



Have we come to the end of the journey toward Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion?



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VOL. XLIX Number 44 June 3, 2026

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# MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY JOURNAL

WISCONSIN'S LARGEST AFRICAN AMERICAN NEWSPAPER



## Long time activist and the first Black woman to run for Milwaukee mayor, Lucille Berrien passes at 98

Lucille Berrien, a legend in Milwaukee's civil rights and political movements, and the first African American to run for Milwaukee mayor, died recently. She was 98.

In a statement, Berrien's family thanked the community for its "many expressions of sympathy and condolences we have received on the passing of our beloved matriarch."

The family added it will gather privately to honor Berrien's life. A community celebration of 'Queen Lucille' and her life and legacy is being planned and will be announced in the near future.

Berrien ran for mayor in 1972. Not only was she the first Black woman to run for the office, she was also the first Black woman to do so as well. She lost to then incumbent mayor, Henry Maier. Though she had recently joined the Black Panther Party, she ran

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## Army veteran, nurse and businesswoman Corrine "Coco" Burnett passes

By Carmen A. Murguia, article courtesy of MKE Black Media  
"The courage and dedication of women in the military is remarkable!" — well-known U.S. Army saying

Retired Army nurse, educator, Milwaukee businesswoman, and community leader Corrine "Coco" Burnett passed recently surrounded by her loving family at Ascension Columbia St. Mary's Hospital.

As an Army veteran, Burnett served two terms in Viet Nam and one in Japan as a healthcare nurse administrator and a registered nurse. She received the Bronze Star and two Presidential Citations, one from President Lyndon Johnson in 1967, and another from President Richard Nixon in 1970.

Entering the Army in 1963, Burnett soon advanced up the ranks,

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## MPS budget approved as new report cites concerns over financial future of district

By Alex Klaus, article courtesy of Neighborhood News Service

The Board of School Directors for Milwaukee Public Schools voted recently to approve a \$1.59 billion budget for 2027.

The budget passed with a vote of 8-1, with only Board Director Mimi Reza voting against.

Met with controversy since being proposed in early May, the budget included the elimination of 260 positions, including 70 central office employees and 60 assistant principals. Cuts to equity and other programs were also approved.

Also part of the new budget is a plan to add an additional 138 para-professionals and 150 teachers to classrooms as part of the district's plan to reduce class sizes and provide more classroom support.

MPS Superintendent Brenda Cassellius defended the changes as needed to balance a \$46 million budget deficit next year and increase student achievement in a long underperforming district.

"While difficult decisions that impact members of the MPS team throughout the district had to be made, this budget places our resources where they will have the deepest impact on our students," Cassellius said in the Thursday night board meeting.

### District makes changes after community feedback

After several requests to keep the Community Schools program during budget hearings throughout the month, the district will use an extra \$3 million from the Milwaukee Recreation budget to support community schools.

Community Schools bring together other essential resources to

support students and families in and out of the classroom. Community Schools used to receive support in partnership with United Way before that funding ended.

The 2027 budget eliminates all three Community Schools coordinators, but the extra Milwaukee Recreation funds will support 11 additional positions including a manager, coordinator, planning as-

sistant and eight supervising associates.

Teachers at Transition High School, Project STAY High School and James E. Groppi High School, which each serve students at risk of not graduating, raised concerns about staff cuts at the alternative schools.

Cassellius said she spoke with leadership at each school and re-

duced the number of eliminated positions.

### Concerns about budget decisions remain

Educators, residents and advocates continued to express concerns about the approved budget, including hefty cuts to Restorative Justice and Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

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### Alumni Profile

## Autum Mays

## Autum Mays: Keeping tempo with the fast paced music business

Autumn Mays is a proud alumna of the Dr. Terence Thomas Memorial Scholarship. After 4 years of scholarship support during her educational journey, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Performing Arts Management from DePaul University's School of Music in 2024, graduating Magna Cum Laude with double minors in Communication Studies and Business Administration.

Following graduation, she relocated to Los Angeles to further her career in music business.

Autumn currently is the West Coast Creative Membership Coordinator at ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers), where she works closely with songwriters, composers, music publishers, and their professional teams. In her role, she supports membership engagement initiatives and contributes to the planning and execution of ASCAP industry events and programming designed to foster connection within ASCAP's creative community. Her

dedication to professionalism, collaboration, and creator support aligns closely with ASCAP's longstanding commitment to serving the music community.

Prior to joining ASCAP, Autumn gained experience across several organizations within the music and arts industries, including Disney Music Group, The Recording Academy, and Elevated Chicago. Through these opportunities, she supported A&R and music publishing teams, contributed to artist and member relations initiatives, and participated in arts and cultural programming. Collectively, these experiences strengthened her foundation in music operations, creative collaboration, and supporting both recorded and live music entertainment.

Beyond her professional work, Autumn remains deeply committed to advocacy and community impact through the arts. In 2020, she founded NoteWorthy Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding access to financial resources and musical opportunities for creatives in underrepresented communities. She is also actively involved in several organizations, including Women in Music, GRAMMY U and the Los Angeles Urban League Young Professionals.

As a lifelong musician herself, Autumn continues to explore her own creativity through violin and music composition, reflecting the same passion she brings to championing the work of fellow creators. Through her professional work, creative endeavors and community involvement, she is committed to empowering the next generation of creators while helping shape a more inclusive and equitable music industry.

