By Chad Williams

Colin Powell knew where he fit in American history.
The former secretary of state – who died on Oct. 18, 2021, at 84 as a result of COVID-19 complications – was a pioneer: the first Black national security advisor in U.S. history; the first Black chairman of the joint chiefs of staff; and also the first Black man to become secretary of state.

But his “American journey” – as he described it in the title of a 2003 autobiography – is more than the story of one man. His death is a moment to think about the history of Black Americans and women in the military and the place of African Americans in government.

But more profoundly, it also speaks to what it means to be an American, and the tensions that Colin Powell – as a patriot and a Black man – faced throughout his life and career.

I’m a scholar of African American studies who is currently writing a book on the great civil rights intellectual W.E.B. DuBois. When I heard of Powell’s passing, I was immediately reminded of what DuBois referred to as the “double-consciousness” of the African American experience.

As DuBois put it in an 1897 article and later in his classic 1903 book, “The Souls of Black Folk,” this “peculiar sensation” is unique to African Americans: “One feels two-ness – an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings; two warring ideals in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder.”

April 5, 1937 - October 18, 1921
Retired Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and former Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell. 2014 (Department of Defense photo by Marvin Lynchard)

This concept profoundly describes Colin Powell as a soldier, a career military man and a politician.

What it means to serve

On the surface, Colin Powell’s life would seem to refute DuBois’ formulation. He stood as someone that many people could point to as an example of how it is possible to be both Black and a full American, something DuBois viewed as an enduring tension. There is a narrative that Powell used the military to transcend race and become one of the most powerful men in the country. In that sense, he was the ultimate American success story.

But there is a danger to that narrative. Colin Powell’s story was exceptional, but he was no avatar of a color-blind, post-racial America. The U.S. Army has long been seen as a route for Black Americans, especially young Black men, out of poverty. Many chose to turn their service into a career.

By the time Powell, the Bronx-raised son of Jamaican immigrants, joined the U.S. Army, there was already a proud history of African Americans in the U.S. military – from the “Buffalo Soldiers” who served in the American West, the Caribbean and South Pacific after the U.S. Civil War to the Tuskegee Airmen of World War II.

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ON MY MIND
THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR
by Sandra Williams

If you haven’t had a chance to drive by the Carl Maxey Center lately, here you go. We have windows and doors. We have electrical and plumbing. We will soon have insulation and drywall.

Super excited!

2021 Spokane Human Rights Champions Awards
November 6th | 6pm | Facebook LIVE Stream

Join us for the 2021 Spokane Human Rights Champions Awards on Facebook Live! Meet this year’s award recipients and celebrate the winners of the Gonzaga Institute for Hate Studies’ “Eva Lassman Take Action Against Hate Awards.”

2021 Spokane Human Rights Champions Awards
- Katie Urbanek, PFLAG
- Jan Baker, NAACP
- Jennyfer Mesa, Latinos en Spokane
- Angel Tomeo Sam, The Bail Project

Thank you to our Event Sponsors:

Follow us on Facebook for the most up to date information!
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Wicked

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First Interstate Center for the Arts

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

BroadwaySpokane.com
The Riot of Bamber Bridge (1943)

Reprinted from blackpast.org
Contributed by Euella A. Nielsen

The US Armed Forces were segregated until President Harry Truman issued Executive Order 9981 on July 26, 1948 which desegregated all the military service branches. That segregation during World War II helped create the Riot of Bamber Bridge in Great Britain in 1943.

When US forces were sent to Britain that year Black soldiers were met with respect and often open arms by the local population. The village of Bamber Bridge, Lancashire, then home to U.S. Army Air Base 569 was one such place.

The 1511th Quartermaster Truck Regiment, a logistics unit stationed at the base consisted primarily of Black soldiers. The all white 234th US Military Police Unit was stationed on the north side of the village and the two units were known to have had several skirmishes over race relations.

The soldiers of the 1511th were welcomed and often open arms by the local population. The village of Bamber Bridge, Lancashire, was one such place. The village of Bamber Bridge, Lancashire, was one such place.

The soldiers of the 1511th were welcomed in local establishments, and this did not sit well with white American soldiers who came. British barmaids told white soldiers to wait their turn when they assumed they would be served before Black soldiers.

On the night of June 24, two MPs, Corporal Roy A. Windsor and PFC Ralph F. Ridgeway, entered Ye Old Hob Inn, and attempted to arrest Private Eugene Nunn of the 1511th, citing him for being improperly dressed and without a pass. The soldiers and MPs began to argue. Local townsfolk and MPs began to argue. Local townsfolk.

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The soldiers of the 1511th were welcomed in local establishments, and this did not sit well with white American soldiers who came. British barmaids told white soldiers to wait their turn when they assumed they would be served before Black soldiers.

Although the MPs were met with respect and often open arms by the local population, the presence of Black soldiers caused some tension.

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Let’s Look at Blue Fragility

By Kurtis Robinson
1st Vice President, Spokane Branch
Criminal Justice Co-Chair and
AAWAC Political Action Chair

First let’s start at some other general terminologies:

- **Privilege** (As explained by Wildman and Davis - 1995): Members of the privileged group gain many benefits by their affiliation with the dominant side of the power system. Privileged advantage in societal relationships benefits the holder of privilege, who may receive deference, special knowledge, or a higher comfort level to guide societal interaction. Privilege is not visible to the holder of privilege, or it is merely there, a part of the world, a way of life, simply the way things are. Others have a lack, an absence, a deficiency.

- **Fragility** (in the context of this work): having a lot of trouble in even the simplest or complex conversations and/or arguments with people from different social, racial, class, gender, etc. has a general tendency to manifest behaviors, including but not excluded too defensiveness, deflection, subject matter dwelling, misdirection, hostility, etc. May also express many passive/aggressive traits.

- **White Privilege**: refers to the collection of benefits that White people receive in societies where they take the racial hierarchy. Made famous by scholar and activist Peggy McIntosh in 1988, the concept includes everything from Whites entitled to being “normal” to Whites having more representation in the media. White privilege leads to White people being viewed as more honest and trustworthy than other groups, whether or not they have earned that trust. This form of privilege also means that White people can easily find products suitable for them – cosmetics, band-aids, hosiery, etc. for their skin tones, etc.

While some of these privileges might seem trivial, it’s important to recognize that no form of privilege comes without its counterpart: oppression. While some Americans living in poverty might bristle at the idea of innate privilege, white skin color does protect from many forms of discrimination. It’s not an impenetrable bubble, but it can be a half-pipe. White privilege doesn’t mean you don’t have your hardships, it means you have fewer for them – cosmetics, band-aids, hosiery for their skin tones, etc.

- **White Fragility**: is a state in which even a minimum amount of racial stress becomes intolerable, triggering a range of defensive moves. These moves include the outward display of emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and behaviors such as argumentation, silence, and leaving the room. These behaviors, in turn, function to restate white racial equilibrium. Racial stress results from an interruption in which is racially familiar.

Now let’s look at some overall recent and historical responses from our Law Enforcement Family in light of the recent legislation for accountability and reforms.

1. **Doddig accountability e.g. police Collective Bargain- ing “union” and restrictions on ombudsmen oversight.** https://www.aclu-wa.org/story/police-oversight-spo- kane-washington

2. **Standard of not admitting mistakes e.g. This year’s videos from Spokane Police Chief and Sheriff refuting facts about Spokane being the 5th most deadly force in the country. Rather than saying we want to reduce the number of police killings, these presentations attempted to refute through misinterpretation and misrepresentation of the data. We’re now the 3rd most deadly force in the country. Chief Miedc: https://vimeo.com/543440128 and Sherif Kneovich: Sheriff Kneovich: Stop Using “Junk Science” to bash & devalue law enforcement. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-o2XhNvNKI

3. **Take care of own practice e.g. Spokane officer driving 65 a mph on a street of Clark High School, suspended for a year, but will receive backpay, and will be back. He will feel allegiance to the department, rather than reinforcing loyalty to the law. Spokane Re- viewer earlier this week. https://www.spokesman.com/sto- ries/2020/jul/17/shawn-vestal-the-speeding-cop-was-bad- enough-but-a/”

4. **Focus on communicating fear based public messaging content, rather than communicating needs for clarity and trust within society (this is a regular weaved in theme across almost all spectrums).**


6. **Multiple public venues by Washington Police Chiefs and Sheriffs attempting to refute and dispute any data that did not shed a favorable light on their sector or industry.**

We began by looking at the issues of privilege and white privilege, which assigns benefits to our Caucasian family, while withholding those same benefits from the BIPOC community. We see these withheld benefits in the form of historical oppression, economic disadvantage and genera- tional harm. Our entire social structure, including but cer- tainly not limited to criminal justice, works to keep wealth and power in the hands of the dominate culture here in the United States.

This multi-generational framework within American society is woven into its culture and is maintained by such forces as white fragility, in contrast to the note-worthy resilience of Black and Indigenous people. The embedded racism is so normalized that many whites are unaware of its corrosive impact until they are awak- ened by intimate knowledge of a traumatic racist event, such as Brianna Taylor, George Floyd, Manny Ellis and many, many others.

Police were formed in America as a means of maintaining the power of the status quo at the time of slavery, by ex- tending and enforcing the power of whites over Blacks and Indigenous peoples. It is no surprise, then, that the fragility within the white world is intensely present in the structure created to perpetuate and uphold its authority.

Now take those definitions above and compare them to the behaviors caused and it is very easy to see that we are experiencing now is the same type of behavior unleashed in this industry’s resistance to accountability. This is not only about whiteness but about the further grasping to hold on to power and control by the sector that was tasked to uphold and enforce these dominant culture themes.

We have the next iteration of white fragility hiding behind a badge and a gun. Same game, different name. Welcome to the age of Blue Fragility.

# If You Are Black, Avoid Texas

NAACP urges professional athletes across the country not to go to Texas

In response to what the NAACP views as the latest round of attacks on voting rights and reproductive care, the NAACP sent an open letter to every professional sports players association in the country, urging its free agents to reconsider signing contracts in Texas and moving their families to a state that is “not safe for anyone.”

Signed by NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson and NAACP Texas Presi- dent Gary Bledsoe, the letter was delivered to the National Football League Players Association, Women’s National Basketball Player’s Association, National Basketball Players Association, Major League Base- ball Players Association, and National Hockey League Players’ Association. The letter calls on athletes to consider not only their influential platforms as professional athletes, but as parents and others, for our children and those in their personal lives.

“As we watch an incomprehensible assault on basic human rights unfold in Texas, we are simultaneously witnessing a threat to institutional guarantees for women, children and marginalized communities,” wrote the authors. “Over the past few weeks, the stress has reached a level that directly violates privacy rights and a wom- an’s freedom to choose, restrict access to free and fair elections for Black and brown voters, and increase the risk of contracting coronavirus.”

“If you are a woman, avoid Texas. If you are Black, avoid Texas. If you want to low- er the probabilities of dying from coronavirus, avoid Texas.”

Texas’ abortion law, SB8, signed by Gov. Greg Abbott, is considered one of the strict- est in the country, banning most abortions after six weeks of pregnancy, even in cases of rape, incest and sexual assault, and punishing citizens to enforce the law. Abbott has also enacted what the NAACP consid- ers to be extreme voting laws that severely restrict the right to vote, banning Texans from registering to vote using a post office box as their address, banning drive-thru voting, and restricting applications for a mail-in ballot for medical reasons, and redistricting maps that appear to disen- franchise Black, Brown, and Latinx voters at a time when data from the 2020 census shows that people of color have driven 95% of the Texas population growth.

“The continued attacks on people of col- or in the state of Texas are reprehensible,” said Gary Bledsoe, President of the Texas NAACP. “In the absence of federal action, advocates in Texas must stand together and use all of the tools at their disposal to en- sure that basic human rights are delivered to the people of Texas. We must fight for our Constitution and the freedoms that it guarantees to all Americans.”

NAACP President Derrick Johnson remind- ed the athletes of the important role that they play. “When all else fails, we must look within and understand what it means to protect the basic human rights and democratic val- ues which are fundamental to this country” Johnson urged the athletes. “Professional- al athletes serve as some of our country’s greatest role models and we need them to join us to fight for democracy.” For more information visit: naacp.org

http://www.SpokaneNAACP.com

www.blacklensnews.com

November 2021

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The Black Lens Spokane www.blacklensnews.com
Black News Highlights
Local, State, National and Around the World

Frances Scott Elementary School
Ribbon is Cut on East Central School Named After Black Educator & Attorney

‘Me Too.’ Movement Celebrates 4-Year Anniversary With A Week Of Action

Friday, Oct. 15 marked the 4 year anniversary of the hashtag #MeToo going viral. Activist Tarana Burke, founder of the movement, actually began using the phrase “Me Too” in 2006 as a way for survivors of sexual assault “to connect with each other and make a declaration to the world.”

