

**BLACK
BY
GOD** THE WEST
VIRGINIAN

**BLACK
VOTERS
MATTER**
ELECTION DAY
TUESDAY
NOV. 8
INSIDE

Black Candidates in
the Mountain State
Four Amendments to the
West Virginia Constitution

OCTOBER 24, 2022

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PRINT EDITION #4

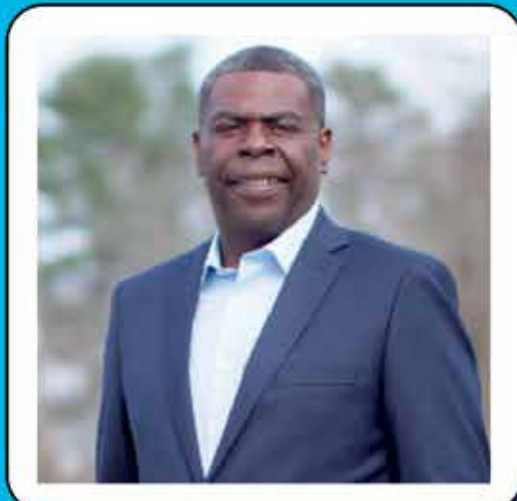
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PRINT EDITION #6

**SOUL
FOOD**

**The Southern Kitchen WV
Coming to Elkins in November**



First Time Black Candidates to Vote For



TONY MARTIN
House of Delegates District 44



ZONDRIA LANSDOWNE
House of Delegates District 93



Paid for by WV Can't Wait Political Action Committee



MALYKA KNAPP-SMITH
Charleston City Council Ward 8



MICHAEL FERRELL
Charleston City Council Ward 6

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VOTE! 2022 **BBG** THE WEST VIRGINIAN **3**

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Vote!

— Crystal Good



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BLACK BY GOD
THE WEST VIRGINIAN

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COVER PHOTO:
Sharell Harmon, Khalil McIver
Sinquiss Anderson in this photo
from The Southern Kitchen WV

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Black By God is seeking a
contract social media director to manage Hootsuite.
Contact Crystal@blackbygod.org





Sharell Harmon, left, and Siquiss Anderson share some of The Southern Kitchen WV with WBOY-TV's Khalil McIver.

SOUL FOOD

The Southern Kitchen WV photo

The Southern Kitchen WV plans November grand opening in Elkins

BY KABREA JAMES

Imagine going to Italy for vacation and losing weight,” Siquiss Anderson said laughing, “We had about two good meals and we were there for nine days.”

“We were so ‘hangry’ when we got back that we were like ‘You know what? We’re going to open up a restaurant,’” Sharell Harmon added.

Best friends Harmon and Anderson, better known as “Rell” and “Kiki” returned from their trip with a feeling of inspiration they just couldn’t shake. This vision would

quickly manifest into The Southern Kitchen WV.

“We came back and decided that we were no longer going to work for somebody else and that we were going to start something for ourselves,” Harmon said.

Within 24 hours of returning home, Harmon applied for a business license and the dream of The Southern Kitchen WV took off from there. And when it came down to who would do the cooking, Harmon and Anderson were up for the challenge.

“It’s just us from the front to the back,” Harmon said, “It’s soul food so it’s stuff she learned from her family, stuff I learned from my family. There are certain dishes

I’ll take on and other dishes she’ll take on. Now that we’ve come together, we have this unique taste that I don’t think anyone could replicate. We dance in the kitchen, we play music, we laugh. We got our joy back.”

The ladies behind The Southern Kitchen WV soon started working out of the Homestead School in Dailey, W.Va., serving food to their new customers one day out of the week.

“We got so much support out there and Dailey is like fifteen minutes in the middle of nowhere,” Harmon said, “We were shocked at what we could bring in rev-

Continued on page 5



RIGHT: Sharell Harmon and Siquiss Anderson pose in front of what will soon be the first physical location for Southern Kitchen WV.

Photo by Kabrea James

BELOW: The Elkins restaurant before its transformation.

The Southern Kitchen WV photo



SOUL FOOD from page 4

enue wise just being there on a Sunday for four hours. That was proof enough that we would be successful in a city with way more people.”