## Young Blacks and Latinos Lack Access to Wealth-Building Tools

By Charlene Crowell, article courtesy of the North Dallas Gazette

"They are optimistic. They are financially motivated. And they are determined."

The JBI 2050 Survey, conducted in cooperation with NORC at the University of Chicago, surveyed white, Black, Hispanic, and Asian Americans across Gen Z (age 18-28), Millennial (29-44), Gen X (45-60), and

A new national study finds that despite strong financial ambition among younger Black and Latino Americans, structural barriers like soaring housing costs, limited access to credit, and generational wealth gaps are keeping homeownership and long-term wealth out of reach. (DWG Studio)

Boomer (61-79) age groups.

Among its findings:

- 86% of Americans across every race and generation say homeownership was a financial goal when they became financially independent — yet only

23% of Black Millennials who aspired to homeownership have achieved it, compared to 51% of white Millennials.

- 67% of Black Gen Z and 55% of Hispanic Gen Z aspire to own

(continued on page 5)

As much of the nation continues to grapple with rising costs that are outpacing wage gains, new research affirms that younger, more diverse generations are caught in a financial marketplace built for yesteryear not today.

Ambition Without Access, a newly released study by the Julian Bond Institute (JBI), an initiative of the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL), is the first nationally representative look at how wealth and financial aspirations differ across race and generations particularly for Blacks and Latinos.

"Young Blacks and Hispanics want to own homes, want to start businesses, want to retire comfortably, and want to leave something for their children — at rates that either match or exceed their white peers," states the study.

# Veteran, nurse, businesswoman Corrine “Coco” Burnett passes

(continued from front page)  
becoming a second lieutenant, and lieutenant colonel. As a nurse in the Army's Nurse Corps. —from 1965 to 1986— Burnett was a supervisor, assistant professor, and head nurse. She retired honorably from the Army in 1986.

The second oldest of 10 children, Burnett (who was affectionately known by her family as “Coco”) was born on May 5, 1941, in Chicago to Napoleon Burnett and Henrietta Williams. Burnett grew up in a humble household in Inkster, Michigan. Her siblings looked to her as a second mother. That's because both parents worked to provide

for them: their father worked for the Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, and their mother worked at St. Joe's Hospital (now known as Trinity) in Ann Arbor. In her surrogate parent role, Burnett helped her sibling with their reading and writing. But most of all, according to sister



Martina Williams Myles: “we enjoyed having Coco teach us how to dance.” Williams Myles said her sister especially loved to play the song, “I Hope You Dance” by Gladys Knight.



Theta Sorority—a member of the Gamma Tau chapter.

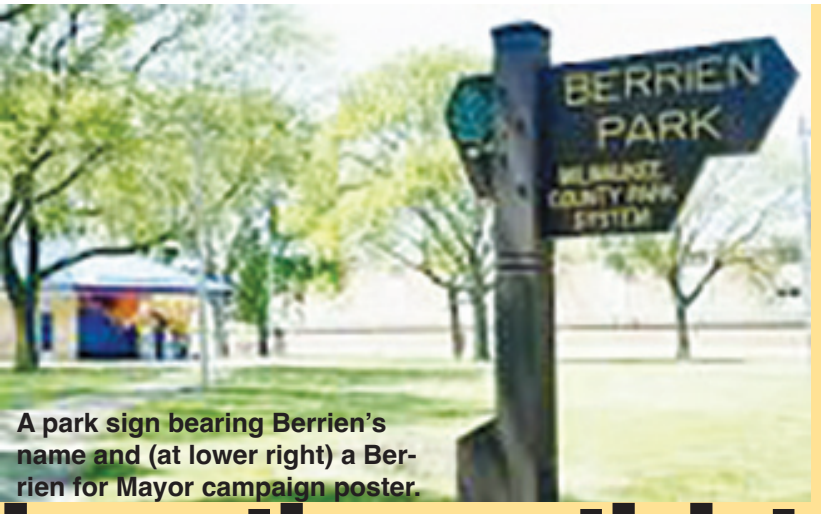
Milwaukee and Wisconsin. During her Army career, Burnett served as a supervisor, division chief, and nurse executive at Fort Logan Mental Health Hospital.

Beyond her military service, she became a savvy businesswoman, founding three companies and establishing the WOMO Foundation, a philanthropic organization focused on building a more inclusive economy by channeling diverse capital to underrepresented communities.

Coco's journey from humble beginnings to becoming a celebrated Black woman was marked by her dedication to service, leadership, and philanthropy. She was a beloved soror, friend, and sister, cherishing these titles throughout her life.

The Memorial Service for Corrine “Coco” Burnett will be held on Tuesday, June 9th, 2026, at 11 a.m. at Northwest Funeral Chapel, 6630 W. Hampton Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

—This article was written with research assistance and personal narratives from her sister Martina Williams Myles and Dana Little, as well as the Tuskegee University website.



A park sign bearing Berrien's name and (at lower right) a Berrien for Mayor campaign poster.

# Long-time activist Lucille Berrien passes at 98

(continued from front page)  
as a non-partisan candidate.

She also ran for State Treasurer of Wisconsin in 1990 with the Labor-Farm Party of Wisconsin, but lost to Cathy Zeuske.