Burke is using the anniversary to re-center the focus of the organization beyond the viral nature of the moment. Over the past four years, according to Burke, what has evolved is a broader movement space committed to supporting survivor healing and disrupting sexual violence. At times reduced to the experiences of high profile white women, ‘me too,’ builds on the organizing history of Black women committed to racial and gender equity.

In an Instagram announcement, the organization, ‘me too.’ Movement explained the idea behind celebrating over an entire week.

On the 4th Anniversary of #MeToo going viral, we’re going #BeyondTheHashtag, celebrating the many survivors, disruptors, and allies who keep the conversation about survivor justice front and center. In that spirit, we lift up the names and legacies of our movement ancestors – Rosa Parks, Fannie Lou Hamer, Harriet Jacobs, among many others – who laid the foreground and remind us of our power and the possibility to create a world free of sexual violence.

While #MeToo’s 4th anniversary marks a pivotal moment, survivors have been here, leading movements and campaigns, sharing their truths and fighting for justice. #MeToo means that our collective force only continues to grow stronger as we heal, organize and act.

#MeToo Anniversary was Oct. 15-22. Visit: metoomvmt.org

6-Year Old Becomes Georgia’s Youngest Certified Farmer

(Source: BlackEnterprise.com; Kaila Nichols, goodmorningamerica.com)

At just 6 years old, Kendall Rae Johnson has claimed the title of the youngest certified farmer in the state of Georgia, as reported by Good Morning America.

Kendall Rae’s mother, Ursula Johnson said, “She started out in a patio garden and the patio garden grew from a little bitty something to, by the time her fourth birthday came, we had a full-fledged garden in our backyard.” The family eventually moved, Johnson said, “and now she has a farm.” Kendall Rae, who got her green thumb from her great-grandmother, Laura “Kate” Williams, according to her mother, now grows everything from okra, to carrots, cucumbers, squash, zucchini and strawberries. She shares her love for farming through a monthly gardening club and offers a subscription food box.

Georgia state Rep. Mandisha Thomas is one of Kendall Rae’s biggest supporters and enlisted her help to support other young farmers in the South Fulton area. Thomas’ efforts resulted in Kendall Rae helping Thomas raise some $85,000.

Now Kendal Rae wants to raise funds for an outdoor agricultural science lab to begin composting. She is working on raising $10,000 to make the project a reality. For more information visit agrowkulture.com.
Billionaire Robert F. Smith Helping Black Kids Become Stock Shareholders

Wallace's recent win comes after a terri-
ble year for him last year. In June 2020, a
noose was discovered in the garage stall
assigned to him. It happened a week after
NASCAR had banned the use of the Con-
frontation flag at its events since Wallace ac-
tively called it out.

These events, including his historic win, all
depended in his native Alabama and he was
grateful for it.

“When you say it like that, it obviously
made sense to your path and not let the
nonsense get to you.”

Wallace is the only 2nd Black driver to
win at NASCAR’s elite Cup level, next
to Wendell Scott in 1963, wherein Scott
didn’t recognized as the winner for several
months mainly because of the racist culture
at that time. It was also only two months
ago that NASCAR finally presented a tro-
pery to Scott’s family.

The organization, founded by
Abrams in 2018, donated $1.34 million
from its PAC to the non-profit
RIP Medical Debt, according to the
Associated Press. The donation will
help relieve the debt of 108,000 peo-
ple across Georgia, Alabama, Arizo-
na, Mississippi and Louisiana who
owe more than $210 million com-
bined.

While Fair Fight was founded to ad-
vocate for voters rights, it has now
branched out to seeking expansion of
Medicaid coverage. Last week, the
group put out ads to pressure Geor-
gia Republican Gov. Brian Kemp,
who Abrams lost to in 2018, into
making Medicaid expansion an issue.
Georgia lawmakers consider during
their special session to redraw elec-

districts next week.

In a statement Abrams said:

“I know firsthand how medical costs
and a broken healthcare system put
families further and further in debt.
Across the Sunbelt and in the South,
this problem is exacerbated in states
like Georgia where failed leaders
have callously refused to expand
Medicaid, even during a pandemic.
Working with RIP Medical Debt,
Fair Fight is stepping in where oth-
erers have refused to take action. For
people of color, the working poor
and middle-class families facing
 crushing costs, we hope to relieve
the strain on desperate Americans
and on hospitals struggling to remain
open.”

The debt relief enabled by Fair
Fight’s donation amounts to a to-
tal sum of $212,781,818 allocated
across five states:

- Georgia: $123,193,570.70 million
in debt relief for 68,685 individuals
- Louisiana: $17,476,259.35 million
in debt relief for 8,265 individuals
- Alabama: $1,857,166.42 million
in debt relief for 1,953 individuals
- Mississippi: $2,350,757.12 million
in debt relief for 2,058 individuals
- Arizona: $67,904,064.13 million
in debt relief for 27,282 individuals

Americans receiving relief will be
notified with a letter in a yellow en-
velope over the coming days. This
donation is the third largest gift in
RIP Medical Debt’s history and the
largest to be focused on the South,
according to Fair Fight’s statement.

The nonprofit RIP Medical Debt,
founded in 2014, has already helped
eradicate $5.3 billion in debt for
more than 3 million people. AP re-
ports that it does so by buying peo-
ple’s medical debt at steep discounts
often from collection agencies.

“We are not the permanent solution,”
said Allisson Sesso, the executive di-
rector of RIP Medical Debt. “There
does need to be a larger solution
around what we do about medical
debt.”

For information about Stacey
Abrams’ Fair Fight organization,
visit: https://fairfight.com.

Black Lens Spokane www.blacklensnews.com November 2021 Page 7

Bubba Wallace Becomes 1st Black Driver to Win NASCAR Cup Since 1963

In October, Robert F. Smith (Founder, Chairman
and CEO of Vista Equity Partners) and Goal-
setter (the first Black female-owned saving and
investing platform) announced “One Stock. One
Future.” – a call to action for organizations and
corporations to create the next generation of fi-
nancially free Black and Latinx Americans.

Smith kicked off the initiative by gifting five
shares of stock – equivalent to nearly 15,000 total
shares – to each of the 2,900, students, educators
and staff members at the Eagle Academies for
Young Men, a network of public, all-boys schools
serving young men of color in New York City and
Newark, NJ.

Smith’s gift is serving as the catalyst for the
creation of the larger “One Stock. One Future.”
movement to turn one million Black and Latinx
kids into shareholders. This new initiative is to
help bridge the wealth gap affecting communi-
ties of color by introducing investments and finan-
cial education as critical components to building
broader and generational wealth.

“In partnership with corporations across the
country, we are creating a turning point for America’s
Black and Latinx kids. From today forward,
they will no longer solely be consumers who make
every company in America wealthy by what they
spend. Through this initiative, we are creating a
generation of investors and owners who can pave
their way to wealth by owning a piece of the com-
panies that make the American economy great.
They, too, can learn to be participants in our flour-
ishing economy, not just bystanders, and the com-
panies they love can help them get there,” said
Robert F. Smith.

As part of their effort to reach one million Black
and Latinx youth, Smith and Goalsetter are call-
ing on Fortune 1000 companies and CEOs to take
the “One Stock. One Future.” challenge, by
donating a minimum of 1,000 shares (or the cash
equivalent) to be distributed to Black and Latinx
kids across America. To date, leading technology,
banking, and Fortune 1000 companies and execu-
tives have already committed to leading the way
on this initiative by donating 1,000 shares each,
including Adelman Global Education, Citizens Fi-
nancial Group, Comcast NBCUniversal, Delta Air
Lines, Fiserv, HP, Lyft, Twitter, and UPS.

Goalsetter CEO, Tanya Van Court expressed her
enthusiasm about the initiative. “We are both en-
ergized and humbled by the leadership of Robert
F. Smith and other business and community lead-
ers who are at the forefront of this effort to change
the paradigm for the next generation of Black and
Latinx kids in our country. I truly believe that to-
gether we will rewrite the course of history for all
communities that have been marginalized due
to their lack of access to financial education and
investment tools that uniquely engage them,” Van
Court said.

The One Stock One Future initiative will be
powered through Goalsetter’s family investment
platform, which is designed to get “every kid in
America investing and on the path towards finan-
cial freedom.” Goalsetter will also provide game-
based, culturally relevant, financial education,
rooted in memes and gifs from popular culture for
all youth who receive stock.

Corporate shares donated to the “One Stock. One
Future.” program will be distributed to youth
through partner organizations, such as Alpha Phi
Alpha Fraternity Inc., the NAACP Black Girls
Code, BUILD, Boys & Girls Club, Coded by
Kids, 100 Black Men of Chicago, Inc., and others.
Schools, non-profits, and other youth-focused or-
ganizations who wish to be designated to receive
shares can contact the Goalsetter Foundation at
OneStockOneFuture@goalsetter.co to get more
information about signing up.

Find out more about this movement and how to
participate at goalsetter.co/onestockonefuture.
Demonstrations in Sudan Continue After Twelve Confirmed Dead During Protests

Sudanese protesters lift national flags as they rally in the capital Khartoum, to denounce overnight detentions by the army of government members, on October 25, 2021 (Photo by AFP)

(TriceEdneyWire.com/GIN) - Celebratory messages of love and appreciation for Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu poured in from across the world on the Nobel Peace Prize laureate’s 90th birthday on Oct. 7.

A week’s worth of events culminated on his birthday with the 11th Desmond Tutu International Peace Lecture delivered this year by four global leaders.

They included the Dalai Lama, Tibet’s highest spiritual leader; women’s and children’s rights activist Graça Machel, chair of The Elders and former president of Ireland Mary Robinson, and South Africa’s former public protector, Thuli Madonsela.

Each explored the topic “Speaking Truth to Power: No Future Without Justice” from their personal vantage points.

“It is clear,” said Piyushi Kotecha, chief executive officer of the Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation, “that there can be no just future for those who believe in peace and justice who do not continue to speak truth to power. The world is too often a broken place. Its very brokenness must propel us into action.

“We find ourselves at the juncture between two worlds: an old world led by unscrupulous political figures and self-serving economic interests, and one led by young activists, civil society members and guests, a sermon was delivered by the Rev. Allan Boesak, former president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. “You have always given us hope,” Boesak said. “You have always spoken to our hearts. And you are still speaking to us today through your life.”

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Some qualities he believes the country needs in its next leadership.

“A government that the Sudanese revolution agree on should be formed; a government that consists of skilled people who are biased towards democracy and human rights and without any elements from the military or the political parties can solve the main problems in Sudan.”

South Sudan has deployed a delegation, led by presidential advisor Tut Gatluak, to Sudan to mediate between the military and the civilian leaders.

Gatluk met with Burhan and said he would meet with Abdalla Hamdok, the deposed prime minister who remained under house arrest in the capital Khartoum, as part of his mediation efforts.

Security forces shot dead three protesters during Saturday’s protest.

According to Sudan doctors committee this makes at least 12 deaths and over 280 wounded since Monday. The Sudanese police, however, says its forces did not use live ammunition against protesters.

The lecture addresses were interspersed by performances by American cellist Yo-Yo Ma and South African cellist Abel Selaccoc, who performed a rendition of the well-known hymn Ibuyile l’Africa, and by the Grammy Award-winning Soweto Gospel Choir.

Over the years the Archbishop’s groundbreaking roles have been well reported: the first black secretary-general of the South African Council of Churches leading a Christian membership of more than 13 million (80% black), the first Black Bishop of Johannesburg and first Black Archbishop of Cape Town, together with his post-retirement appointments by President Mandela as chairperson of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and The Elders.

Less well known is the Arch’s prominent role in bringing roles have been well reported: the work of peace for peace and justice, from 1982 Until more than two decades after his osensible retirement in 1996, always seeking to instill hope in times of crisis and despair and keeping faith in the indivisibility of justice.

“I join the world in celebrating his life of service and contributions to humanity,” said President Joe Biden in a message, adding that he had been “honored” to meet and spend time with the Arch on several occasions over the years. Hollywood stars Samuel L. Jackson, Alfre Woodard and Paulette Woodard paid tribute to one of the world’s most iconic prelates. “It’s one thing to stand up again and again against injustice, no matter the personal danger, and to speak the difficult, painful truth not only to your oppressors, but also to your friends. But to do all that while maintaining a sense of humor and with genuine love in your heart – who can do that? Desmond Tutu.”