The pair then started working with Elkins Main Street, a downtown revitalization program focused on community development. The program provided Harmon and Anderson with data related to community engagement, which revealed that more than half wanted to bring soul food to the area.

“Ever since then people have proven that,” Harmon said, “We have over a thousand followers on Facebook. We haven’t even opened yet.”

This will soon change, as the restaurant’s grand opening is set for Nov. 5. The celebration begins Nov. 4 with a buffet-style dinner for friends of the business, followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony the next day to honor the new space.

Southern Kitchen WV
2285 Beverly Pike Suite 3
Elkins, WV 26241
(304) 801-3362
@TheSouthernKitchenWV
The Southern Kitchen WV

The Southern Kitchen WV is in Elkins, WV, where the Black population is approximately 3 percent. Harmon and Anderson both expressed reluctance in starting a business here during early planning stages.

“How do you know that the population in regards to race wouldn’t be a factor?” Harmon asked, “There were a lot of questions but they were good questions. I’ve lived here for eight years and I have experienced some hardship when it came to being a black woman here

but not enough to run away. This is where we’ll start and we’ll build from here to go where we need to go. Randolph County is special.”

In the meantime, people from all throughout the state are reaching out to Harmon and Anderson with catering requests and inquiries about when they can expect the restaurant to open.

“We want to meet new people and bring them into our space,” Harmon said, “We want people to be like ‘Oh, I want to go to Kiki and Rell’s’.”

In addition to serving savory soul food, the pair plans to host events such as paint and sips, game nights and basic cooking classes.

“We want to create a space of collaboration, love, family and unison,” Harmon explained, “We are so overwhelmed with joy and anxious to see what we can bring to the community cause it seems that people really want us here.”

VOTE

The polling place will be open from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm.

NOVEMBER 8

BLACK VOTERS MATTER

West Virginia voters have four separate amendments to the state Constitution to consider

If approved, the amendments will let churches incorporate and give more power to the state Legislature to modify property taxes, set education policy, and conduct impeachment trials without state court interference

WV Press News Sharing

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – While West Virginia Governor Jim Justice, State Senate President Craig Blair and numerous organizations and political groups are getting all the attention by debating the value of Amendment 2, which would give the state legislature more control of taxing and exempting property form taxation in West Virginia, voters have four separate amendments to the state Constitution to consider in the general election.

West Virginia Secretary of State Mac Warner has addressed the amendments and has the four featured on the SOS.WV.Gov website.

Warner explained the amendment process, noting that to become part of the State Constitution an amendment

must pass by a majority of voters who cast a vote on the question.

“Voters are being asked to consider four separate amendments to the state constitution,” said Secretary Warner. “Amendments to our constitution should be carefully reviewed and considered by every citizen.”

During the West Virginia Legislature’s regular session earlier this year, the legislature passed resolutions asking voters to consider each proposal. Warned said the legislature agreed to place the proposed amendments on the General Election ballot where voter participation is usually highest.

To assist voters, here are brief summaries and segments of the four amendments, as well as the entire text of all four amendments.

Continued on page 9

AMENDMENT ONE

Clarification of the Judiciary’s Role in Impeachment Proceedings Amendment

SUMMARY OF PURPOSE:

“Clarifying that courts have no authority or jurisdiction to intercede or intervene in or interfere with impeachment proceedings of the House of Delegates or the Senate; and specifying that a judgment rendered by the Senate following an impeachment trial is not reviewable by any court of this state. ... Any officer of the state may be impeached for maladministration, corruption, incompetency, gross immorality, neglect of duty, or any high crime or misdemeanor. The House of Delegates has the sole power of impeachment. The Senate has the sole power to try impeachments and no person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two thirds of the members elected thereto. ...”



Find the answers to these and other election questions:
Am I registered?

You can search for your voter registration information on the Secretary of State’s website (sos.wv.gov) by entering your name and date of birth.

Key dates

Early voting starts Oct. 26 and goes through Nov. 5.

Election Day: Tuesday, November 8, 2022

Can you mail in a ballot?

Yes, but unlike in recent elections, you have to meet certain requirements before you’re allowed to vote absentee in West Virginia. Eligibility requires two basic criteria: (1) confinement or not being present in the county during in-person voting, and (2) a permitted reason/excuse.

What candidates are on the ballot in every county?