Berrien was a long-time supporter of former Milwaukee Ald. Michael McGee, Jr., even after his 2008 conviction for bribery and extortion, believing he was set up by the government.

She married at 16 and had her first child at 17.

She was also good friends with fellow open housing advocate, the late Father James Groppi.

"I was 24 years old when I became a widow, and I think about all those mothers who have husbands in Iraq. It will be harder for them than it was for me," said Berrien.

Berrien supported Vietnam Veterans Against the War and helped found People's Coalition for Peace and Justice. She was also on the board of Legal Action of Wisconsin for over

"I always said that if anything happened to my husband I would take the kids up North. I thought they would have a higher quality education."

Upon first arriving in Milwaukee, Berrien was a domestic worker in Bayside and Whitefish Bay homes.

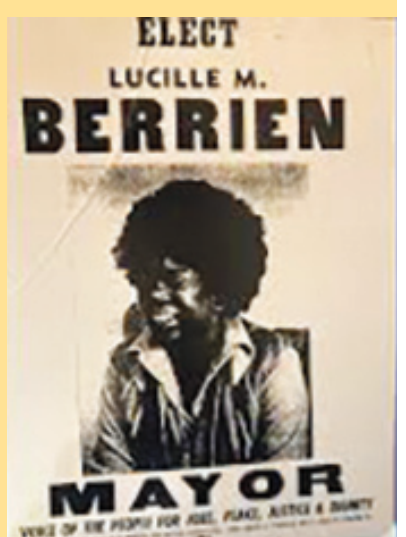
In 2010, Berrien had a

stroke. She recovered and continue to reside in Milwaukee with her 13 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

In 2013, the Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin (BH-CW) honored Berrien with one of the inaugural Community Health Champion Awards.

In 2012, a Milwaukee County park named for Charles Lindberg was renamed in Berrien's honor, 'Lucille Berrien Park.'

In 2023, a mural depicting Berrien was added. Since 2021 there has been an annual Lu-



Lucille Berrien Humanitarian Award named in her honor.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Wisconsin Black Historical Society & Museum, 2620 W. Center Street, Milwaukee, WI 53206, or visit hUps://www.wbhsm.org to donate online.—Sources for this article: Wikipedia and OnMilwaukee

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# GLP-1s CAN HELP PEOPLE SHED THE POUNDS -- BUT TENNIS CAN KEEP THEM FIT FOR LIFE

BY ANGUS MUGFORD, PHD

Nearly 1 in 8 Americans have turned to GLP-1s to shed pounds. For many, these drugs offer a powerful starting point to trimming their waistlines -- but not a complete path to long-term health.

Lasting health isn't defined by the scale. Sustainable improvements come from building healthier lifestyles over time -- especially regular physical activity -- which no pill or injection can replace.

And not all exercise is equally effective.

While any movement is better than none, when researchers have looked closely at which activities deliver the greatest health benefits over decades, the differences are striking.

One sport consistently rises to the top: tennis. People who play tennis gain 9.7 years in life expectancy, on average, compared with sedentary individuals -- an effect so large it rivals some of the most consequential public-health gaps we know, including the gap between smokers and non-smokers. In the same study,

no other exercise came close.

Cycling, swimming, and jogging were associated with about three additional years of life expectancy.

What makes tennis remarkable isn't that it promotes good health.

It's how it does. Tennis delivers an unusually high return on time and effort. An hour of tennis can burn 500-800 calories. But unlike a treadmill or a stationary bike, tennis rarely feels

(continued on page 4)

Graphic courtesy of Allies Interactive Services via FreePixel.com

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Nathalie Joachim

Ki moun ou ye

June 5th 7:30 PM

Milwaukee Art Museum

FOR TICKETS GO TO: [presentmusic.org/events](http://presentmusic.org/events)

- 5:30 PM Museum exhibits open and cash bar
- 7:30 PM Concert begins

The concert amplifies themes from the magic and artistry of *Gertrude Abercrombie: The Whole World is a Mystery*, *Currents 40: Widline Cadet*, and the Museum's world-renowned Haitian art collection. Also featuring works by Marcos Balter, inti figgis-vizueta and Paul Wiancko.

Concert Sponsors: Karen Plunkett & James Phillips Laskin Family Foundation



# YOUR BUS ROUTE COULD BE CHANGING

Starting Sunday, June 7, 2026, mid-day service will return to **Routes 28, 33, 34, and 55**. Weekend schedules will remain unchanged.



These service restorations are funded through contingency funds and help keep Milwaukee County moving forward safely and reliably.

See how your route may be affected at [RideMCTS.com/ServiceChanges](http://RideMCTS.com/ServiceChanges)





# Have we come to the end of the journey toward Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion?

A cancer research organization had to revise a grant proposal because it contained the word ‘diversity.’

Thousands of corporations dropped any mention of diversity and inclusion, and fired or reassigned officers with a ‘d’, ‘e’, or ‘i’ in their title.

Veteran Administration staff were essentially told they had to kiss the ring of President Donnie Trump or face losing their jobs.

The butt-kissing was part of a year-long divestment in government job reviews after the President signed an executive order banning anything thought to be an advantage—equalization of Black hiring practices.

Even though those minuscule offerings fell far short of equalizing the playing field, they offended White sensibilities and threatened the racist status quo.

