s just the lesser of two evils either way you go. If you choose Hilary, she was part of the whole problem that started sending blacks to jail.”

A college graduate woman from Jacksonville said of Trump, “He might be the devil but she has been in bed with the devil, why vote for any of them?”

Belcher urges the Democrats to respond to such “pessimists” and “cynics” by changing the subject to Barack



“You can be confident that this movement has taken firm root when the Democrats howl in distress at their inability to count on the votes of Black youth.” -Glen Ford

Obama and “tying Trump to violence against Black bodies.” Belcher writes that the latter approach and language is “very compelling” -- despite the obvious fact that it’s just another “lesser evil” argument.

Belcher concludes that many skeptical Blacks are “not aware of Mrs. Clinton’s plans regarding police conduct, mass incarceration and structural racism broadly.”

Belcher is wrong. It’s not that they are unaware of Clinton’s promises, but that they don’t believe anything she says, and are convinced that she is not an agent for the kind of change they demand. She’s a historically proven part of the problem, the solutions to which must come from the Black community, itself.

Belcher warns that, without a huge, near unanimous Black turnout in November, the election could be a replay of John Kerry’s loss to George Bush in 2004. That’s unlikely, but Belcher no doubt has learned that Democrats won’t spend money on anything Black unless they fear imminent defeat. He is also certainly aware that Hillary Clinton is betting she can more than make up for Black and progressive defections through a full-blown appeal to disaffected Republicans. Plus, she will vastly overspend Donald Trump, whose billionaire peers are luxuriating at Hillary’s gilded tent in The Hamptons, where she holds forth for hours on a full range of foreign and domestic policy subjects (although she has not held a full-blown press conference since December).

Cornell Belcher advises the Democrats to “make Hillary the vehicle for a community centric agenda” -- meaning, local problems can be solved by voting for Clinton – and by making “Trump’s racism real.” Clinton’s stances on mass incarceration and police violence need to be communicated “more effectively.” In other words: pretend to listen; deploy key buzz words that make Clinton appear empathetic to Blacks; blow Trump up as the ultimate danger to Black lives; and keep reminding young Blacks that Clinton has changed from her Black-bashing days in the

White House -- even though she has never claimed to have needed, or undergone, a metamorphosis.

A significant section of young Black people have become immune to this crap. Their eyes are on movement-building and Black self-determination. And, just as you can’t un-make monstrosities like the Clintons and Trump, you can’t snuff out a worldview that has been transformed by a period of intense struggle. Even after two generations of relative quietude, the Black Radical Tradition blossoms anew.

Which is in stark contrast to the stink emanating from the mouth of New York Times pundit Charles Blow, who these days moonlights as a rent-a-cop at Hillary’s Big Tent. Blow is on the same page as Belcher, week after week performing the same two-step of alternately kissing Hillary’s nether-parts and Satanizing Trump. His column has become an intellectual desert – until September 5, when it became a house of mirrors, in which Hillary and Obama’s politics are reflected onto Trump.

The occasion was Trump’s visit to a Black church in Detroit. Blow quoted part of Trump’s remarks to the congregation:

“I believe we need a civil rights agenda of our time, one that ensures the rights to a great education and the right to live in safety and in peace and to have a really, really great job, a good-paying job, and one that you love to go to every morning.”

Then, Charles Blow offers what he calls his own ‘translation’: “I want to further weaken public education through more charters and vouchers. I want to flood your neighborhoods with more police because you can’t control yourselves. I want you to stop freeloading, get off welfare, and get a job.”

Actually, Trump said none of that, although it could honestly be inferred that’s what he thinks. But, the atrocities Blow suspects Trump is planning to commit have already been carried out by Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. The First Black President is the unchallenged champion of charterization, having created a national alternative charter school system through the coercive power of his Race to the Top program, which Clinton heartily endorses. The Clinton co-presidency did, indeed, flood Black communities with cops, setting off the greatest surge in Black mass incarceration in modern U.S. history, while President Obama is the Police Militarizer-in-Chief, having increased Pentagon transfers of arms and battle equipment to local departments 24-fold in his first years in office. And of course, it was Bill Clinton who destroyed “welfare as we knew it” 20 years ago last month, with Hillary’s blessing.