LOOK FOR THESE CANDIDATES ON NOV. 8

Look for these Black candidates on ballots throughout the state

Candidates with this symbol recommended by the West Virginia Democratic Black Caucus wvdpblackcaucus.org



Lacy Watson

U. S. Congress District 1



Sean Hornbuckle

WV House District 25



Wayne Crozier

WV House District 53



Tina Russell

WV House District 38



Tony Martin

WV House District 44



ON
NOVEMBER 8VOTE NO
ON AMENDMENT 2

If passed by the voters of West Virginia, this amendment would strip vital funding away from our schools to benefit wealthy corporations.

A loss of funding for our local schools could result in **larger class sizes**, which hurts individual learning. It's also a power grab from state politicians that **hurts local control**.

ON
NOVEMBER 8VOTE NO
ON AMENDMENT 2

If passed by the voters of West Virginia, this amendment would strip vital funding away from our schools to benefit wealthy corporations.

A loss of funding for our local schools could result in **larger class sizes**, which hurts individual learning. It's also a power grab from state politicians that **hurts local control**.

PROTECT OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION!
VOTE **NO** TO AMENDMENT 2 ON NOVEMBER 8

www.campaignsharedfuture.org



What's at Stake

FOR WEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITIES WITH AMENDMENTS 2+4?

Amendment 2 would:

- Jeopardize over \$346 million in funds that pay for public schools, emergency response, firefighters, parks, and libraries to make way for a tax giveaway to out-of-state corporations.
- Take power away from our communities and gives it to the state legislature in Charleston.
- Eliminate constitutional protections for our local public services.

Amendment 2's tax giveaway to corporations could lead to increases in taxes that fall more heavily West Virginia families, like sales taxes and residential property taxes.

Amendment 4 would:

- Put politicians in control of our children's education over the input of education experts and parents.
- Force a one-size-fits-all educational framework that would harm our schools.
- Open the door to book banning and other political stunts.

Learn more at wvlocalcontrol.com



Full text of the proposed amendments to the WV Constitution to be on the Nov. 8, 2022, General Election Ballot

Amendment No. 1: Clarification of the Judiciary's Role in Impeachment Proceedings Amendment

Summary of Purpose: "Clarifying that courts have no authority or jurisdiction to intercede or intervene in or interfere with impeachment proceedings of the House of Delegates or the Senate; and specifying that a judgment rendered by the Senate following an impeachment trial is not reviewable by any court of this state."

Full Text of the Amendment:

ARTICLE IV.

§9. Impeachment of officials.

Any officer of the state may be impeached for maladministration, corruption, incompetency, gross immorality, neglect of duty, or any high crime or misdemeanor. The House of Delegates has the sole power of impeachment. The Senate has the sole power to try impeachments and no person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two thirds of the members elected thereto.

When sitting as a court of impeachment, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals, or, if from any cause it be improper for him or her to act, then any other judge of that court, to be designated by it, shall preside; and the senators shall be on oath or affirmation, to do justice according to law and evidence.

Judgment in cases of impeachment does not extend further than removal from office, and disqualification to hold any office of honor, trust or profit, under the state; but the party convicted remains liable to in-

AMENDMENT TWO

Property Tax Modernization Amendment

SUMMARY OF PURPOSE:

"To amend the State Constitution by providing the Legislature with authority to exempt tangible machinery and equipment personal property directly used in business activity and tangible inventory personal property directly used in business activity and personal property tax on motor vehicles from ad valorem property taxation by general law. ... The Legislature shall have authority to tax privileges, franchises, and incomes of persons and corporations and to classify and graduate the tax on all incomes according to the amount thereof and to exempt from taxation incomes below a minimum to be fixed from time to time, and such revenues as may be derived from such tax may be appropriated as the Legislature may provide." power of impeachment. The Senate has the sole power to try impeachments and no person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two thirds of the members elected thereto. ..."

dictment, trial, judgment, and punishment according to law. The Senate may sit during the recess of the Legislature for the trial of impeachments. No court of this state has any authority or jurisdiction, by writ or otherwise, to intercede or intervene in, or interfere with, any impeachment proceedings of the House of Delegates or the Senate conducted hereunder; nor is any judgment rendered by the Senate following a trial of impeachment reviewable by any court of this state.