In fact, Whites have been successful in 99.9% of ‘civil rights’ claims in which they alleged they were ‘discriminated’ against, including a couple of Milwaukee cases, the last of which was the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, which threatened a lawsuit.

Yeah, forget all of that B.S. about a brown/black alliance. When push came to shove, Hispanics chose ‘White Latino.’

‘Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.’ In layman’s



Photo illustration by Justin Morrison/Inside Higher Ed | sssst1gme1 and Alexandr Baranov/Stock/Getty Images

terms, DEI is, or was, a form of affirmative action. Republicans like Richard Nixon and Democrats like Joe Biden (talk about unique bedfellows) embraced affirmative action, even though the former would have fought for the Confederacy had the southern exodus been facilitated 100 years later.

Ironically, it was a Democrat, Bill (I love the darkies and play the sax) Clinton, who took the teeth out of the program. Clinton changed the key wording from quotas to goals.

For Milwaukee, for example, that meant a policy in which a stated number of police and fire department hirings was replaced with ‘goals’, which essentially meant ‘we will try,’ instead of ‘we will’...

King Trump’s policy on DEI---Executive Order 14151 ‘Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferences, essentially

banned anything that would equalize the playing field.

His order resulted in corporations abandoning programs that contained the words equal, diversity, inclusion and Black, with a small or capital ‘b.’

It brings to mind a scenario when I was a member of the Miller Park (Brewers) stadium board.

The three brothers with direct input in stadium policies put together a ‘scheme’ in which we sought to negotiate a deal with a foreign company that did not meet the qualifications for a multimillion-dollar contract because they did not meet the MBE ‘set-aside’ requirement.

The company sought a waiver.

We proposed a solution in which I would vote affirmatively for the waiver if the company agreed to contract with a ‘Black’ company for an

## FELLOWSHIP OPEN ANNOUNCES 26th ANNIVERSARY CIVIC LEADERSHIP AWARDEES



Hackett



Radke

**BMO U.S.’s Hackett, Northwestern Mutual’s Manista and Radke to be honored at Annual Meeting**

The Fellowship Open, celebrating 26 years as Wisconsin’s premiere corporate and community charity golf event, today announced its 2026 Civic Leadership Awardees – BMO U.S. CEO Darrel Hackett, Northwestern Mutual Executive Vice President and Chief Legal and Public Affairs Officer Raymond J. Manista, and Northwestern Mutual Foundation President and VP of Government and Community Relations Steven Radke.

Public recognition will take place at the Fellowship Open Annual Meeting, Tuesday, June 23, at Northwestern Mutual Headquarters in Milwaukee.

**About Darrel Hackett**  
Darrel Hackett is the U.S. CEO of BMO Financial Group, one of the top 10 banks in the United States by assets. Darrel is a board director for BMO Financial Corp., serves on the Executive Committee of BMO

Financial Group, and serves as Chair of the U.S. Management Committee. Hackett serves on the Board of Directors for the Art Institute of Chicago, Rush University Medical Center and the Economic Club of Chicago.

He is also a member of the Federal Advisory Council of the Federal Reserve Board, the bank board of The Clearing House, and the Executive Leadership Council.

“Leadership means more than per-

sonal achievement, it’s about opening doors for others, supporting education, and helping individuals and communities make progress,” noted Hackett.

“By supporting young professionals and promoting inclusion, we create a stronger future for everyone. I am deeply appreciative of this significant honor.”

**About Raymond J. Manista**  
As Executive Vice President and Chief Legal and Public Affairs Officer, Raymond J. Manista is responsible for the company’s law, enterprise compliance, strategic communications, privacy, strategic philanthropy and community relations, and government relations functions.

In his role, Manista has consistently demonstrated exemplary leadership and dedication to causes that further the collective of the city, including advancing quality education for students, supporting affordable homeownership and investing in Milwaukee neighborhoods and the arts.

“Being a corporate citizen lays the groundwork for a strong community and a strong workforce,” reflected Manista. “We are paving the way for the next generation of leaders right here in Wisconsin.

Thank you to the Fellowship Open for this recognition and for the work you do each day to further enrich the lives of students and young professionals.”

**About Steven Radke**  
As President of the Northwestern Mutual Foundation and VP of Government and Community Relations, Steven Radke leads the company’s

national and local philanthropic efforts and company’s lobbying and public policy formation efforts.

He recently announced the Foundation reaching \$520M+ in donations to nonprofits since its inception and is committed to continued investing in the communities where policymakers, advisors and employees live and serve.

He believes that when everyone can achieve their full potential, we all succeed. Radke noted, “I am deeply honored by this recognition and the work that the Northwestern Mutual Foundation has done to support transformational and sustainable community strategies that improve lives.

As President of the Northwestern Mutual Foundation and VP of Government and Community Relations, Steven Radke has dedicated over three decades to advancing community impact.

His leadership has driven more than \$60 million into education, childhood cancer research, and small business support.

The Fellowship Open supports young professionals through its MKE Fellows program and Steven’s commitment to empowering youth mirrors that mission.

His dedication to lifting others ensures that the next generation of leaders has the resources and confidence to succeed.

Radke noted, “I am deeply honored by this recognition and believe it reflects all the talented young people I’ve had the privilege to work with.

I applaud the Fellowship Open and look forward to continuing to make a difference working together.”