As Cornell Belcher’s Black Millennials said, Hillary “was part of the whole problem that started sending blacks to jail,” and “she has been in bed with the devil, why vote for any of them?”

Jill Stein’s Power to the People Platform is generally compatible with the Historical Black Political Consensus. And neither Stein nor Green Party vice presidential nominee Ajamu Baraka has slept with the devil.

Glen Ford is the Executive Editor of *The Black Agenda Report (BAR)*. Glen Ford can be contacted at Glen.Ford@BlackAgendaReport.com or visit <http://blackagendareport.com>



***It is IMPOSSIBLE to be unarmed
 when my BLACKNESS
 is the WEAPON that you fear.***

Rev. Traci Blackmon, United Church of Christ (UCC)

PICK UP
THIS BOOK

By Christian Robinson

To my friends reading Black Lens News:

“With so much drama in the L-B-C, it’s kind of hard being.”

So look, life is an adventure cloaked in the events that you experience through your lens. I have made so many changes since our last issue. As always, I am your host of the book club, Christian Robinson.

Here is the rundown:
I am a full-fledged full-time father now. My daughter, Christine Robinson, is keeping me up in to the wee hours of night and leaving with a disheveled morning manner.

I have cut my hair off. No-more gorgeous locks for me.

I have decided to become a full-time realtor. So, please don’t keep me a secret.

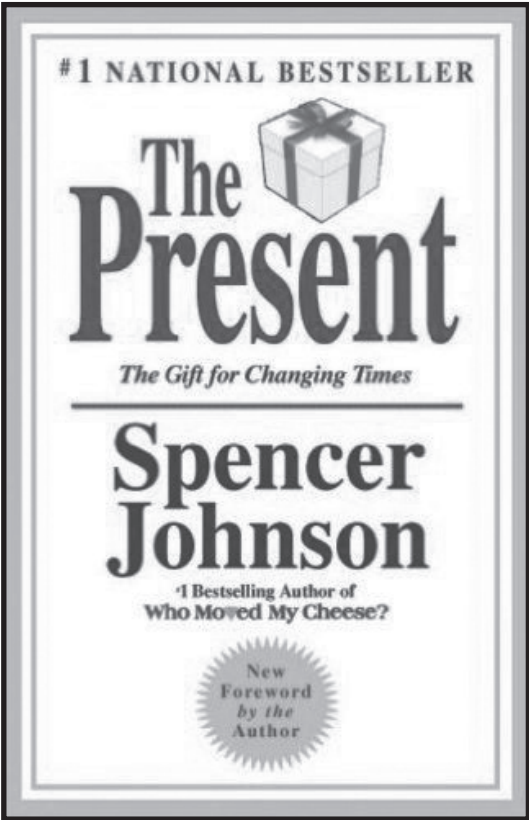
Last months’ book, The Greatest Discovery, was an eye opener. You were literally compelled to ask, “how can I be of more service? How can I offer more value to the world?” Hopefully, the introspection led to insights in your walk.

This month with all the changes that I have gone through, I chose to keep focused. So, our book is about that, changes, this month. Now, this short book holds a gift that everyone has and forgets about daily. The book is called “*The Present*,” by *Spencer Johnson*. Read and enjoy.

Send any feedback or questions to cjnrobinson@live.com. I’m looking to start a meet up group for our book club because we can discuss the book together and help each other learn. Call now if interested. (509) 218-0498.

Your Friend,
Christian Robinson

***September’s Book was ‘The Greatest Discovery’ by Earl Nightingale. I hope you enjoyed it.*



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OCTOBER EVENTS

OCTOBER 3

MLK CENTER BENEFIT EVENT - ART OF WINE AND FOOD

Join the Martin Luther King Center for a great event that benefits the Building Dreams Capital Campaign Fund. Featured will be local art, wine, a silent auction, and food from South Perry Pizza! Proceeds from every ticket purchased go directly to the MLK Capital Campaign

5:30-7:30 pm

South Perry Pizza

1101 S. Perry, Spokane

To get your tickets please contact Freda Gandy at fgandy@mlkspokane.org or call (509) 455-8722.

OCTOBER 5

UNDOING RACISM: SMART JUSTICE QUARTERLY COMMUNITY MEETING

The People's Institute will join us for a community discussion on undoing racism. They will introduce the People's Institute Principles for undoing racism in community organizing. We will also share updates on the Spokane Regional Law & Justice Council, the MacArthur Foundation grant, Ban the Box and Fair Hiring.