Amendment No. 2: Property Tax Modernization Amendment

Summary of Purpose: "To amend the State Constitution by providing the Legislature with authority to exempt tangible machinery and equipment personal property directly used in business activity and tangible inventory personal property directly used in business activity and personal property tax on motor vehicles from ad valorem property taxation by general law."

Full Text of the Amendment:

ARTICLE X.

§1. Taxation and finance.

Subject to the exceptions in this section contained, taxation shall be equal and uniform throughout the state, and all property, both real and personal, shall be taxed in proportion to its value to be ascertained as directed by law. No one species of property from which a tax may be collected shall be taxed higher than any other species of property of equal value; except that the aggregate of taxes assessed in any one year upon personal property employed exclusively in agriculture, including horticulture and grazing, products of agriculture as above defined, including livestock, while owned by the producer, and money, notes, bonds, bills and accounts receivable, stocks and other similar intangible personal property shall not exceed fifty cents on each one hundred dollars of value

Continued on page 10

LOOK FOR THESE CANDIDATES ON NOV. 8

LOOK FOR THESE CANDIDATES ON NOV. 8

Caleb Hanna
REPUBLICAN

WV House
District 48



Danielle Walker

WV House
District 81



Zondria
Landsdowne

WV House
District 93



Jennifer Pharr

Charleston City Council
At-Large



Malyka Knapp-Smith

Charleston City Council
Ward 8



Michael Ferrell

Charleston City Council
Ward 6



AMENDMENTS from page 9
thereon and upon all property owned, used and occupied by the owner thereof exclusively for residential purposes and upon farms occupied and cultivated by their owners or bona fide tenants, one dollar; and upon all other property situated outside of municipalities, one dollar and fifty cents; and upon all other property situated within municipalities, two dollars; and the Legislature shall further provide by general law for increasing the maximum rates, authorized to be fixed, by the different levying bodies upon all classes of property, by submitting the question to the voters of the taxing units affected, but no increase shall be effective unless at least sixty percent of the qualified voters shall favor such increase, and such increase shall not continue for a longer period than three years at any one time, and shall never exceed by more than fifty percent the maximum rate herein provided and prescribed by law; and the revenue derived from this source shall be apportioned by the Legislature among the levying units of the state in proportion to the levy laid in said units upon real and other personal property; but property used for educational, literary, scientific, religious or charitable purposes, all cemeteries, public property, tangible machinery and equipment personal property directly used in business activity, tangible inventory personal property directly used in business activity, personal property tax on motor vehicles, the personal property, including livestock, employed exclusively in agriculture as above defined and the products of agriculture as so defined while owned by the producers may by law be exempted from taxation; household goods to the value of two hundred dollars shall be exempted from taxation. The Legislature shall have authority to tax privileges, franchises, and incomes of persons and corporations and to classify and graduate the tax on all incomes according to the amount thereof and to exempt from taxation

AMENDMENT THREE

Incorporation of Churches or Religious Denominations Amendment

SUMMARY OF PURPOSE:
“To authorize the incorporation of churches or religious denominations. ... Provisions may be made by general laws for securing the title to church property, and for the sale and transfer thereof, so that it shall be held, used, or transferred for the purposes of such church or religious denomination. . .”

incomes below a minimum to be fixed from time to time, and such revenues as may be derived from such tax may be appropriated as the Legislature may provide. After the year nineteen hundred thirty-three, the rate of the state tax upon property shall not exceed one cent upon the hundred dollars valuation, except to pay the principal and interest of bonded indebtedness of the state now existing.

Amendment No. 3: Incorporation of Churches or Religious Denominations Amendment
Summary of Purpose: “To authorize the incorporation of churches or religious denominations.”
Full Text of the Amendment:
Article VI. The Legislature.

§47. Incorporation of religious denominations permitted.
Provisions may be made by general laws for securing the title to church property, and for the sale and transfer thereof, so that it shall be held, used, or transferred for the purposes of such church or religious denomination. Provisions may also be made by general laws for the incorporation of churches or religious denominations.

Amendment No. 4: Education Accountability Amendment
Summary of Purpose: “The purpose of this amendment is to clarify that the rules and policies promulgated by the State Board of Education, are subject to legislative review, approval, amendment, or rejection.”