“Darrel Hackett, Raymond J. Manista, and Steven Radke embody the corporate and community benefactors we strive to connect with Wisconsin’s next generation of leaders,” remarked Fellowship Open President John W. Daniels III.

“Their records of service demonstrate an exceptionally strong commitment to advancing collaboration and connection. We applaud and thank these leaders for constructing a community action plan which is bearing fruit and positive impact for years to come.”

**About the Fellowship Open**  
Established in 2000, the Fellowship Open is dedicated to engaging, preparing, and inspiring Milwaukee youth through targeted professional development, immersive cultural programs, and relationship-building opportunities with business professionals and corporate leaders.

With a mission to increase awareness, accelerate readiness, and facilitate connections to high-potential

career sectors, including technology, healthcare, wealth management, the legal field, the arts, and others, the Fellowship Open has achieved significant success in fostering collaboration between corporate and civic partners to advance these objectives.

The Fellowship Open’s list of honorary chairs features many of America’s leading professionals, thought leaders, and executives from business, government, and community affairs.

Over the last 26 years, the Fellowship Open has donated more than \$5 million to support programs, projects, and initiatives benefiting over 130 youth-serving organizations across Wisconsin.

**About the MKE Fellows**  
The MKE Fellows initiative has emerged as a nationally-acclaimed model of youth engagement. The ini-

## GLP-1s CAN HELP PEOPLE SHED THE POUNDS -- BUT TENNIS CAN KEEP THEM FIT FOR LIFE

(continued from page 3)  
monotonous.

There’s no screen to stare at and no reps to count. The focus is outward -- to beating your friend or hitting that perfect serve.

Tennis also delivers something many workouts don’t: integrated, whole-body fitness. Players sprint, stop, rotate, and recover in rapid succession, developing strength, coordination, and agility.

The cardiovascular benefits are equally distinctive. Tennis is built around short bursts of high-intensity effort followed by brief recovery periods -- an interval pattern that’s especially good for heart health. Research shows that just three hours of tennis per week is associated with a 56% reduction in cardiovascular disease mortality and a 47% reduction in all-cause mortality.

Tennis is also effective at improving strength and bone density. Because it’s a weight-bearing sport involving quick pivots, tennis helps promote bone density in the spine, arms, and legs while strengthening the upper body and grip.

Just as telling as the health benefits is a simpler fact: people actually stick with tennis. The sport is social by nature.

It’s easy to picture how it happens. A standing doubles game that survives busy seasons. Coworkers who meet weekly after leaving the office. Parents who hit while their kids take lessons on the court. These routines are genuinely fun. This combination of not just physical, but also mental health, may play a role in why tennis may have such a positive effect on

annual maintenance contract worth millions annually.

It sounded good on the surface, but seconds after my proposal was made—which mentioned the term ‘Black business’—echoed through the conference room, an earthquake shook the stadium, hell was hit by an ice storm, and WILL, the anti-Black and brown legal institute that fights affirmative action at every turn, was put on high alert.

The proposal was tabled, and I was sent to the principal’s (lawyer’s) office, where I was told our MBE program---the toughest in the state---would not withstand court scrutiny, based on prior court rulings.

Rules were bent with Governor Tommy Thompson’s support of state Senator Spence Coggs’ legislation, and no one was hurt in the process. As it turned out, the stadium’s MBE program was the most successful in the country.

As long as you didn’t mention the word ‘Black.’ The disadvantaged might fly. And women’s or veterans’ businesses were permissible.

But Black...as the saying goes, get back.

That was years ago, and things have not gotten better.

The adjective/noun Black has morphed into a dozen different references to people of color as America has moved further and further to the right---which is wrong.

Have we come to the end of the road?? Not if the end is the beginning. Hopefully, the next president will support restoring economic sanity and reinvest in equity and equality.

**Hotep.**

of our community in tangible and direct ways.

This recognition carries on a tradition which has recognized Hall of Famers, Olympians, World Champions, and numerous athletic icons including Henry Aaron, Oscar Robertson, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, and Jerome Bettis since its inception in 2000.

The awards will be presented at the Fellowship Open Annual Meeting Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at Northwestern Mutual Headquarters in Milwaukee and will be attended by Wisconsin’s most influential community and civic leaders.

For additional information, contact Kayla Hall at Fellowship Open, Inc. (414) 909-8024 or khall@alivemke.com.

life expectancy.

Accessibility plays a role too: there are roughly 270,000 tennis courts across the U.S., most of them free and open to the public.

Tennis has a way of pulling you in. Once you hit a flawless backhand or serve your first ace, the satisfaction is immediate -- and so is the desire to come back. Not because it feels like exercise, but precisely because it doesn’t.

Millions of Americans will use fad diets and weight loss drugs this year to kickstart their health journeys. But if they want to truly get healthier, they’ll consider picking up a racquet.

Angus Mugford, PhD, is the Managing Director of Athlete Performance and Operations at the United States Tennis Association.

## Milwaukee Community Crossroads Announces Terrell Johnson as New Executive Director

Milwaukee native and Marquette University graduate Terrell Johnson has been picked to be the new Executive Director of Milwaukee Community Crossroads, effective June 1.

Johnson returns home after serving as Senior Grants Officer for the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, bringing extensive experience in community engagement, program development, strategic planning, and partnership building.