President Cyril Ramaphosa also paid tribute to Tutu for his “role as a fighter in the cause for human rights, for equality and for social justice in the 59 years since his ordination”. Later, at St George’s Cathedral in Cape Town with about 150 family members and guests, a sermon was delivered by the Rev. Allan Boesak, former president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. “You have seen it all. But you have always given us hope,” Boesak said. “You have always spoken to our hearts. And you are still speaking to us today through your life.”

AFRICA NEWS

News Highlights From and About the Continent of Africa

Archbishop Desmond Tutu Celebrates 90th Birthday

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A Different View

By the time you all read this column there will be two new City Council members and two new School Board members elected. Congratulations to everyone who ran for office, and thank you for your commitment to public service. Regardless of the outcome, I look forward to working with our new electeds for the betterment of our city. As for my own campaign, I may have gone unopposed on the ballot, but a heartfelt “THANK YOU!” to all who checked the box and gave me the honor of your support!

As our tree colors change and we approach the season of Thanksgiving, I am thankful that my family and friends are well and safe. I’m thankful that my grandkids are back to in-person learning — but truth be told, I sometimes miss the craziness when they were learning at home. (Sidenote: Both my alma maters of Libby Jr High and LC High were added to the Historic Registry!)

Yet, I know it’s not a rosy time for everyone. Families just trying to make it, who are worrying about how to keep a roof over their heads, and the plight of many in our LGBTQ+ community, youth, and so many of our brothers and sisters who are trying to make it on the streets. In the Black Church there is a saying, “No matter how bad you think you got it, there is always somebody wishing they were in your shoes.”

I’d like to now update you on the happenings of City Hall and highlight developments affecting communities of color. To serve as a voice of the forgotten on City Council is one of the reasons I threw my hat into the ring in the first place, and drove my decision to run to retain my seat.

Fourth, Council passed Ordinance C-36082 amending the City’s Homeless Response Policy. Now why the Administration didn’t connect the dots of needing more, not less, night by night shelters, I can’t say. All in all we want a region-wide approach so Spokaneites get the help they need now. Council President Beggs stated that regional leaders have been working on a regional approach for years with no successes currently.

Basically this ordinance says high-barrier beds may be added to the shelter network funded by the City but they may not supplant or eliminate low-barrier beds unless there is no demonstrated further demand. Each calendar quarter, the City shall present to Council and publish on the City’s website a written report using Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) or other reliable data to estimate the average number of homeless individuals who were unsheltered.

PEOPLE, this is what we have been asking for! Without current data, how can we assess the situation? In the past, the Point in Time Count (a snapshot census of people experiencing certain categories of homelessness in the Spokane community on one night) was used, but once a year is not enough to deal with a very fluid crisis.

Fifth and finally, I’m excited that the city has finally, and I mean FINALLY, hired a Civil Rights Director. Jerrall Haynes, our current Spokane School Board President, will do a terrific job, and I send him my warmest of congratulations!

So as we enter Fall and approach the holidays, so continues the cycle of life. And so continues my work on Council. I will continue to seek out partnerships and build common ground, rely on voices and perspectives like your own, and engage with community leaders across the City to promote policies that work for all. I will continue to advance the East 5th Ave initiative, promote affordable housing and home ownership, and work to evolve our public safety system. Together, we can truly make a difference in Spokane. Keep hope alive, it’s all of us have!

Warm wishes and cheers to a fruitful Fall,

Council Member Betsy Wilkerson
Spokane City Council District 2, Position 2

Betsy Wilkerson, Spokane City Council

November 2021

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Our services are always free!
Tongues of Fire

By Beverly Spears


If in no other way, African Americans and Native Americans will always be bound together in a shared legacy of pain and atrocity. That is the tragic truth, but it is a fraction of the history of Black and Indigenous relationships in American history. My own ancestral story is just one example of historical ties between Indigenous people and people of African descent in this land.

Scattered throughout the eastern United States, particularly in the Southeast, there have been some 200 or more communities classified by social scientists as “tri-racial isolates.” These tri-racial communities comprise people of mixed European, African, and Native American descent.

I was born into one of these Tri-racial communities in northeastern North Carolina. Some family members on my father’s side might readily be taken as Native American. Others are traces of African from ancestors. Everyone has degrees of African ancestry in combination with European and Native American descent.

Tri-racial communities in the eastern United States historically held themselves apart from both Blacks and whites in isolated rural enclaves. Living in these enclaves protected them to some degree from the worst of white supremacy in the South, but there were other reasons.

It is important to note that people in these enclaves, up until my father’s generation, rarely married far outside of the community. If they did, it was to people who had a similar racial background. This went on for generations. It sustained the tri-racial bloodline.

The shadow side of tri-racial communities is the white dominant caste system they emulated. In these enclaves protected them from some of the worst of white supremacy in the South. But there were other reasons.

My paternal family has for over two hundred years lived on the ancestral lands of the Meherrin People; lands the Meherrin have called home for at least twelve hundred years. My paternal ancestors were European colonizers, freed slaves and Native Americans from the Tuscarora and Meherrin Nation. They were referred to as freed people of color.

Like my father, and for his same reason, I did not seek enrollment in the Meherrin Nation. My extended paternal cultural identity, and most definitely my maternal family’s, has always been African American. It would be disingenuous of me to identify as Indigenous. To do so would mean appropriating an identity with a culture for which I have no lived experience.

Even though rooted in truth, I have no right to say I’m a Native American. As a Black person in America, I can certainly identify with a history of brutality and oppression, but I cannot begin to own fully with the reality, whether it be the richness or the intergenerational trauma of being an Indigenous person in America, past and present.

I deeply appreciate my Native American ancestry. I deeply appreciate my African ancestry, but I am appalled that some of my ancestors were also colonizers responsible for the wholesale slaughter of Indigenous People, some of them also my ancestors. It’s also true that my European ancestors were masters of plantations. My light skin tone is not just because my father had light skin. The color of his skin and my skin tone is because for hundreds of years, white masters kidnapped and raped my enslaved African foremothers on both paternal and maternal sides of my family.

I can’t appreciate my European ancestry in light of this, but I do recognize it, and I must find a way of integrating it. It is, after all a significant part of my ancestral story.

I am sure there are other hidden truths about my mixed European ancestry. Love finds its way into the most unlikely situations. I will always identify culturally as a Black American, while deeply appreciating my Indigenous roots, and learning to integrate the harder truths of my tri-racial identity.

What is the demarcation line between appreciation and appropriation? How do we know when we’ve crossed the line? It’s complex but I’ve come to this view: It’s a matter of motive, consciousness, respect, context, and relationship. Appreciation is when someone seeks to understand and learn about another culture in an effort to broaden their perspective and connect with others, cross-culturally.

Appropriation, on the other hand, is taking aspects of a culture for which I have no lived experience. Appropriation runs on a spectrum from innocent unawareness to direct discriminatory disregard, to malicious intent. For instance, on one end of the spectrum might be appropriating some aspects of Native American Spirituality as my own. On the other end is a sports franchise refusing for years to apologize and change the name of a football team called the Washington Redskins. That name is a full-on racial slur against Native Americans. It’s akin to calling a Black person the N-word.

Of course, race, color, and caste, are human constructs. These things are certainly not of God. I think God cries at our relentless determination to set ourselves apart from one another by caste and skin color. We are all ultimately One in the Spirit. There are those truly enlightened people able to live that truth. Like many, I ebb and flow in consciousness, but the reality is most of us have a very hard time grounding ourselves in the integrated web of love that binds us all together in the universe. In America, Indigenous and Black people carry intergenerational traumas that can seem impossible to integrate into our present lives. It can be beyond difficult to be loving and inclusive. And yet that’s what Spirit calls us to be.

I recently came across a beautifully written expression of feeling from a person with roots in another tri-racial community, not geographically related to my own. The late Dr. N. Brent Kennedy, himself a proud Melungeon, saw in the faces of his living relatives a panorama of all of those who have gone before.

Mr. Kennedy wrote: “When I watch my own summer skin turn with lightning speed, too reddish-brown for a blue-eyed Scotsman, and struggle to tame the steel-blue waves in my greying Black hair, I smile at the living traces of unknown Mediterrenean, African, and Native American ancestors whose ancient precious lives still express themselves in my countenance . . . And in my mind’s eye, I can see those ancestors smiling back, wondering why it took the children of their children’s children so long to rediscover the truth.”

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Pushing for a Philanthropic Shift

New Statewide Black-led Philanthropy Seeks to Build Generational Prosperity

The Black Future Co-op Fund is Washington state’s first cooperative philanthropy created by and for Black people to build Black generational wealth, health, and well-being.

Inspired by the uprising for racial justice, four social change leaders — Andrea Caspian Sanderson, Angela Jones, Michelle Merriweather, and T’wina Nobles — joined together to launch the Black Future Co-op Fund in June 2020. These four Black female co-founders aspire to create a new model of philanthropy anchored in the beauty, soulfulness, and strength of Blackness.

Through the Black Future Co-op Fund, they seek to connect Black communities for collective power, own a truthful Black narrative, and uplift Black-led solutions that foster Black generational prosperity.

In this article, they share their vision for the Fund, what they are proud of, and what they are looking forward to in the coming year.

Q: Why did you launch the Black Future Co-op Fund?

Andrea: We knew that Black-led organizations in our state have worked hard for decades with minimal support. And, that organizations were being called on to step up even more, with the health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and racial justice uprisings after the killing of George Floyd, but without adequate resources. It became increasingly clear that if we want philanthropy to work for Black people, we need to build our own model of philanthropy.

Michelle: It was time to do things differently. Everyone was talking about how we need to get back to normal, but moral, the status quo, has never worked for us. The Black Future Co-op Fund is creating a new model: a paradigm shift that puts us first — our creativity, our genius, our hopes, our needs, our joy.

Angela: It was a moment to lean in. I thought to myself, ‘If I want things to change for our people, I have to be part of pushing for that change.’

T’wina: Our commitment is being good ancestors. We stepped up to this work not to correct others, but to be a vessel for the community. Through the Black Future Co-op Fund, we have an opportunity to truly realign our community better than we have ever done.

Q: You talk about being good ancestors. What does that mean and look like?

Angela: When we were first talking about launching the Fund, I was staring at a world map on my wall and I was so mad and sick of what keeps happening to our people, and I wanted to be done. And then, the other Angela said, ‘You can’t be our people, and I wanted to be done. And mad and sick of what keeps happening to us. The Black Future Co-op Fund is creating a new normal: a paradigm shift that we need to get back to normal, but not one that is not one.

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In this article, they share their vision for the Fund, what they are proud of, and what they are looking forward to in the coming year.

Q: What is the Black Well-being study and why is it important?

Andrea: The Black Well-being study is FUBU, data for us, by us. It is an illustration of how we are taking command of telling our own story, shifting the narratives about who we are and our vision. It is an important tool that can be used quantitatively and qualitatively in community among institutions and by policymakers to make movement on behalf of our people.

Angela: I’m excited about it for a few reasons. 1) We are adamant about wanting to hear the voices of our people, and this is one mechanism to do that. 2) This is going to be a tool for us — not only helping us understand the challenges, but also the opportunities. And, 3) it’s going to help people make better decisions with equitable outcomes.

Q: What does the promise of 2022 bring for the Fund and for Black people across Washington?

T’wina: The path to raising our initial $25M and getting more of that money out to the community.

Angela: Continuing to build the ecosystem that connects our people to each other and supports collective action for radical change.

Andrea: The promise that more resources are coming, that Black people’s needs will not be left behind, and that society at large will continue to rally for the liberation of Black people, not just in this window, but from now on and well into the future.

Michelle: A year closer to liberation.

Q: How can folks be part of the Black Future Co-op Fund?

Andrea: That we’ve been unapologetic about demanding resources for our Black community, that we were raised over half of our goal, as many didn’t think we would make it to this point. That we were able to resource 40 incredible Black-led organizations doing much needed work across our communities.

Angela: Now is the time. To learn more about the Black Future Co-op Fund go to: https://www.blackfutureco-op.org
SHARE YOUR IDEAS!

BLACK WELL-BEING:
Moving Toward Solutions Together


Participate in the Black Well-being Survey created by and for the Black community. Your answers will help us shape the future of Black well-being in Washington state.

Take the survey by Nov. 24 to:

• Support collective organizing among Black communities across the state.