Continued on page 11

AMENDMENT FOUR

Education Accountability Amendment

SUMMARY OF PURPOSE:
“The purpose of this amendment is to clarify that the rules and policies promulgated by the State Board of Education, are subject to legislative review, approval, amendment, or rejection ... the general supervision of the free schools of the State is vested in the West Virginia Board of Education which shall perform the duties prescribed by law. ...”

AMENDMENTS from page 10
Full Text of the Amendment:
ARTICLE XII. EDUCATION.
§2. Supervision of free schools.
Subject to the provisions of this section, the general supervision of the free schools of the State is vested in the West Virginia Board of Education which shall perform the duties prescribed by law. Under its supervisory duties, the West Virginia Board of Education may promulgate rules or policies which shall be submitted to the Legislature for its review and approval, amendment, or rejection, in whole or in part, in the manner prescribed by general law. The board shall consist of nine members to be appointed by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, for overlapping terms of nine years. No more than five members of the board shall belong to the same political party, and in addition to the general qualifications otherwise required by the Constitution, the Legislature may require other specific qualifications for membership on the board. No member of the board may be removed from office by the Governor except for official misconduct, incompetence, neglect of duty, or gross immorality, and then only in the manner prescribed by law for the removal by the Governor of state elective officers.
The West Virginia Board of Education shall, in the manner prescribed by law, select the State Superintendent of Free Schools who shall serve at its will and pleasure. He or she shall be the chief school officer of the state and shall perform the duties prescribed by law. The State Superintendent of Free Schools shall be a member of the Board of Public Works as provided by subsection B, section fifty-one, article VI of this Constitution.

OPINION

Born and Raised in Ward 8

Charleston City Council candidate Malyka Knapp-Smith

My name is Malyka Knapp-Smith. I am a lifelong resident of Ward 8 and an independent candidate in West Virginia for Charleston City Council. “Born and Raised in Ward 8” is my campaign slogan, and my father, Dr. Cubert Smith, served on Charleston City Council for 12 years until his death in 2018. He was running for his fourth term when he was stricken with a series of strokes. He was indeed a man for the people of our ward. Charleston’s first Black Fire chief, Chuck Overstreet, and current city council member, was mentored by my Dad.



Photo By Chris Jackson

Malyka Knapp-Smith

I am running to continue that legacy. I need your vote Nov. 8 to make our city a better place for all of us. But, as with all elections, this election depends on us working together to be the change we want to see, so your vote is just the beginning. What do we need on the East End of Charleston? A grocery store! I know this will be a challenge, but I have colleagues running for adjacent East End wards working with me to solve this. Of course, we also have the challenge of abandoned properties, homelessness, and addiction.

The future is in our hands. Due to a shrinking population, West Virginia lost a seat in Congress, meaning a weaker voice in Washington, D.C. That puts more importance on banding together for positive change. We must not become complacent and only fight for single issues. It’s about the future of our state and generations to come. As an adult educator at Mountain State Educational Services Cooperative in Kanawha County, I see students come to our new building (500 Leon Sullivan Way) and work to make something of themselves and to feel they matter. Voting is one way to show you matter and to

let your voice be heard. A recent article shows that West Virginia’s minority population consists of 3.7% Black or African American, 0.6% Asian, 1.0% Hispanic or Latino, 0.0% Native American or Alaska Native, 0.0% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, 1.1% two or more races. While it’s a slim margin, elections have been decided on less. We still have a voice, and we need to use it. Along with other candidates, I was invited to Capital High School to meet with seniors registering to vote for the first time. It was refreshing to talk with students interested in the future of Charleston and what we, as elected officials, could work toward. No empty promises, just a pledge to work together to continue to make Charleston the place we call home. I am home. I’m not planning to move. I want to work to make Charleston a place where more local graduates put down roots and never leave. We owe it to our beautiful state to stay and help keep it Wild and Wonderful West “by God” Virginia.

www.malykaknappsmithforward8.com/

LOOK FOR THESE CANDIDATES ON NOV. 8

Michael Farmer
Charleston City Council
Ward 6

Larry Moore
Charleston City Council
Ward 4

Chuck Overstreet
Charleston City Council
Ward 3

Charles Shaw
Cabell County
School Board
Nonpartisan

Look for these Black candidates on ballots throughout the state

Candidates with this symbol recommended by the West Virginia Democratic Black Caucus wvdpblackcaucus.org



BLACK BY GOD THE WEST VIRGINIAN
is seeking opinion pieces from Black Candidates/Elected officials
Contact crystal@blackbygod.org



BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL

Redefining the concept of beauty

BY KABREA JAMES

“I really didn’t think I would win,” beauty queen Tamia Hardy said, “I was really shocked when they called my name.”