Johnson succeeds Karen Higgins, who has led MCC for 13 years. During her tenure, MCC expanded programming, strengthened community partnerships, and increased opportunities for youth, families, and older adults throughout Milwaukee.

As executive director, Johnson will lead MCC's continued efforts to provide an array of programs and services that support youth, young adults, families, and older adults while fostering pathways to long-term success.

"I am honored and humbled to return home to serve as the new executive director of Milwaukee Community Crossroads," said Johnson. "I look forward to working alongside my dedicated colleagues at MCC and our philanthropic partners to deepen our community engagement."

Community members will have an opportunity to meet Johnson at MCC's Safe Summer Block Party on Saturday, July 11, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Milwaukee Community Crossroads, 807 S. 14th St. The free community event will feature food, music, activities, resources, and information about summer programs and mentorship opportunities.

## Ald. Stamper to participate in prescription transfer event June 5

Alderman Russell W. Stamper, II will join Hayat Pharmacy, 1919 W. North Ave., on Friday, June 5, from 1 – 4 p.m. for a prescription transfer event. With the upcoming closure of the Walgreens at 27th and North, Hayat is offering a series of free, in-person events to help area residents easily transfer their prescriptions and keep their health on track.



"Residents who rely on the Walgreens pharmacy at 27th and North should make sure they plan accordingly ahead of that pharmacy's closure. Hayat is stepping up to help ensure that prescription refills and other health services are seamlessly transitioned," said Ald. Stamper.

The prescription transfer event will also include free health screenings and pharmacist consultations. Area residents can also call Hayat at (414) 374-0000 to initiate a prescription transfer. An additional transfer event will take place from 1 – 4 p.m. on Friday, June 19.

**"I had no idea that history was being made. I was just tired of giving up."**  
—Rosa Parks

# On Juneteenth, I'll Celebrate Black Music at Andrew Jackson's Plantation

Op/Ed by Ben Jealous

This Juneteenth I will stand at the Hermitage and help celebrate Black music. The Hermitage was Andrew Jackson's plantation, outside Nashville. I want to be honest about how strange that is.

I am descended from slaves and from the men who owned and abused them. The men who denied them their God-given right to freedom. My family was enslaved by the Blands of Virginia. Richard Bland was the famous one. He was a patriot before there was a country. He told the king and Parliament that a shackle chafes a man no matter how well you polish it. His young cousin Thomas Jefferson asked him to bring a bill to make it easier to free the enslaved. Bland did it. He was denounced as an enemy of his country. Then he went home and kept his thirty. He died still holding them.

That is my inheritance. My

***"The ground at the Hermitage is sacred and stained, and the music made by enslaved people and their progeny is what still feeds this country's hope."***

grandmother, Mamie Bland Todd, is the griot of our family. She carries two hundred years of it. Her great-grandfather Frederick was the only enslaved man named in his owner's will, and the will was written to protect him.

The man who owned Frederick was his own brother. That is how close the blood runs. Thomas Jefferson is my cousin. He wrote that all men are created equal.

Robert E. Lee is my cousin too. He took up arms to keep my other ancestors in chains. I carry the blood of the man who argued for freedom and the



The Hermitage, home of Andrew Jackson

blood of those he would not free. I resent his cruelty. I pray my children show his courage against the men who would be kings. That is the duality of this nation.

So I know something about awkward ground.

The Hermitage is beautiful. A thousand acres. A white mansion. Gardens. The tombs of the seventh president and his wife.

For her. Her son Alfred was born on that land and lived there longer than any man. After freedom came he stayed. They put "Faithful Servant" on his stone. But once a white man told him slavery had its comforts, and Alfred asked him, "How would you like to be a slave?" The man had no answer.

For a while that felt like tres-

pretend the delay away. It celebrates anyway.

So I will go. I will stand where Jackson stood, and where the people he enslaved stood. I will not soften either truth. I will say their names if they let me.

We are more curious now than ever about how we are joined. I have a cousin who descends from the people who owned mine. We are kin. The country is like that.

Nothing feeds the American need for unity and hope like the music made by enslaved people and their children. It is the truest thing this country has made. And we are still singing it.

So this Juneteenth, on sacred and stained ground, we will sing. And we will remember the oldest truth Mamie Bland Todd ever taught me: our people were always free.

And — oddly, ironically, and even somewhat poetically — it happens to be the same lesson her own slaveholding forebear, Richard, helped teach both his young cousin Thomas and King George.

Freedom is inherent. It belongs to us from the beginning.

—Ben Jealous is a professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania and former president and CEO of the NAACP.

## Young Blacks and Latinos Lack Access to Wealth-Building Tools

(continued from front page)

a business — a rate significantly higher than the 34% of white Gen Z who share that goal.

- 77% of Black Gen Z and 70% of Hispanic Gen Z aspire to build an inheritance to pass on, even though only 18% and 20% respectively expect to receive one themselves — compared to 33% of white and 38% of Asian Gen Z who anticipate getting one.
- 46% of Black Millennials are optimistic about their household's financial future — higher than the 31% of white Millennials — despite having fewer financial resources, lower savings, and significantly less family financial support.

"The gap between financial aspiration and achievement for young and minority consumers is not a matter of motivation. "It is a matter of structural access — to family financial resources, affordable credit, adequate income, and the knowledge to navigate a system not designed with these communities in mind.