• Direct resources to invest strategically in Black prosperity, health, and well-being.

• Inform policy change to fix structural injustices and advance equitable opportunities for Black Washingtonians.

Every participant has the chance to enter to win weekly drawings for a $100 gift card to a Black-owned business of your choice!
"I DON’T KNOW WHO TO BELIEVE."

We all have questions and concerns as we navigate this pandemic. To help ease the uncertainties, the NAACP is committed to safeguarding our communities with an online go-to resource specifically directed to our needs with up-to-date research, data, and stories to help us make the best decisions for ourselves and our families.

Learn the important facts you need to know to stay informed with Covid. Know More. Let’s all fight with the facts.

naacp.org/covidknowmore
#covidknowmore

FIGHT WITH FACTS
If you don’t have the resources, you don’t have the luxury of being at home, using my laptop, working in a safe place and not missing a paycheck. And so, when we think about our minority, underserved populations, they don’t have access to that opportunity. They’re in the midst of it.

**AMA:** Are these patients sharing some of the reasons for their vaccine hesitancy with you?

**Dr. Griffith:** One of the most troubling ones I had was a patient who I encountered just two days ago. She’s a schoolteacher. She has a BMI of 70. She weighs 500 pounds. So, if she was to have COVID, she might not have diabetes, you have severe obesity, you’re at the greatest potential to have complications.” I said, “This is the very beginning. I had some of those realistic concerns that they had regarding how quickly the vaccine became available—until I had to do rounds at one of our hospitals and I saw what was happening. At that point, I said, “I don’t want this. I don’t need this. Don’t bring me back in until I’m vaccinated.”

Dr. Griffith: It’s very hard as a doctor when you’re treating someone who’s not of age to be vaccinated. So it’s hard emotionally to bring this disease home and give it to your children. So there’s been times when I’ve had a patient who’s been unvaccinated and she shared that her sister is unvaccinated, and I’ve invited her to join our next video appointment so we could talk together. It’s just using whatever tools and opportunities that I have to talk to someone to let them know that I hear your concerns but let me tell you what the correct information is.

**AMA:** Is the key using real-life examples and story-telling to reach these patients?

Dr. Griffith: Yes, and your relationship with them. That they’re trusted by them in childhood immunizations, in treating of their cancer, in treatment of their depression. That we want to help with this as well. And this is no different than those other conditions.

**AMA:** How many people have changed their opinions on the COVID-19 vaccine after speaking with you?

Dr. Griffith: I think half of them, after conversations, did. And it’s being real. It’s sharing my experience, seeing patients in the office and it was also sharing with them my initial hesitancy. I had some hesitancy in the very beginning. I had some of those realistic concerns that they had regarding how quickly the vaccine became available—until I had to do rounds at one of our hospitals and I saw what was happening. At that point, I said, “I don’t want this. I don’t need this. Don’t bring me back in until I’m vaccinated.”

So, it’s sharing with people that this COVID illness is unlike anything we’ve seen. If you have a health condition and get COVID, it will make 10 times worse. If you get it and survive, you will have potentially long-standing consequences. It causes everything you can imagine. It can cause nerve problems, heart problems, lung problems, profound depression, anxiety, memory loss. It’s something you don’t want to get.

The best treatment is to not get it: to get vaccinated, to wash your hands, to physically distance, to use science, use the laws of nature. The laws of nature help to guide us, and the laws of nature often are un-forgiving when you don’t follow her rules. Follow those rules and you’ll have the best chance of being healthy.

**AMA:** Does it help improve messaging for patients to get this vital information from someone who looks like them, so a Black physician like yourself?

Dr. Griffith: Yes. When it’s someone who looks like you, who lives where you live, goes to the same places as you—the same barbershop, the same church—it does help with that. As opposed to messaging coming down from above to say that you have to do this, you need to do this. So when it’s coming from people you know and trust, you can receive the information better.

**AMA:** How do we establish trust in health care, including the COVID-19 vaccine, with patients who are Black or are from other historically marginalized populations?

Dr. Griffith: It’s partnering with other organizations. Whether it’s churches, synagogues, mosques, community groups… it has to be that whole community that reaches others.

What I’ve tried to do in all my patient appointments is to make them ambassadors. To say, if there’s someone who you love who’s not vaccinated, please share your story with them. There’s been times when I’ve had a patient who’s been unvaccinated and she shared that her sister is unvaccinated, and I’ve invited her to join our next video appointment so we could talk together. It’s just using whatever tools and opportunities that I have to talk to someone to let them know that I hear your concerns but let me tell you what the correct information is.

**AMA:** What else should physicians know about address vaccine hesitancy?

Dr. Griffith: It’s very hard as a doctor when you’re treating patients who are very ill and then you potentially could bring this disease home and give it to your child who’s not of age to be vaccinated. So it’s hard emotionally to accept that.

But we have to try to do all we can to encourage our docs to be open-minded and not be judgmental about those who don’t get vaccinated, and then try to use your relationship with them to get them vaccinated.
A Hidden Tragedy of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Orphaned Black Children

A new study led by researchers at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that 140,000 children have lost their principal caregivers due to the COVID-19 pandemic. One of every four deaths from the virus has resulted in a child losing their principal caregiver.

From April 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, data suggest that more than 140,000 children under age 18 in the United States lost a parent, custodial grandparent, or grandparent caregiver who provided the child’s home and basic needs. Overall, the study shows that approximately 1 out of 500 children in the United States has experienced COVID-19-associated orphanhood or death of a grandparent caregiver.

As in many adverse health outcomes, there is a significant racial disparity. Some 65 percent of the children who have been orphaned come from nonwhite ethnic or racial groups, yet these groups make up just 39 percent of the U.S. population.

One of every 310 Black children experienced orphanhood or death of caregivers compared to one of 753 White children. Thus, Black children were 2.4 times as likely as White children to be orphaned from the pandemic.

“Children facing orphanhood as a result of COVID is a hidden, global pandemic that has sadly not spared the United States,” said Susan Hillis, CDC researcher and lead author of the study. “All of us – especially our children – will feel the serious immediate and long-term impact of this problem for generations to come. Addressing the loss that these children have experienced – and continue to experience – must be one of our top priorities, and it must be woven into all aspects of our emergency response, both now and in the post-pandemic future.”

The full study, “COVID-19-Associated Orphanhood and Caregiver Death in the United States,” was published on the website of the Journal of Pediatrics. It may be downloaded by visiting: https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/early/2021/10/06/peds.2021-053760.full.pdf

Are you taking care of a family member or friend? There is help for you!

Our goal at the Caregiver Support Program is to help unpaid caregivers find support, reduce stress, and keep your loved one safe, healthy and at home.

Call 509-458-7450 option 2 or email: Caregiversupport@fbhwa.org

CSF is a program of Frontier Behavioral Health. Funding is provided by Aging and Long Term Care of Eastern Washington.

Communities of Strength
WE ARE STRONGER CONNECTED

Our Check and Connect program helps older adults and adults living with disabilities stay safely connected, during the pandemic and beyond. Together, we can find strength — contact us for support.

GET INFO AT ALTCEW.ORG OR CALL 509.960.7281
A COVID Diary: My Black Family’s Struggle With Vaccine Hesitancy

By Espie Randolph III

Reprinted from the Los Angeles Times, latimes.com/opinion

Tuesday, Aug. 3: After going weeks without speaking to each other because I yelled at my mom about not getting vaccinated, she finally calls me from her home in Texas. The news: She has just tested positive for COVID-19.

Thursday, Aug. 5: I call my mom and we fight until I have persuaded her to call her doctor. I advise her to outline all of her symptoms in detail and to take his advice, even the antibody infusion, the COVID treatment given emergency-use authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in November. The fact that the treatment is so new makes her nervous. When your mom gets COVID, time rightfully takes center stage. Suddenly there’s time to think. Time to consider. Time to understand that there is no time. Or that the last time you did (fill in the blank) with her might have been the very last time ever.

Friday, Aug. 6: More bad news. I find out from my sister that four family members in Texas, including my 79-year-old grandmother, are unvaccinated and have all contracted the virus. I am distraught. I wish I could find a way to get vaccine-hesitant Black people to believe that COVID vaccines are not a Tuskegee experiment, the infamous study in which the United States Public Health Service knowingly kept syphilis diagnoses and treatments from its hundreds of Black subjects for decades. My unvaccinated family members have all brought it up as a reason they don’t want the shot. Yes, the Tuskegee experiment was a race-driven atrocity that America has yet to properly reckon with. But this is not that.

Tuesday, Aug. 10: My mother’s concern for her own mother’s deteriorating health grows. I am increasingly worried about my own mother’s health, which has also taken a turn for the worse. In this moment, we are able to connect. My grandmother begins breathing too shallowly and is taken to the hospital. Racial distrust in America runs so deep that people in my family thought it was logical to risk getting a deadly virus rather than trust a physician’s recommendation to get a vaccine. Old wounds remain unhealed. A cycle that is unending.

Wednesday, Aug. 11: My grandmother has had a stroke. James Baldwin, the Black American essayist, would trace this racial distrust back to America’s “original sin” — the early settlers, who came armed with a plague of their own, and the creation of the concept of “Brownness,” “Blackness” and “otherness.” The distrust is rooted in being made to feel different. It is valid. And getting acknowledgement of, and healing from, this past trauma is the good fight that we need to keep fighting. But we must separate that battle from a fear of proven science.

Thursday, Aug. 12: My grandmother’s kidneys are failing. This is one COVID side effect among a host of other symptoms she’s experiencing. My heart hurts. I’m not judging the vaccine hesitant. I was one of them for many months. But I did get the jab. Why? Because white people began to colonize it. No matter how widely the vaccines were distributed in communities of color, it seemed to me there were always some white people showing up and waiting in other people’s lines to get their hands on it.

Saturday, Aug. 14: I watch a news clip online where a Black female doctor outlines all the COVID-19 side effects that patients with severe cases should expect to leave the hospital with. My grandmother is currently experiencing all of them. Someone in the comments section of the video calls it “fake news.” I want to scream. While deciding to get the shot, I weighed the potential for side effects and it became a no-brainer. I’ll take a fever and some chills any day over the COVID side effects my grandmother has been experiencing.

Sunday, Aug 15: My grandmother feels better and is no longer contagious. She decides she wants to come home rather than remain at the hospital.

Continued on Page 26

TEAMING UP TO SAVE LIVES.

Lung Cancer Screening with Low-Dose CT Scans Helps Reduce Deaths.

If you’re between 50 and 80 years of age, a long-time smoker, suffer COPD or have other risk factors for lung cancer, Inland Imaging’s low-dose CT lung cancer screening exam can provide timely and potentially life-saving answers.

Results of the recent National Lung Screening Trial (NLST) indicate screening CT scans may reduce lung cancer mortality by more than 20% by finding early stage cancers that other tests might miss.

Recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. For more information, call Inland Imaging at 509.363.7799, or visit: inlandimaging.com/communitycancerfund.

Inland Imaging.
Answers you can trust and care you can count on.
Spokane Regional Health District assures nondiscrimination in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. To file a complaint or to request more information, reasonable accommodations, or language translations, contact 509.324.1501 or visit srhd.org. // Adapted from CDC.

Gather Safely

Stay safe while gathering indoors or outdoors with others

Talk to family & friends about safety expectations.

Use “I” statements like, “I don’t feel comfortable being around that many people yet” to set boundaries without sounding like you’re blaming others.

Take things outside.

Meet outside if possible. If you do meet inside, mask up, hold smaller gatherings, and increase ventilation by opening windows and using fans.

Get your COVID & Flu shots — encourage others to do the same.

Encourage others while listening to and respecting their concerns. Share your own experience using “I” statements. For example, “I was concerned too, but after talking to my doctor, I decided to get vaccinated.”

If you’re sick after an event, test & tell.

If you develop any COVID-19 symptoms within 14 days of a gathering, get tested and let people who were near you know right away.

srhd.org
Black Veterans Celebrate Veterans Day Acknowledge More Needs to be Done

By Amber D. Dodd

As America celebrates Veterans Day on Thursday Nov. 11, Black veterans around the Spokane area are seeking out strategies to improve the services meant to assist veteran’s needs.

Reverend Donnie Stone, 72, hails from the era where veterans were treated harshly after their return from the Vietnam War. A 1968 Gallup Poll showed 50 percent of Americans disapproved of the war at the time American soldiers evacuated. During his service, Stone earned the Bronze Star Medal, an award that reflects a service member’s “heroic or meritorious achievement or service in a combat zone.” It is the fourth-highest ranking award a service member can receive in armed conflict.