Hardy, who was crowned the first African-American Miss West Virginia in 2017, was encouraged to start pageantry by a secretary who worked at the dance studio where she practiced.

“I kept saying ‘I’ll do it next year, I’ll do it next year,’” Hardy said.

Despite Miss West Virginia 2017 being Hardy’s first pageant, she ended up taking the crown.

“It was such a magical moment,” Hardy said, “I don’t think I realized what that truly meant.”

While Hardy’s win is a win for Black women in West Virginia and beyond, there was a time when women of color were not even considered eligible for American beauty pageants. In fact, contestants had to be “of good health and of the white race” in order to compete prior to 1940.

Even almost a century later, the concept of “beauty” is still greatly affected by Western colonization. Beauty is often filtered through a Eurocentric lens, meaning lighter skin, hair and eyes. How well one can fit into these Eurocentric standards plays into one’s “desirability” in society. Desirability typically translates into social capital, such as support, resources and protection from critique. This social capital can also provide one with actual capital.

The beauty standards set by colonization are maintained through media representation that confirms these qualities are ideal. Charles Town native Christian Moore said the imagery provided by the media challenged her confidence through the years.

“It’s not a surprise that my self-esteem suffered when I was younger and

Continued on page 13

BEAUTY from page 12

I didn’t feel beautiful,” Moore said, “I didn’t grow up around people that looked like me, the media perspectives that I was exposed to were almost always white-centered, and when black women especially were brought up, it was always based in negativity.”

The lack of esteem surrounding black features can also manifest into one engaging in harmful behaviors in an attempt to conform to Eurocentric beauty standards. These behaviors can include skin bleaching, which may result in cancer and organ damage, and projecting internalized self-hatred onto other’s with the same phenotype.

Since winning her crown in 2017, Hardy said that her viewpoints on beauty have shifted but that this was not necessarily due to the pageant itself.

“Once I started to feel more comfortable wearing styles that were more natural to my background and to my ethnicity and I started to receive some push back on that, that is when I wanted to shift others’ concepts of beauty and fight even more for the definition of beauty and what it meant to me,” Hardy said.

Hardy said that she’s become more comfortable with her natural look and that she enjoys the many style options that accompany textured hair.

“I really do embrace my natural curls and I love my hair,” Hardy said, “I believe it’s so versatile and so unique and there’s so many different things I can do with it. I feel very regal and even elegant because of my response to the adversity faced as a black woman. It honestly makes me feel like a queen.”

Moore advises black women and girls to surround themselves with as many positive messages about black women and people that you can, especially those that grew up in a mostly white community like she did.

“I personally chose to do so through art,” Moore said, “I began reading books by Black female authors, listening to Black speakers and finding Black artists that create, speak and write about us with love. You’ll soon see yourself reflected in their stories and conversations.”

Complimenting Moore’s point, Hardy suggests that Black women and girls define their own concept of beauty.

“Don’t compare yourself to other people, don’t compare yourself to what you see on social media or what society tells you is beautiful,” Hardy said, “You really have to find what makes you feel confident within.”



Ugo Onwuka, 22, celebrates fall and her colorful crown at Butcher Family Farms in Parkersburg, W.Va.

Photo by Sydney Coler



Want to be a reporter for BBG?

Black By God’s Folk Reporter model combines citizen journalism with ethnographic and auto-ethnographic methods to cover public meetings and distribute policy information.