As the United States moves toward a majority-minority future, closing these gaps is not just a moral imperative — it is an economic one," said Sara Weiss, ex-

ecutive director of JBI and a report co-author.

But homeownership, long considered the foundation for building family wealth, remains out of reach for many younger consumers.

According to the National Association of Realtors, the nation's average price to purchase an existing home this past April was \$417,700.

Regionally, the lowest priced home purchases were found either in the Midwest at \$324,500, or the South at \$366,600.

The nation's highest prices homes at \$619,600 were in the West and \$510,800 in the Northeast.

Home affordability was also the focus of a recent New York Times editorial citing the vast differences in the ratio between home prices and median household income.

In 1950, the median home price in the United States was \$7,400 — only 2.5 times the median annual household income. "But that ratio began surging in the 2000s.

Today the median home costs almost five times the median household income" states the editorial.

Conventional mortgages, the most affordable and sustainable over the 30-year length of most loans, have the advantage of fixed interest rates, but they require a 20 percent down payment to access the lowest rates available. Few young consumers can independently afford down payments ranging from \$64,900 to \$123,920.

Smaller down payments may be available but come with higher monthly payments that include mortgage insurance.

For JBI and CRL, timely and decisive actions geared towards practical solutions are essential to overcome today's financial roadblocks.

"The Gen Z and Millennial respondents in this survey are in the formative years when the foundation for wealth is either built or destroyed," states the study.

"The consequences of homeownership decisions, saving habits, and credit trajectories being established right now will compound themselves for decades... Thus, the time for structural reform is not after the demographic transition occurs. It is both before and during it."

Secondly, according to the JBI study, solutions to today's home-

ownership challenges must incorporate initiatives for consumers at every stage of life:

"Solutions lie in enacting initiatives to fund downpayment assistance at scale for first generation homebuyers, reforming mortgage policy to expand access, increased funding of small business support and capital access programs in communities of color, uniform adoption of state-sponsored retirement programs that allow individuals access to retirement plans when their employers do not provide them, and a commitment to modernize consumer protections so that they align with the present fintech era.

Doing so will prepare us for the America that is coming; failing to do so will leave us stuck in the America that has been."

JBI designs community-informed research that elevates the financial needs, challenges, and opportunities of our increasingly diverse nation to help financial institutions, policymakers and academia effectively design an inclusive financial market for the future.

Just as intentional policies and practices left out communities of color from wealth-building, now is the time to correct course by forging intentional inclusion.

—Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at [Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org](mailto:Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org).



### THE MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY JOURNAL

Published weekly. Digitally Monday MKE and Wednesday. Plus, uploaded print papers Thursday weekly. NEW news: Four days a week...Your Milwaukee Source.

WEBSITE: [www.milwaukeecommunityjournal.net](http://www.milwaukeecommunityjournal.net)  
3612 N. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, Milwaukee, WI 53212  
Phone: 414-265-5300 Fax: 414-265-1536  
E-Mail Editorial: [editorial@milwaukeecommunityjournal.com](mailto:editorial@milwaukeecommunityjournal.com)  
E-Mail Advertising: [advertising@milwaukeecommunityjournal.com](mailto:advertising@milwaukeecommunityjournal.com)  
Administration: [legacy@milwaukeecommunityjournal.com](mailto:legacy@milwaukeecommunityjournal.com)

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**Certified Official Newspaper of the State of Wisconsin, Creators of the Dr. Terence N. Thomas Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc.**

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# LEGALS/CLASSIFIEDS

**SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 2026CV4715**

In the matter of the name change of: ELLA ANN SMITH  
By (Petitioner) ELLA ANN SMITH

**NOTICE IS GIVEN:**  
A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:  
FROM: ELLA ANN SMITH TO: EL-LIOT CLARK SMITH  
Birth Certificate: ELLA ANN SMITH

**IT IS ORDERED**  
This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
Judge's Name: HON. J.D. WATTS BR 15 ROOM 414 PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233  
DATE: JULY 17, 2026, TIME 9:30 A.M.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:**  
Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
Dated: 5-18-2026  
BY THE COURT:  
HON. J.D. WATTS  
Circuit Court Judge  
2215/5-20-27/6-3-2026

**SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 26CV4686**

In the matter of the name change of: TATIANNA ROYAL HARRIS  
By (Petitioner) TIFFANY OMOYE ODU A

**NOTICE IS GIVEN:**  
A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:  
From: TATIANNA ROYAL HARRIS to: TATIANNA ROYAL HARRIS ODU A  
Birth Certificate: TATIANNA ROYAL HARRIS

**IT IS ORDERED**  
This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
Judge's Name: HON. MICHAEL J HANRAHAN ROOM 500 PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233  
DATE: JUNE 22, 2026, TIME 10:00 A.M.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:**  
Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
Dated: 5-15-2026  
BY THE COURT:  
HON. MICHAEL J HANRAHAN  
Circuit Court Judge  
2218/5-20-27/6-3-2026

**SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 26CV4629**

In the matter of the name change of: ZAMORA ELIZABETH MARIE SAT-TERFIELD

**NOTICE IS GIVEN:**  
A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:  
FROM: ZAMORA ELIZABETH MARIE SATTERFIELD TO: ZAMORA ELIZABETH MARIE GOVAN  
Birth Certificate: ZAMORA ELIZABETH MARIE SATTERFIELD