“There may be hundreds of people, Black male or female veterans in Spokane, but how many of them have received the highest awards in the military and nobody knows it? I have a problem with that.” Stone said. “Give honor where honor is due. Give respect where respect is due.”

Along with the recognition of service members, helping veterans soon became Stone’s ministry after he realized the discrepancies veterans face when advocating for the assistance they seek out. Stone’s wife, Jamie, pushed him to apply for veteran’s benefits and assistance to help pay for medicine and other needs that derived from his tour in Vietnam. Years later, Stone has had multiple critical surgeries and his post-op and daily medicine paid for through veteran’s assistance and benefits. He also purchased a new home.

“There’s too many minority veterans that are not getting the help they need because of our society,” said Stone about the lack of clarity and communication between veteran’s and assistance agencies. “There’s a lot of Black veterans that are on these streets. I have a friend that has over $100,000 worth of doctor bills because he won’t go to the VA. I can’t fathom that. There’s so many tweaks and laws that have changed. Then, a lot of us people don’t know it’s changed because nobody is telling us.”

Terry Frazier is another Black veteran fighting for the same benefits Stone is striving for. A Hohenwet, Tennessee native, Frazier joined the Air Force and worked several jobs related to hazardous customs and other war service departments. He described his veteran income status as “100 percent disability” and recognized some trepidations related to the veteran experience.

Frazier argued that many of the social issues veterans face deep in the veteran experience. For example, PTSD is something that doesn’t go away regardless of their veteran status. Since PTSD manifests differently for everyone, Frazier believes racialized trauma incidents may deepen the issue. This worsens for those who already suffer from traumatic experiences prior to their service.

“We have to be very cautious and careful with (PTSD in veterans),” Frazier said. “PTSD is (one of) those social issues that were here before you entered this world and will be hereafter.”

This scrutiny deepens at the race level. Stone also recognized the racial divide in treatment. Some of the soldiers Stone served with are testing positive for Agent Orange, a chemical herbicide that causes liver problems, skin disease and other immune system dysfunction due to the exposure of dioxins. Many of the men evaluated for complications related to Agent Orange were white:

“They’re diagnosed with it, we served together and they’re causasian, so what happened? Caucasians get Agent Orange and Blacks don’t?” Stone said. “I slept in the same fox holes, drank the same water, we were around each other every day and now I want to step up and be reevaluated for Agent Orange. Now the urge is to wonder how many people are out there (in need of assistance).”

Frazier and Stone both criticized the time necessary to process certain documents or payments in order for veterans to receive the benefits they’re seeking. Frazier, near 70, feels that the process to receive benefits can be life long. Even when veteran’s requests are met, it could be too late. Veterans could be suffering from issues that lead to hospice care or mental health episodes. Wait times to receive benefits can vary case-by-case.

“I’ve been retired for 28 years and I’ve been fighting and struggling with the government to get the benefits I was promised when I went in” Frazier said. “That makes a big difference when the promises we were given and served under when I raised six children, aren’t met. I shouldn’t have to fight or struggle for them years later.”

Another critical social problem plaguing veterans is the nationwide housing crisis. For example, the National Law Income Housing Coalition states that, in 2020, $30,46 is the minimum wage needed to afford a two-bedroom apartment in the state of Washington. Minimum wage stands at just $13.25. Veterans often have trouble finding jobs without assistance from the Veteran Affairs office, which may not be accessible to veterans in particular areas. Frazier recalled his own issues with rent.

Rent raises directly impact veterans who retired on fixed incomes or use their pensions from places of employment. In 2019, Frazier realized signing a new lease meant paying an extra $200 administration fee. He wanted to opt-in for the month to month lease agreement, but that would increase the rent he was paying by $200, totaling a $1,200 up-charge. Frazier mentioned that veterans could benefit from a rent-controlled system agreement both with the Veteran Affairs offices and the rental agencies managing the properties.

“If I as a veteran live in this apartment complex for 14 years and now they’re raising the rent (for) veterans like myself that live here for $1200 a month would need to afford a two-bedroom two-bathroom apartment in Airway Heights should the rent go up 20%, that’s a $240 up-charge. Veterans can’t afford to rent a two-bedroom apartment anywhere in the country with respect to the veteran experience.” Frazier said. “I shouldn’t have to go through a struggle, they should not die in the process of trying to get the benefits they (were) promised.”

Amber D. Dodd’s work as the Carl Maxey Rac- ial and Social Iniquity reporter for Eastern Washington and North Idaho primarily appears in both The Spokesman-Review and The Black Lens newspapers, and is funded in part by the Michael Conley Charitable Fund, the Smith-Barbieri Progressive Fund, the Innovia Foundation and other local donors from across our community.

Black Veteran Association

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November 2021

VETERANS DAY 2021

Elmer Anderson
US Air Force
Master Sergeant
Years of Service: 20

Keyonia Anderson
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 12

Chester Andrews
US Air Force
Sergeant
Years of Service: 20

Darrel Andrews
US Air Force
Airman First Class
Years of Service: 4

Amos Atkinson
US Army
Sergeant (E-5)
Years of Service: 22

Sly Chatman
US Air Force
Master Sergeant
Years of Service: 20

Rickey Davis
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 20

Bob Bartlett
US Army
Specialist (E-4)
Years of Service: 1970 - 1974

Teneasa Tyler Brehmeyer
US Air Force
Senior Airman
Years of Service: 1994 - 1998

William Caldwell
US Air Force
Senior Airman
Years of Service: 1974-1978

Carl Gunn
US Army
Staff Sergeant (E-5)
Years of Service: 1969-1973

Lee Lee Everette
US Army Reserve
Airman First Class
Years of Service: 1976-1985

Rickey Davis
US Army
Sergeant (E-5)
Years of Service: 1963-1965

David Parker
US Air Force
Airman First Class
Years of Service: 1970 - 1990

Mark Duncan
US Air Force
Airman First Class
Years of Service: 3-1/2

Yolanda Everette
US Navy
Petty Officer 3rd Class (E-4)
Years of Service: 1984-1993

James Fisher
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 20

Lee Lee Everette
US Army Reserve
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 20

Teneasa Tyler Brehmeyer
US Air Force
Airmen First Class
Years of Service: 20

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US Navy
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Master Sergeant
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Rickey Davis
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 20

Lee Lee Everette
US Army Reserve
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 1976-1985

Rickee Davis
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 20

Lee Lee Everette
US Army Reserve
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 1976-1985

Robert Milton
US Navy
Seaman (E-3)
Years of Service: 1963 - 1968

Rickee Davis
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 20

Lee Lee Everette
US Army Reserve
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 1976-1985

Ronald Joyner
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 20

Bernard Jones
USAF, Civil Air Patrol
Tech Sgt, Lt. Colonel
Years of Service: 23 + 20

Mark Neufville
US Marine Corps
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 1980-1994

Ruth Nichols
American Red Cross
U.S. Women's Army Corps WACS

Teneasa Tyler Brehmeyer
US Air Force
Senior Airman
Years of Service: 20

Michael Kay
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 20

Jonathan Mack
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 1970 - 1990

Robert Milton
US Navy
Seaman (E-3)
Years of Service: 1963 - 1968

Mark Neufville
US Marine Corps
Tech Sergeant (E-5)
Years of Service: 1980-1994

David Parker
US Air Force
Senior Master Sergeant (E-8)
Years of Service: 1962 - 1989

Michael Kay
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 20
HONORING OUR LOCAL VETERANS

Floyd N. Rhodes III
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 20

Larry Roseman
US Air Force
Senior Airman (E-4)
Years of Service: 4

Kitara Shaules
US Army
Sergeant
Years of Service: 1997-2003

Chyunniten Standy-Bryant
US Air Force
Master Sergeant
Years of Service: 30

Donnie P. Stone
US Army
Sergeant (E-5)
Years of Service: 1968-1971

Aurthur C. Trent
US Army Air Corps
Sergeant
Battle of Normandy & D Day

James Troutt
US Air Force
Senior Master Sergeant
Years of Service: 27

Myra Trent
US Coast Guard
Private 1st Class (E-3)
Years of Service: 1979 - 1980

Marvin Tucker
US Army
Sergeant First Class
Years of Service: 20

Faith A. Washington
US Air Force
Sergeant (E-4)
Years of Service: 1975-1979

Percy Happy Watkins
US Air Force
Airmen 2nd Class
Years of Service: 1961 - 1965

Benjamin Wheeler
US Air Force
Sergeant (E-4)
Years of Service: 1982-1992

Marvin White
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant (E-6)
Years of Service: 1971 - 1991

Charles Williams
US Air Force
Master Sergeant
Years of Service: 1978 - 2000

Robert C. Williamson Jr.
US Air Force
MSgt - Sec Police Spec
Years of Service: 1972-1992

This is an incomplete list of our local Veterans. The Black Lens is working to develop a comprehensive list of members of Spokane’s Black community who have served in the military. If you know of someone who has been missed, if you have additional information, or if I have made a mistake and you have the correct information, please let me know. Thank You.

Need Information
Marsha Dodd – AF
Robert Robinson – Army
Alexander Thompson – AF
Milton Carson – AF

Gardner Anderson
US Army
Corporal
Years of Service: 1950 - 1952

Roth Ashby
US Air Force
Master Sergeant
Years of Service: 20

Paul Bigsby
US Air Force
1st Lieutenant (O-2)
Years of Service: 1952-1963

Manuel Brown
US Air Force
Master Sergeant
Years of Service: 24

Charles Fleming
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant

Douglas F. Jones
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 1951 - 1971

Vance Kelley
US Air Force
Master Sergeant (E-7)
Years of Service: 1966 - 1980

Alex Lee
US Army
Sergeant (E-5)
Years of Service: 7

Cornelius Nolan
US Army
Private
Years of Service: 1955-57

Eugene Singleton
USAF, Civil Air Patrol
Tech Sergeant, Chaplain
Years of Service: 20 + 20

Thomas Williams
US Army
Command Sgt Major (E-9)
Years of Service: 1946-78 + 20yrs

HONORING THOSE WHO PAVED THE WAY
“The vaccine will save lives, so I just encourage other people. Think about more than just yourself. Take a step forward to preserve your life and the life of others.”

- Winona H., Seattle, WA
As young people have returned to classrooms, the pressure to vape with friends also returns. With in-person student interaction increasing, youth may have more access and exposure to e-cigarettes.

Though youth e-cigarette use has decreased during the pandemic, 3.6 million youth still vape. While the number of African American youth who use some tobacco products, such as cigarettes and cigarillos, has steadily decreased over the last 10 years, the use of vapor products has increased.

There are many dangers associated with vaping. Vapes contain harmful chemicals like nicotine, cancer-causing chemicals, and heavy metals such as nickel, tin, and lead that can harm adolescent brain development, which continues to develop until about age 25.

African American youth are three times more likely to use a vapor product than any other type of tobacco product. Young people who vape nicotine may be more likely to smoke cigarettes and vape THC.

It is well documented that African Americans are one of the groups most targeted and impacted by tobacco companies and their products. Parents, teachers, and other adults can help young people make healthy decisions. By keeping yourself informed, you can know what to say when the topic comes up.

The earlier and more often you speak with young people about vapor products, the more likely they are to listen.

Live Vape Free is a new program for adults that offers practical advice that can help you talk with teens in your life about vaping.

It’s a self-guided program with videos, downloadable materials, and 1-on-1 support. Its structured approach is based on 35 years of physical, psychological, and behavioral health science.

Live Vape Free provides:

• Tools to help empower constructive conversations about the risks associated with vaping
• Instructive videos as well as how-to articles and background information
• A guide to help teens build a quit plan. It will cover how to get started, strategies for managing urges, and staying quit
• Insights from individuals who are facing similar challenges
• The latest news and information about the health risks of vaping

Sign up and start your self-guided learning at doh.wa.gov/livevapefree

Text READY to 200-400 or Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669)

SECONDHAND SMOKE TRIGGERS SEVERE ASTHMA ATTACKS.

When Jamason was 16, secondhand smoke triggered such a severe asthma attack, he was hospitalized for four days. If you or someone you know needs free help to quit smoking, call 1-800-QUIT-NOW

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Jamason
High School Student
Kentucky

#CDCTips
Remnant of one of the oldest Black churches in US unveiled in VA

By Adelle M. Banks

(RNS - religionnews.com) — Archaeologists believe they have discovered the foundation of the original building of the First Baptist Church in Williamsburg, Virginia, one of the nation’s oldest Black churches.