We are hoping to launch a pilot project for the West Virginia Legislature. Please join us for a brainstorming conversation Thursday, Nov. 3, at 7:30 PM on Zoom. Contact: crystal@BlackByGod.org

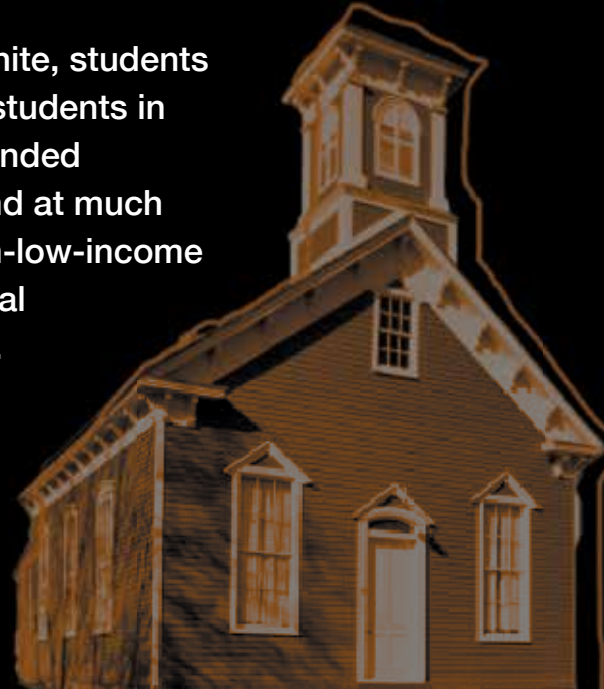
REGISTER



School Suspensions

The silent underlying social condition — under-recognized and under-addressed

Black, low income white, students with disabilities and students in foster care are suspended disproportionately and at much higher rates than non-low-income whites and other racial and students groups.



The issue of excessive school discipline and disproportionate school suspensions and expulsions of African American and low-income children is one of our Nation's and West Virginia's most pressing issues.

The issue of excessive school discipline and suspensions of certain groupstnts is emerging back into the public square in West Virginia.

The reason for the re-emergence of this issue is the recent release of the 2022 State School Discipline Report by the WV Department of Education on July 24, 2022.

- 1 Over 32,000 student school suspensions from WV's Public schools during the 2021-2022 school year (SY).
- 2 70% or over 22,000 of all student school suspensions were low income students during the 2020-21 (SY).
- 3 Black students are suspended at a rate 2.45 times their representation in the student population.
- 4 Multiracial students are suspended at a rate 1.34 times their representation in the student population.
- 5 Students with Disabilities are suspended at a rate 1.8 times their representation in the student population
- 6 Low SES income Students are suspended at a rate 1.4 times their representation in the student population.
- 7 Students in Foster Care are suspended at a rate 3.1 times their representation in the student population.

Unfortunately, it is not getting the attention that it warrants. Many people talk about stopping the school to prison pipeline, but few actions are being taking to actually address the problem. I refer to School Suspensions as the "Silent Underlying Social Condition — Unrecognized and Unaddressed".

— Mathew J. Watts, CEO of Hope CDC



Photo by Duncan Slade

Turan Rush talks with two kids on a in Charleston, West Virginia.

Black students in WV are suspended twice as often as their white peers

Turan Rush was only 12 when he was suspended from school for the first time.

He and his friends, sixth graders at Stonewall Jackson Middle School in Charleston, were hanging out in the school lunchroom in 2010 when they started roughhousing. Rush ended up suspended from school for 10 days for play fighting; that experience, he said, taught him at a young age to distrust authority figures like teachers and principals.

"As a 12-year-old, it takes a lot from you," Rush said. "And it makes you become rebellious."

Rush's experience isn't unusual for Black kids in West Virginia.

Read the Mountain State Spotlight story by Duncan Slade at blackbygod.org

NOVEMBER 2022 BY KABREA JAMES Horoscopes for each zodiac sign

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You may be on the brink of a financial breakthrough thanks to great investments of your time and energy. Travel is possible towards the end of the month. Looking ahead: Something you've had trouble making sense of finally clicks.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Your appearance and/or your identity may bring you quite a bit of attention at the beginning of the month. As we move closer to November, a truth is revealed, providing you with not only clarity, but relief. Looking ahead: New financial opportunities are knocking at your door.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

There will be endings, but these endings are necessary. It's time to make space for more agreeable connections and experiences.. Looking ahead: You're remembering who you are.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

You may find yourself opening up and sharing your truth in the hopes that this will help others. You're also becoming more focused on your overall health. Looking ahead: You're leaving old habits and negative cycles behind.