5:30-8:30pm

Community Building

35 W. Main Street, Spokane

OCTOBER 13

"CALLING US ALL IN: RACE, CLASS, GENDER, AND JUSTICE!"

Join the Peace and Justice Action League (PJALS) to hear firsthand about how we expose and transform systems of violence and oppression to build a just and nonviolent world and to connect with like-minded people in our movement for peace and justice. This is a ticketed event, free of cost, with an opportunity to support PJALS financially. The keynote speaker is Jessica Campbell, a national leader of Showing Up for Racial Justice and co-director of Oregon's Rural Organizing Project.

Doors open: 11:30 AM

Program: 12:00-1:00 PM

Woman's Club of Spokane

1428 W 9th Ave, Spokane

Cost: Free, Lunch Provided

OCTOBER 17

NAACP MONTHLY MEETING

Join the NAACP for our monthly meeting

7:00pm

Community Building - Lobby

35 W. Main Street, Spokane WA

For more information contact the NAACP at 509-209-2425 (ext 1141) or visit the website at <http://spokaneNAACP.com>

OCTOBER 20

SPA EVENING WITH THE DELTAS

Delta Sigma Theta Inc, Spokane Alumnae Chapter Enjoy wine or cider and hors d'oeuvres while you relax and receive a mini spa service of your choice

5:30-7:30pm

Northern Quest Casino & Resort

100 N Hayford Rd, Airway Heights, WA 99001

Donation \$20, includes one glass of wine or cider, one mini spa service, tour of the spa, music and door prizes. For more information or to purchase tickets contact Jeanne Baynes at (509) 255-6013.

OCTOBER 21-23

HOLY TEMPLE COGIC 35TH PASTOR & WIFE ANNIVERSARY

Join Holy Temple Church of God in Christ for a weekend of celebration:

Friday, October 21

35yr Choir Reunion Musical - 7:00pm

Saturday, October 22

A Semi-Formal Banquet - 6:00pm

Sunday, October 23

Sunday Afternoon Service - 3:30pm (guest speaker Superintendent Eugene Canty Sr., Pastor of the Canty Memorial COGIC in Sumter, SC)

OCTOBER 29

NAACP HEALTH FAIR

Join the Spokane NAACP for our annual community Health Fair, confidential health screenings are available on site, including HIV and Hep B.

11am - 3pm

East Central Community Center

500 S Stone St, Spokane, WA 99202

Sponsored by the WSU Health Sciences Center and the Spokane NAACP.



97th Annual Freedom Fund Banquet

'Our Lives Matter - Our Votes Count'

Featuring Congresswoman Maxine Waters

Saturday, Nov. 12

6 p.m. Social Hour - 7 p.m. Banquet and Program
Northern Quest Casino - Airway Heights

To RSVP call 209-2425 \$50/person, \$400/table
eventbrite.com/o/spokane-naacp-8489555794

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Please send information about upcoming community events to sandy@blacklensnews.com.

Celebrating
35 YEARS
of Service

HOLY TEMPLE COGIC
806 W INDIANA AVE
SPOKANE, WA

-CHOIR REUNION MUSICAL-
OCTOBER 21
HOLY TEMPLE COGIC

-BANQUET-
OCTOBER 22
TIME & PLACE TBD

-AFTERNOON SERVICE-
OCTOBER 23
AT 3:30PM

SUPT. EZRA KINLOW &
FIRST LADY ELEISE KINLOW

HOLYTEMPLECOGICSPokane.ORG

H O L Y T E M P L E C O G I C

35th

CHOIR REUNION

Musical



Supt. Ezra Kinlow
& First Lady Eleise Kinlow

806 W. INDIANA AVE. SPOKANE, WA

21.OCT.2016 AT 7PM



Yolanda
Jones
Vocalist



Bobby
Jackson
Musician



Faith
Washington
Director



Terrance
Kinlow
Musician



Lynn
Hoover
Vocalist



Jason
Webber
Musician



David
Whitehead
Vocalist

Including Tommy Hadley & Carlos Fox

For more information or if you would like to participate please contact:
Sis. Faith Washington(509)999-9728 OR Sis. Lynn Hoover (404)536-5233