The announcement, shared first with descendents of First Baptist Church members, was officially made on Thursday (Oct. 7) by Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, which runs the well-known outdoor living museum and historic district in Williamsburg.

“The early history of our congregation, beginning with enslaved and free Blacks gathering outdoors in secret in 1776, has always been a part of who we are as a community,” said the Rev. Reginald F. Davis, pastor of First Baptist Church, in a statement.

“To see it unearthed — to see the actual bricks of that original foundation and the outline of the place our ancestors worshipped — brings that history to life and makes that piece of our identity tangible.”

The discovery of the first permanent structure of the church — which is set to celebrate its 245th anniversary on the weekend of Oct. 9-10 — comes after a year of excavation at the site.

Archaeologists located a 16 X 20-foot brick foundation atop a layer of soil that has been dated to the early 1800s. It sits beside brick paving under which was found an 1817 coin. Tax records have indicated that the congregation was worshipping on the site by 1818 in a building called the Baptist Meeting House, which was likely the congregation’s first permanent home.

Jack Gary, Colonial Williamsburg’s director of archaeology, said he considers these finds to be just the start of continuing research.

“We always hoped this is what we’d find,” he said in a statement. “Now we can move forward to better understand the footprint of the building. Is it the only structure on the site? What else was around it? What did it look like? How was it being used?”

During their search, which started in September 2020, archaeologists also have found evidence of at least 25 human burials at the location.

Continued on Page 29
By Denise Lavoie

(Reprinted from AP News, apnews.com)

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam granted posthumous pardons Tuesday to seven Black men who were executed in 1951 for the rape of a white woman, in a case that attracted pleas for mercy from around the world and in recent years has been denounced as an example of racial disparity in the use of the death penalty.

Northam announced the pardons after meeting with about a dozen descendants of the men and their advocates. Cries and sobs could be heard from some of the descendants after Northam’s announcement.

The “Martinsville Seven,” as the men became known, were all convicted of raping 32-year-old Ruby Stoud Floyd, a white woman who had gone to a predominantly black neighborhood in Martinsville, Virginia, on Jan. 8, 1949, to collect money for clothes she had sold.

Four of the men were executed in Virginia’s electric chair on Feb. 2, 1951. Three days later, the remaining three were also electrocuted. All of them were tried by all-white juries. It was the largest group of people executed for a single-victim crime in Virginia’s history.

At the time, rape was a capital offense. But Northam said Tuesday that the death penalty for rape was applied almost exclusively to Black people. From 1908 — when Virginia began using the electric chair — to 1951, state records show that all 45 people executed for rape were Black.

Before their executions, protesters picketed at the White House, and the governor’s office received letters from around the world asking for mercy.

James Walter Grayson is the son of Francis DeSales Grayson, who was one of the seven. He sobbed loudly when Northam told the family members he would grant the pardons after meeting with them Tuesday. “Thank you, Jesus. Thank you, Lord,” he said, as he wept while being embraced by two other descendents of the men.

Grayson said he was 4 years old when his father was executed. “It means so much to me,” he said of the pardon. “I remember the very day the police came to the door. He kissed us and they took him away,” he told The Associated Press in an interview after the announcement.

Rudolph McCollum Jr., a former Richmond mayor who is the great-nephew of Francis DeSales Grayson and the nephew of another of the executed men, Booker T. Miller, told Northam the executions represent “a wound that continues to mar Virginia’s history and the efforts to move beyond its dubious past.” He wept when Northam announced he would pardon the men.

In December, advocates and descendents of the men asked Northam to issue posthumous pardons. Their petition does not argue the men were innocent, but says their trials were unfair and the punishment was extreme and unjust.

“The Martinsville Seven were not given adequate due process ‘simply for being black,’ they were sentenced to death for a crime that a white person would not have been executed for ‘simply for being black,’ and they were killed, by the Commonwealth, ‘simply for being black,’” the advocates wrote in their letter to Northam.

The seven men, most in their late teens or early 20s, were: Grayson, Millner, Frank Hairston Jr.; Howard Lee Hairston; James Luther Hairston; Joe Henry Hampton; and John Clabon Taylor.

Eric W. Rise, an associate professor at the University of Delaware who wrote a 1995 book on the case: “The Martinsville Seven: Race, Rape, and Capital Punishment,” said Floyd told police she was raped by a large group of Black men and testified at all six trials. Two of the men were tried together.

All seven men signed statements admitting they were present during the attack, but they had no access to their parents or attorneys at the time, Rise said.

“The validity of the confessions were one of the things their defense attorneys brought up at the trials,” Rise said.

Four of the men testified in their own defense. Rise said two men said they had consensual sex with her, one man denied any involvement, and another man said he was so intoxicated he could not remember what happened.

Northam has now granted a total of 604 pardons since taking office in 2018, more than the previous nine governors combined, his administration announced Tuesday.

“This is about righting wrongs,” Northam said. “We all deserve a criminal justice system that is fair, equal, and gets it right — no matter who you are or what you look like,” he said.

In March, Northam, a Democrat, signed legislation passed by the Democrat-controlled legislature abolishing the state’s death penalty. It was a dramatic shift for Virginia, a state that had the second-highest number of executions in the U.S. The case of the Martinsville Seven was cited during the legislative debate as an example of the disproportionate use of the death penalty against people of color.
JOIN THE COMMUNITY VOICES COUNCIL!

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

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?
You’re eligible to join the Community Voices Council if you:

• have the time to attend the monthly meeting
• enjoy coming up with thoughtful ideas that help their community and neighbors
• have the time to attend the monthly meeting
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WHY JOIN THE COMMUNITY VOICES COUNCIL?
It is an opportunity to make your voice heard, represent your community, and be part of meaningful change in the healthcare field. Eligible participants receive a stipend for participating in monthly meetings.

HOW DO YOU JOIN?
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Apply online: tinyurl.com/dmyndf

Learn more about us at www.betterhealthtogether.org

A Column from Spokane's Black Muslim Community

By Bro Jermaine Williams

Living life as a Muslim in Spokane has been quite an experience. Not a terrible experience but an experience nonetheless. Din “deen” (way of life) Centric (central/customary).

I was privileged to embrace Islam by becoming Muslim in 1997 when Islam was still foreign to many in America. TWENTY-FOUR YEARS later, post 9/11, Twin Towers, Sadaam Hussein, Usama bin-Laden, Iraq, Afghanistan, etc... I’m in the beautiful Lilac City where Islam still seems foreign.

In TWENTY-FOUR YEARS I’ve prayed, interacted, conversed with hundreds of Muslims from each end of the globe (the majority of them identifying as Beautifully Black African Americans). Now, I live in Spokane with one (yes ONE) Islamic Center (that happens to be in the Valley). The Imam seems sincere. Jumah (Friday) service is always enriching and still Spokane WA is the first major city in The United States where African American Muslims are not the majority.

The beauty of perseverance is you don’t fold during trying times. I still represent Islam humbly yet proudly any and everywhere I go. Islam has been my saving grace, therefore I am unapologetic in my thoughts, words and deeds surrounding The Din of Islam.

I also love the fact that I AM NOT THE ONLY ONE. There are many beautifully Black African Americans I rock with. Some of which appeared in BLNEWS April 2021 issue. Some who have been writing in BLNEWS each month since then.

Many of you know me as Director of Freedom Project East, but those closest know Islam is my first love. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was an advocate, activist and abolitionist. A sincere warrior does Not strive to conquer others they strive to conquer themselves. I’ve been a resident of Spokane since May 2020. Good bad ugly indifferent, I adore The Lilac City and like turkeys on the South Hill, you may as well slow down when you see us because we’re here to stay and we’re not budging. At least Muslims wave.

There’s more where this came from... Ass-salamu ‘alaykum.
By James McDay

The Kootenai County Branch started as an Organizing Committee, which was recognized by the National NAACP Board of Directors on July 20, 2019.

With much credit, love and respect to Dr. Mamie Oliver for her elder counsel, experience, and support, the Treasure Valley-Idaho Branch leadership and the tireless efforts of the local unit, we realized our vision to become the first NAACP Branch in Idaho in over 85 years. This was no easy feat given the condition of our nation’s democracy, rise of white nationalist culture and nationwide social divide during a global pandemic.

On May 16, 2020 the NAACP National Board of Directors voted to approve the Kootenai County Branch 14AA Charter, now officially recognized as serving North Idaho.

The motivation behind the need for the Branch began when its founder, James McDay, relocated from Arkansas to the Kootenai County area and into a community unlike any he had ever experienced before. There was no representation of someone like himself to be found.

Raised in the south, McDay’s family educated and shielded him from the inequities of systemic structural racism while growing up. In this new community, however, racial profiling, disenfranchisement and denial of access presented itself, eventually causing interruption in McDay’s pursuit of higher education.

Many leave a community when blatant harassment and discrimination occurs, but McDay remembered the lessons his uncle, Reverend Leslie Ballard of the College Station Arkansas Church of Christ, and the NAACP Association taught him. To stay with no support system, except one’s faith and hope, with the understanding that sometimes you have to burn a bridge to light your way.

The first elections of the Kootenai County Branch of the NAACP were held on November 30, 2020. Currently serving are 6 Branch Officers and 5 Committee Chairs. Dr. D.O. Porter was elected the first local Branch President, and James McDay, its founder was elected Vice President. On September 18, 2021, McDays was also elected to serve on the ID/NV/UT Tri-State Conference Executive Committee.

Although Kootenai County NAACP Branch 14AA has been met with challenges along the way, with respect to the culture and climate of the community, there is pride in the 83 committed and loyal members that have continued to support the important work of the Branch.

Despite the impact of COVID-19 on the state of Idaho, the Kootenai County Branch celebrated its first annual Freedom Fund Gala on September 26, 2021 and was honored to have Sandra Williams, Editor of Spokane’s Black Lens, as the keynote speaker. The annual fundraiser, which included speakers, Black history trivia and a silent auction, will provide support for the Branches activities throughout the coming year.

McDay proudly acknowledges the success that has been achieved by the Kootenai County Branch, which is in the first three years of a ten year vision. He is hopeful for the Branch’s continued good work, not only serving North Idaho’s BIPOC citizens, but every citizen that stands in solidarity locally with the forward-thinking vision of true diversity and inclusion that Kootenai County Branch 14AA is struggling to achieve.

For more information about the Kootenai County branch of the NAACP visit: https://kootenaicountynaacp.org

Kootenai County Idaho NAACP Hosts First Freedom Fund Gala
The Carl Maxey Center is excited to share Spokane’s Black Business Directory at www.BlackSpokane.com. The businesses are listed in alphabetical order and searchable by category. This is just the beginning. Our goal is to eventually make this a comprehensive snapshot of Black Spokane, including Black businesses, organizations, professionals, churches and events.

Welcome to: BlackSpokane.com

The Carl Maxey Center is excited to share Spokane’s Black Business Directory at www.BlackSpokane.com. The businesses are listed in alphabetical order and searchable by category. This is just the beginning. Our goal is to eventually make this a comprehensive snapshot of Black Spokane, including Black businesses, organizations, professionals, churches and events.

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

To learn more about his product line and/or to make a purchase, visit SoulFoodStarters.com

**Black Chef’s New Line of Soul Food Starter Kits Available Nationwide**

(clarknews.com) Claude Booker, is CEO and founder of Booker’s Soul Food Starters which are now available in over 1,000 grocery stores across the country. His business providing Southern side dishes for buffets was decimated as a direct result of the pandemic, and most buffets remain closed. Booker pivoted his business during the pandemic and went from ideation to grocery store shelves with Booker’s Soul Food Starters in nine months. He did not shy away from his commitments to building a supply chain filled with domestic Black-owned businesses. The partnership with other Black businesses encourages more opportunities for those businesses and allows them to employ other Black Americans.

“When the pandemic hit in 2020, I lost 90% of my hot food and steam table business during the shutdown,” said Claude. “We pivoted and created pantry-ready seasonings for soul food during the pandemic because more people were eating at home. We went from creation to 1,000 stores in the midst of a pandemic.”

Booker’s Soul Food Starters enables any home cook to create the traditional flavors of collard greens, mac and cheese, peach cobbler, and more by adding their own fresh ingredients to the starter. The products are now sold online and in over 1,000 locations nationwide, including at Meijer, Stop & Shop, KeHE, Cost Plus World Market, VW Roses, and Sam’s Club.