LEO (July 23 - August 22)

You're back in the spotlight, Leo! Have fun and let your authentic self shine. Looking ahead: You're naturally attracting people vibrating at your frequency.

VIRGO (August 23-September 22)

Becoming enlightened on a new subject reminds you of your divinity. You may feel an urge to stay close to home this month. Looking ahead: You're ready to put yourself out there again!

LIBRA (September 23-October 23)

You could be merging with someone in a way that you're not immediately comfortable with. You will be able to communicate through this. Looking ahead: Someone who walked in your shoes before you has the answer.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 21)

Someone you can genuinely connect with finds you. Also, expect a financial boost this month. Looking ahead: You're feeling free enough to finally reveal something you've been keeping to yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21)

You're considering what you can do to improve a health matter naturally and over time. As your birthday rolls around, you're taking a closer look at who you are now and who you want to be going forward. Looking ahead: There's a chance to start fresh with a relationship. Will you take it?

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19)

Now that a major project is out of the way, you can let your hair down and make some time for fun. The end of the month brings endings that you feel good about. Looking ahead: Be easy on yourself as you settle into a new pace of life and new routines.

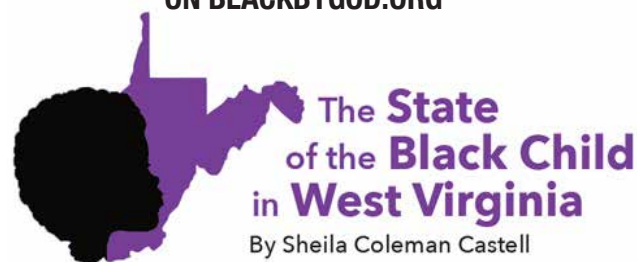
AQUARIUS (January 20-February 18)

You're spending more time at home and/or socializing with a smaller number of people than usual. This quickly shifts as the month goes on and you find yourself engaging with countless new people. Looking ahead: New connections bring fun and inspire creativity.

PISCES (February 19-March 20)

A build-up to a conversation that is long over-due finally reaches its peak. You've finally got the attention of someone who's been overlooking you. Looking ahead: There will be changes within your home and/or your family dynamic.

ON BLACKBYGOD.ORG



A monthly column exploring education in the Mountain State

EXCERPT:

Welcome to my monthly feature, "The State of the Black Child in West Virginia." The purpose of this opinion piece is to investigate and inform all West Virginians, Black or not, of how we Black citizens of this state are faring, regarding the state of our educational progresses and experiences. However, if I am honest, the questions I ask of the Educational system and of ourselves, as citizens,

can also apply to anyone who is poor and marginalized, regardless of race. However, my focus here is to shine a light on what is happening to Black students in our state, and how we, the Black citizens of this 35th state, can change this deleterious paradigm for our children and grandchildren. Why is this important? In a nutshell, it is this: The state of the educational opportunity of a community is a strong predictor of both how "livable" (meaning, a positive opinion on one's quality of life") one's community is, as well as to how that community will fare in the future. When communities have multiple, diverse opportunities to receive a good K-12 education, all manner of indicators of community well-being are generally positive, from the lower local crime rate to how well the local real estate market is doing. People desire to live in places where their children receive what they believe is a good public school education. In addition to this, places where there are good schools have better attributes such as more varied shopping options, more recreational activities, and even cleaner streets, on average. This is no accident; it is a cornerstone of regional urban or suburban planning. If "good" schools exist in a certain community, that community is most likely poised to thrive.

LOOK FOR THE COLUMN ON BLACKBYGOD.ORG

IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR

Get your family vaccinated for
Covid-19, Flu, Pneumonia,
Meningitis, and Shingles!

Here are some facts:

- Everyone 6 months and older should get a COVID-19 vaccine.
- All adults need an annual flu vaccine.
- 1 in 3 adults will develop shingles in their lifetime.
- CDC recommends meningitis vaccines for all preteens & teens.
- Children under 2 and adults over 65 are most at-risk for pneumonia.

For more details,
visit: <https://www.vaccines.gov>
or call: 1-833-734-0965
#BoostUp!



Community Education Group
www.communityeducationgroup.org