According to author Brooke Stephens’ book, Talking Dollars and Making Sense: A Wealth Building Guide for African-American, the lifespan of a dollar in the Asian community is 28 days, in the Jewish community the lifespan of a dollar is 19 days, and shockingly, the lifespan in the Black community is approximately 6 hours. Booker’s investment in the Black community is intentionally addressing this challenge.

“Pivoting in the pandemic was a valuable lesson in perseverance in entrepreneurship and community. My hope is that other Black entrepreneurs will consider other avenues when one becomes blocked. It’s important for our community to continue to invest in itself and support Black business owners as we strive to close the wealth gap that has existed for too long in this country,” Booker said.

Booker says that he well understands the importance of keeping money in the Black community. Black Americans spend over $1.4 trillion every year. Even though Black buying power is strong, the lack of community access to Black-owned businesses continues to contribute to the wealth gap.

According to Brookings, the pandemic left Black households more vulnerable: “Although Black-owned businesses only represent a minority of all businesses, they are disproportionately likely to operate in sectors most severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and associated shutdowns.” Santa Cruz economist, Robert Fairlie, found that more than 2 out of 5 black small businesses and self-employed workers have been forced to shutter during the pandemic — well over twice the rate of white businesses. Claude Booker’s business was no different.

To learn more about his product line and/or to make a purchase, visit SoulFoodStarters.com
What remained of the church’s original structure had been covered up by the foundation of a brick church built in 1856 after the first structure was felled by a tornado. Later, it was paved over in the construction of a parking lot. Negotiations between the church and Colonial Williamsburg have brought the church’s history into the open in the last five years.

First Baptist relocated to Scotland Street in 1956. The excavation work at the former site near Nassau and Francis streets will continue as archaeologists seek to learn more about the first permanent structure, pinpoint burial sites and learn more about the spiritual practices of the early worshippers.

The church was started in 1776 by enslaved and free Blacks, defying laws forbidding African Americans to congregate. They started in a brush arbor — a clearing in the woods surrounded by posts and covered with branches — where they met secretly to pray and sing on a Williamsburg plantation. They relocated to a rural area outside Williamsburg before moving to the site where the recent discoveries were made.

Colonial Williamsburg acquired the land on South Nassau Street in 1956 from what became known as First Baptist Church. The foundation razed the building and paid for the construction and land costs for the congregation’s current building, which opened the next year.

“Colonial Williamsburg is committed to telling a more complete and inclusive story of the men and women who lived, worked and worshipped here during our country’s formative years,” said Cliff Fleet, president and CEO of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, in a statement.

Photos courtesy of Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Remnant of one of the Oldest Black churches in US

Continued From Page 24

HEALING SERVICE!
The bible says in James 5:14-15 If you are sick to call the elders of the church and let them pray for you and anoint you with oil and the Prayer of Faith can heal the sick! Would you like Prayer for Healing? Date: Sunday Mornings Time: 10AM Location: Word of Faith 9212 E.Montgomery Ave Suite 202 Spokane Valley, WA 99206 Call 509-919-4150 if you have any questions.

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Find out:

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-4 Biblical Reasons according to the Book of Revelation the COVID Vaccine is NOT the Mark of the Beast!

-Many other Exciting Prophecies that will come to pass!

Time: Wednesday Evenings, 7PM Location: Word of Faith 9212 E. Montgomery Ave Suite 202 Spokane Valley, WA 99206 Call 509-919-4150, if you have any questions.
How Do Black People in Washington Experience Outdoor Recreation?

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and the Washington State Commission on African American Affairs are gathering information to better understand how Black people in Washington state experience outdoor recreation.

Part of that work is a survey asking Black, African American and African people in Washington about their outdoor experience. The responses will be included in a report to the Governor and Legislature in 2022. Here is a link to the survey:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/waparkssurvey

If you would like to participate, please take the survey, and then share the link with your friends, family, and network in Washington state. If you have questions, contact George Griffin, G3 & Associates, at G3inc@comcast.net.
Eviction Legal Clinic

The Carl Maxey Center in partnership with the Volunteer Lawyers Program and The Way to Justice will be hosting an Eviction Legal Clinic.

Free of charge.

Tuesday, November 9
6 - 8pm

The Way to Justice
845 S Sherman St.
Spokane, WA 99202

With attorneys who specialize in bankruptcy, family and eviction law.

For more information call (509) 324 0144

AFRAID OF FORECLOSURE?
We can help, but time is running out.

If the pandemic has left you struggling to pay your mortgage, SNAP Financial Acess can help cover up to six months of payments with no obligation to repay, but the program ends this year.

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housing@snapwa.org

Please be aware: this program is available only to Spokane County homeowners outside the City of Spokane.

Are You Behind On Your Rent?

Are You Behind On Your Rent?

In Danger of Being Evicted?

We Can Help.

The Carl Maxey Center in partnership with the Volunteer Lawyers Program and The Way to Justice will be hosting an Eviction Legal Clinic.

Free of charge.

Tuesday, November 9
6 - 8pm

The Way to Justice
845 S Sherman St.
Spokane, WA 99202

With attorneys who specialize in bankruptcy, family and eviction law.

For more information call (509) 324 0144

Are You Behind On Your Rent?

Check To See If You Qualify
Visit CarlMaxeyCenter.org
For questions or application assistance call 509-309-2175.

The Carl Maxey Center has partnered with the Volunteer Lawyers Program and The Way to Justice to provide emergency rental assistance to address the disproportionate hardships facing African Americans and people of color due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program is designed to assist residents of the City of Spokane, who qualify based on their income, have been impacted by COVID-19, and who are struggling with past due rent. The goal is to prevent evictions.
Colin Powell & “Two-ness”

Continued From Page 1

Powell was part of that military history. He joined in 1958, a decade after desegregation of the Armed Forces in 1948. But the military was — and still is — an institution characterized by structural racism. That was true when Powell joined the Army, and it is true today. As such, Powell would have had to wrestle with his blackness and what it meant in the military: What did it mean to serve a country that doesn’t serve you?

As a military man during the Vietnam War, Powell also stood apart from many Black political leaders who condemned U.S. action in Southeast Asia. While Muhammad Ali was asking why he should “put on a uniform and go 10,000 miles from home and drop bombs and bullets on Brown people” at a time when “so-called Negro people in Louisville are treated like dogs and denied simple human rights,” Powell was making his way up the military ranks.

It helps explain why despite Powell’s undoubted achievements, his legacy as a Black leader is complicated. His identity — being of Jamaican heritage — posed questions about what it means to be an African American. His life in the military prompted some to ask why he would serve a country that has historically been hostile to nonwhite people in the U.S. and around the world. The veteran activist and singer Harry Belafonte likened Powell in 2002 to a “house slave” in one particularly contentious remark questioning his loyalty to the U.S. system.

Powell acknowledged the realities of racism in the U.S., while at the same time believed it should never serve as an obstacle nor cause Black people to question their American-ness. In a May 14, 1994 commencement speech at Howard University, Powell told graduates to take pride in their Black heritage, but to use it as “a foundation stone we can build on, and not a place to withdraw into.” And then there are his political affiliations. He was Ronald Reagan’s national security advisor and George H. W. Bush’s chairman of the joint chiefs of staff at a time when the domestic policies of both presidents were devastating Black America, through mass incarceration of Black men and women and economic policies that stripped services in lower-income areas.

That was before one of the most consequential and controversial moments in Powell’s political life. In February 2003, Powell argued before the United Nations Security Council for military action against Iraq — a speech that erroneously claimed that Saddam Hussein had stockpiled weapons of mass destruction. He hadn’t, and the war that Powell helped steer the U.S. into scarred his legacy.

A complicated existence

Powell’s two-ness, to use the DuBois phrase, manifested later in his decision in 2008 to endorse Barack Obama as presidential candidate over his fellow Republican and military man, John McCain.

In Obama, Powell saw “a transformational figure” in America and on the world stage. In endorsing Obama, Powell chose the historic significance of the U.S. having its first Black president over loyalty and service to his friend and political party. His drift from Republicanism furthered after Donald Trump seized the reins of the party. He became increasingly vocal in opposing Trump, who saw Powell — as did many of Trump’s supporters — as something of a traitor.

That view ignores the history.

Powell was a patriot who embodied DuBois’ “two warring ideals in one dark body.” For Powell to have reached the heights he did required dogged strength and perhaps far greater effort to hold it together than his white predecessors.

In America, being Black and a patriot is — as DuBois hinted at more a century ago, and as Powell’s life attests to — a very complicated, even painful, affair.

Chad Williams is a Samuel J. and Augusta Spector Professor of History and African and African American Studies at Brandeis University. This article is republished from The Conversation under a Creative Commons license. Read the original article here: https://theconversation.com/as-a-patriot-and-black-man-colin-powell-embodied-the-two-ness-of-the-african-american-experience-170168.
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For more information please visit http://www.voaspokane.org/jobs

Innovia Foundation is Hiring!

Join our team as we work to Ignite Generosity
Build Vibrant and Sustainable Communities
Ensure Every Person Thrives

Innovia is the community foundation serving 20 counties in Eastern Washington and North Idaho. Every year, Innovia awards more than $8 million in grants and scholarships to transform lives and communities.

We are seeking an energetic self-starter for a Program Associate position. The Program Associate is a member of Innovia's Core Team, which carries out the fundamental processes of the Foundation. Core Team members support both the donor services team and the community impact team, ensuring operational excellence in everything we do.

For a full position description and application information, please visit innovia.org/careers or call us at 509-624-2606.

Photo credit: Innovia Foundation Photo Contest Winner - Caroline Schlief, Hope Meadows in Deer Park.
EMPLOYMENT & BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

One Test – Many Departments
100’s of Openings!

The City of Spokane is Hiring a
Community Court Program Specialist
Project Employee

This position performs tasks involved with the management and navigation of social services for both criminal justice and non-criminal justice involved members of the community.

Additionally, this position provides individualized attention to court participants, collaborates to create individualized case plans and coordinates resources with community partners to support families in the following areas; education, employment, housing, transportation, special needs, wellness, finances, childcare, and parenting as well as other program related duties.

To learn more and apply please visit the QR code below or visit our website at https://my.spokanecity.org/jobs

Salary: $51,740.64 - $71,263.44 Annually
Application deadline is 11/14/21 at 11:59 PM

WSPOT

Multiple Highway Maintenance Workers 2
(In-Training) Positions
Spokane, Colfax, Davenport & Colville Areas – Eastern Region
$39,528 - $58,260 Annually

(WSDOT) is currently seeking to fill multiple Highway Maintenance Worker positions in the Eastern Region. We are looking for self-motivated individuals who are mechanically inclined and enjoy working outdoors. Successful candidates will perform a variety of skilled tasks including operating snow removal equipment, repairing roadways, maintaining culverts and catch basins, removing debris, and providing traffic control for these operations.

Transportation Engineer 3 – Materials
Spokane, WA – Eastern Region
$67,560 - $90,888 Annually

(WSDOT) is currently seeking a motivated engineer with strong technical, engineering, and interpersonal skills. You will have the responsibility to lead a team in the Eastern Region Quality Assurance program by testing the full range of materials in accordance with WSDOT policy and applicable ASTM, AASHTO, and WAQTC test procedures. Candidates selected for this position must be creative in identifying and solving problems and possess excellent project management skills.

Visit: www.governmentjobs.com/careers/washington/wsdot

Washington Non-Profits Equity Ambassador

Washington Nonprofits is planning to hire a cohort of part-time, contract Equity Ambassadors based in diverse communities throughout Washington State. Equity Ambassadors are an essential part of Washington Nonprofits’ Community Engagement program. Equity Ambassadors keep Washington Nonprofits connected to communities across the state. They increase our visibility, identify unmet needs, enhance program relevance, and extend the reach of programming within underserved communities.

For information and to apply visit: washingtonnonprofits.org/jobs
Preference will be given to applications received by November 15, 2021
To advertise your employment opportunities in the Black Lens call 509-795-1964 or e-mail sandy@blacklensnews.com
The Peculiarly Silent Pandemic of Gun Violence in the Black Community

By Fatimah Loren Dreier

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - In his recent book, A Peculiar Indifference: The Neglected Tragedy of Violence on Black America, Elliot Currie highlights the disproportionate impact community violence has on the African American community. Shockingly, according to Currie, from the years 2000-2018 over 162,000 African Americans died violent deaths. Of that total, 139,000 were Black men -- with 85% of those killed, dying by gun violence.

This stark reality is underscored by an analysis of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) 2019 gun mortality data, which found that young Black males ages 15 to 34 are the most disproportionately impacted. Despite making up just two percent of the population, they accounted for 37 percent of all gun homicides in 2019—a rate of firearm homicide that is 20 times higher than white males of the same age group.

Elliot’s selection of the term “peculiar indifference” is apropos — it was first coined in 1899 by scholar and activist W.E.B. DuBois in his groundbreaking book, The Philadelphia Negro—considered by some to be the first sociological study in America. DuBois argued: “The most difficult social problem in the matter of Negro health is the peculiar attitude of the nation toward the well-being of the race. There have, for instance, been few other cases in the history of civilized people where human suffering has been viewed with such peculiar indifference.”

If DuBois were alive today—when more Black Americans are dying from violence in the streets of this country than in its foreign wars—he might offer a searing assertion that America has largely normalized the pandemic of Black death.

Sadly, it took the COVID-19 pandemic, and its disproportionate impact on Black and Brown Americans, to unveil another, more insidious epidemic—the crisis of gun violence—which has for too long been ignored while taking a brutal toll on our communities.

In Chicago alone, thirty thousand people have been shot over the past decade, and the city has already surpassed 500 murders this year and is on pace to reach the highest number of homicides in a single year since the end of the crack era in 1996, when nearly 800 were murdered.

In Baltimore, there have been over 200 murders a year since 1979, and over 300 annually since 2015. In Philadelphia this year, homicides have already passed the 400 mark.

Furthermore, just like soldiers returning from war zones, those who live in communities with high levels of violence often face untreated PTSD and related issues due to the intergenerational trauma inflicted by a nation that has for too long ignored their plight.

This is utterly unacceptable.

The Health Alliance for Violence Intervention (the HAVI) has been working for over a decade to create a network of hospital-based violence intervention programs (HVIPs) and a professional workforce of violence intervention specialists, who intervene with violently injured patients to help them get back on their feet and prevent reinjury and retaliation. This is an evidence-informed practice that is operational in cities like Baltimore, Oakland, New York, Detroit, Milwaukee, and Chicago.

It’s a complementary strategy supported by an overwhelming majority of Americans—and by many in law enforcement as well as those calling for police reforms—because it has been proven to work, despite inconsistent and inadequate funding over the years. We know that if implemented effectively and properly funded as part of an overall community violence intervention ecosystem, adequately, these programs have the power to dramatically reduce the epidemic of gun violence.

It’s an idea positioned to receive $5 Billion from the federal government over the next 8 years—the type of support that can create transformative change for our peacekeepers—if Congress passes the Build Back Better Act. This legislation is critically important to our communities because it not only expands opportunities and provides jobs and support for the least of these, but also funds peace through billions of dollars for violence intervention programs like HVIPs.

It is essential to recognize that as a society, we must address the root causes of violence—specifically, the systemic neglect and racism that has created conditions that lead to violence in our communities. But while we work toward this long-term goal, we need to first stop the bleeding before repairing the wound.

We must ring the alarm and form a chorus of voices to first stop the bleeding before repairing the wound. It is past time we treat it like the public health pandemic it is.

Fatimah Loren Dreier is executive director of the Health Alliance for Violence Intervention (TheHAVI.org), follow her on Twitter @fatimah_loren and The HAVI @TheHAVI

The HAVI is a national organization working to build a network of hospital-based violence intervention programs (HVIPs), which provide services for victims of violent crime while they are recovering from their injuries to reduce the likelihood that they commit gun violence or are victimized in the future. Currently, the HAVI works in over 85 cities across the country to develop and implement HVIPs, which are crucial resources in addressing the gun violence crisis that is disrupting health ecosystems in communities nationwide. Learn more about our work at THEHAVI.ORG.
Hallowe'en Unmasks Our Troubled History with Race

By Rev. Irene Monroe

(Blackcommentator.com) - Halloween is one of America’s favorite yearly activities. Unfortunately, Halloween can be America’s scariest, too-especially for those of us seen as costumes you wear rather than the human beings that we are.

Asian Americans, Native Americans, blacks, Muslim women in burqas, hijabs, and Muslim men in turbans with beards, are frequent targets of race-themed costumes. Whites donning blackface was a commonly accepted misbehavior that dates back long before it was disclosed in 2019 that the present Virginia governor, Ralph Northam, once went in blackface as Michael Jackson in the 1980s.

With anti-immigration sentiment toward Mexicans evident with the mass shooting in El Paso, there will be some Halloween revelers mocking this racial group. However, those not intended to mock or mimic yet dress up in costumes mocking this racial group. However, those

It’s hard not to make the connection with contemporary topics, themes, and people trending in news and culture to Halloween costumes worn that year. For example, a year after Trayvon Martin’s murder, a rash of Trayvon Martin Halloween costumes appeared with white people wearing hoodies, carrying Skittles, and sporting gunshot wounds. That same year, in 2013, Julianne Hough, a judge on ABC’s “Dancing with the Stars,” wore blackface as her favorite character Crazy Eyes in the Netflix hit “Orange Is the New Black” for Halloween. Award-winning Nigerian American actress Uzo Aduba portrays the character Crazy Eyes.

In 2019, we saw Halloween decorations of lynching across the country. In Chesapeake, Virginia, a figure was found wrapped in black trash bags hanging from a tree. In Brooklyn, a Halloween decoration displayed children hanging from nooses. Sadly, the display was across the street from an elementary school.

Here in Andover that year, just a 30-minute drive from my home in Cambridge, a McDonald’s apologized for a Halloween decoration displaying a person hanging from a tree by the neck. Even with the best intentions, Halloween hangings depicting the act of lynching ought not to bring joy or laughter – whether intended to cause harm or not.

Our present-day fight is to pass legislation to make the act of lynching a federal hate crime in this century. The horrific act of lynching is a form of domestic terrorism and social control.

For example, Emmett Till, the 14-year-old African American male teen lynched in the Mississippi Delta in the summer of 1955, became this nation’s iconic image of the cowardly acts of white supremacist terrorism. In 2018 the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, informally known as the National Lynching Memorial, opened to commemorate the thousands of recorded black bodies lynched in the 18th and 19th centuries.

In this racial climate of a resurgence of terrorism. In 2018 the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, informally known as the National Lynching Memorial, opened to commemorate the thousands of recorded black bodies lynched in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The Reverend Monroe is an ordained minister and motivational speaker. Her website is iremonroe.com.
Imagine Jazz is thrilled to present Darryl Yokley’s “Sound Reformation” in concert on November 14, featuring Zaccai Curtis, Luques Curtis and Wayne Smith Jr.

Critically acclaimed saxophonist Darryl Yokley has been recognized as a talented composer and arranger by The New York Times, Downbeat Magazine, and more for writing unforgettable tunes for his band Sound Reformation, which released their second album, Pictures at an African Exhibition in April of 2018. Yokley and Sound Reformation have performed as headliners in the Kennedy Center, The Paul Brown Monday night series, Salsa meets Jazz Festival, The Philadelphia Museum of Art, and jazz venues all over the country.

The son of an African-American father and a first generation Mexican mother, Yokley relishes his diverse background and has developed a love for learning about and embracing the myriad of cultures around the world.

The following is an excerpt of a Q&A between Imagine Jazz (IJ) and Darryl Yokley (DY).

IJ: Can you describe the sound of your ensemble?
DY: As the name of our band, Sound Reformation entails, our sound is always changing as we evolve with our musical taste as well as just our natural evolution as artists, and more importantly, as people. I would say the core of our sound is based in the tradition of jazz, but fused with classical and world musical components.

IJ: Who are some of your major influences as a saxophonist and composer?
DY: As a saxophonist there are so many... Ben Webster, Coleman Hawkins, Lester Young, Charlie Parker, Dexter Gordon, John Coltrane, Sonny Rollins, Wayne Shorter, Joe Henderson, Chris Potter, Miguel Zenon, Kenny Garrett, Tim Warfield... just to name a few haha. As a composer I’m highly influenced by folk/cultural music from different countries around the world as well as classical music- Bach, Beethoven, Mahler, Dvorak, and especially Debussy and Stravinsky.

In jazz I would say my biggest influences are Wayne Shorter, Jason Moran, and Miguel Zenon.

IJ: What was the inspiration in creating your album Pictures at an African Exhibition, what was the process of rearranging and re-imagining the music?
DY: At the time, I just happened to be listening to a lot of African music and that influence permeated my compositions. There were a few compositions I wrote, and then I wrote First Sunrise and I liked the melody so much I based most of the compositions off of it, and this is where the parallels between Mussorgsky’s Pictures at an Exhibition began. It came into my mind that that piece would have the opening theme come back in throughout the entire work and then I decided to base my work off of it... I have always wanted to write something for a big ensemble and after hearing some artists such as the Mingus Big Band, Dave Holland’s Big Band, and Miguel Zenon do stuff with big ensembles I decided to write something for my band and wind ensemble. I asked my good friend David Emmanuel Noel to create the artwork for the music, similar to Mussorgsky’s work, and the rest is history!

IJ: Do you have a personal mission or goal as a musician?
DY: To inspire humanity to a greater harmonious good. I just try to be as honest as I can with my art and reach as many people as possible with our messages.

IJ: What projects are you working on- or looking forward to realizing?
DY: I am working on another suite of music that will be more of a Latin jazz project, and it is inspired by the novel 100 Years Of Solitude by Gabriel García Márquez. At the same time I’m doing some research to document the second part of my art and music collaborative series, so it will in essence be the sequel to Pictures at an African Exhibition.

Darryl Yokley and Sound Reformation will be presented in a “Legacy Workshop” on November 14 in which students and community members can work with all four members of the quartet in performance workshops, lectures and Q&A sessions followed by a concert at McNally Recital Hall at Holy Names University. The Concert will be streamed free on facebook and youtube – but those wishing to attend in person can find tickets and more information at https://imaginejazz.org.

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6pm
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11420 E Sprague Ave
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Co-sponsored by Numerica Credit Union. Contact the Carl Maxey Center 509-795-1586 for more information or to register.

NOVEMBER 4 - 6
GONZAGA UNIVERSITY’S SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON HATE STUDIES (VIRTUAL)
Presentations, workshops, discussions from local, national and international experts and organizations. Registration is open at: www.gonzaga.edu/icohs

NOVEMBER 10
FUSE DIVERSITY BOOK CLUB
Medical Apartheid by Harriet A. Washington
The first full history of Black America’s shocking mistreatment as unwilling and unwitting experimental subjects at the hands of the medical establishment. National Book Critics Circle Award Winner. 6:30pm-8pm (Virtual Discussion)
Visit the Fuse Book Club Face-book Page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/fusediversity

NOVEMBER 12
RIBBON CUTTING - LIBERTY PARK LIBRARY
Join us to celebrate the completion of this renovation project funded by the 2018 Library bond issue. Remarks from local leaders, ribbon cutting, library tours. 10am
Liberty Park Library
402 S Pittsburg St, 99202
The event will be held outside, weather permitting. Masks required when inside the building.

NOVEMBER 14
IMAGINE JAZZ
Educational Workshop and Concert with Saxophonist Daryl Yokley and Sound Reformation Workshop - 3-6pm
Concert - 7pm
McNally Recital Hall
Holy Names Music Center
All ages, levels welcome. Register by November 12 Cost $35 (pre-registration) late registration $45*Fee includes concert ticket. For tickets & information: imaginejazz.org.

NOVEMBER 15
NAACP GENERAL MEETING
Join the NAACP for our monthly general membership meeting. Meetings are currently online. For more information please check social media or contact the NAACP at 509-209-2425 or visit: naacpspokane.org

NOVEMBER 19
WE GON’ BE ALRIGHT
A Space for Black Healing
Facilitator Kiantha Duncan, Co-facilitator Alethea Dumas. This is not a space for allies. 5:30-7:30pm Virtual Discussion To register visit: http://tiny.ly/VdVdScG

NOVEMBER 25
2021 THANKSGIVING SERVICE
Sponsored by the Spokane Ministerial Fellowship
10am
Martin Luther King Center
500 S Stone St
Spokane, WA 99202
Light TO GO meal will be served following service

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

Justice & Equity: Challenging Hate and Inspiring Hope
Join us for Gonzaga’s Sixth International Conference on Hate Studies, Nov 4-6, 2021 held virtually this year.

Join us for presentations, workshops and discussions from local, national, and international experts and organizations, including regional Human Rights groups, the Western States Center, Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles, the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon’s Collaboratory Against Hate, and the University of Copenhagen, among others.

Registration is open at www.gonzaga.edu/icohs
The Black Lens Spokane

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Give your feedback on STA's proposed new fare policy!

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