**IT IS ORDERED**  
This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
Judge's Name: HON. PAUL VAN GRUNSVEN RM 206 PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233  
DATE: JUNE 16 2026, TIME 9:45 A.M.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:**  
Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
Dated: 5-14-2026  
BY THE COURT:  
HON. PAUL VAN GRUNSVEN  
Circuit Court Judge  
2216/5-20-27/6-3-2026

**STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY (SMALL CLAIMS)**

**PUBLICATION SUMMONS AND NOTICE Case No. 26SC010049**

Plaintiff(s) LAVINCE M RILEY 2610 W Glen Dale Milwaukee WI 53209 vs Defendant(s) HUBBARD RILEY JR 2327 N 54th Street Milwaukee WI 53209

Publication Summons and Notice of Filing TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE AS DEFENDANT(S): You are being sued by the person(s) as named above Plaintiff(s). A copy of the claim has been sent to you #3at your address as stated in the caption above. The lawsuit will be heard in the following Small Claims court: Milwaukee County Courthouse Telephone Number of Clerk of Court: 414-278-4190 Courtroom/ Room Number 400 Address: 901 N 9TH Street City: 53233 Milwaukee State WI Zip 53233 on the following date and time: Date: JUNE 8, 2026, Time: 8:30 A.M

If you do not attend the hearing, the court may enter a judgment against you in favor of the person(s) suing you. A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. A judgement may be enforced as provided by law. A judgement awarding money may become a lien against any real estate (property) you own now or in the future and may also be enforced by garnishment of seizure of property.

You may have the option to Answer without appearing in court on the court date by filing a written Answer with the clerk of court before the court date. You must send a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff(s) named above at their address. You may contact the clerk of court at the telephone number above to determine if there are other methods to answer a Small Claims complaint in that county.  
Date: 5/17/2026  
Plaintiff/Attorney LAVINCE M RILEY  
217/5-20-27/6-3-2026

**SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 26CV001908**

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF: FONDA KAYE MISSOURI  
By (Petitioner) FONDA KAYE MISSOURI

**NOTICE IS GIVEN:**  
A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:  
FROM: FONDA KAYE MISSOURI TO: S'HONEY LAFAYE LOVE  
Birth Certificate: FONDA KAYE MISSOURI

**IT IS ORDERED**  
This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
Judge's Name: HON. WILLIAM POCAN RM #401 PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233  
DATE: JUNE 26, 2026, TIME 10:30 A.M.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:**  
Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
Dated: 4-23-2026  
BY THE COURT:  
HON. WILLIAM POCAN  
Circuit Court Judge  
220/5-20-27/6-3-2026

**SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 26CV004445**

In the matter of the name change of: AIDEN HER  
By (Petitioner) AIDEN HER

**NOTICE IS GIVEN:**  
A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:  
From: AIDEN HER to: LEONIDAS AIDEN-PEEV XWM LOR  
Birth Certificate: AIDEN HER

**IT IS ORDERED**  
This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
Judge's Name: HON. CYNTHIA DAVIS RM 208 PLACE 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233  
DATE: JUNE 25, 2026 TIME 4:00 P.M.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:**  
Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
Dated: 5-8-2028  
BY THE COURT:  
HON. CYNTHIA DAVIS  
Circuit Court Judge

207/5-13-20-27-2026

**SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 26CV001907**

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF: T'AS D'RON UPTON  
By (Petitioner) FONDA KAYE MISSOURI

**NOTICE IS GIVEN:**  
A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:  
FROM: T'AS D'RON AL-SONNIE UPTON TO: T'AS D'RON AL-SONNIE UPTON-LOVE  
Birth Certificate: T'AS D'RON AL-SONNIE UPTON

**IT IS ORDERED**  
This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
Judge's Name: HON. WILLIAM POCAN RM #401 PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233  
DATE: JUNE 26, 2026, TIME 10:30 A.M.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:**  
Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
Dated: 4-23-2026  
BY THE COURT:  
HON. WILLIAM POCAN  
Circuit Court Judge  
221/5-20-27/6-3-2026

**SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 26CV004824**

In the matter of the name change of: ARIANE MARIE RIDEOUT  
By (Petitioner) QEAIRRA CARRINGTON

**NOTICE IS GIVEN:**  
A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:  
FROM: ARIANE MARIE RIDEOUT to: ARIANE MARIE CARRINGTON  
Birth Certificate: ARIANE MARIE RIDEOUT

**IT IS ORDERED**  
This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
Judge's Name: HON. REYNA MORALES ROOM 402 PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233  
DATE: JUNE 24, 2026, TIME 9:00 A.M.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:**  
Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
Dated: 5-20-2026  
BY THE COURT:  
HON. REYNA MORALES  
Circuit Court Judge  
222/5-20-27/6-3-2026

**SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 26CV004820**

In the matter of the name change of: TIERNEY LYNN MCBRIDE  
By (Petitioner) TIERNEY LYNN MCBRIDE

**NOTICE IS GIVEN:**  
A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:  
FROM: TIERNEY LYNN MCBRIDE TO: TIERNEY LYNN FRAGASSI  
Birth Certificate: TIERNEY LYNN MCBRIDE

**IT IS ORDERED**  
This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
Judge's Name: HON. PAUL VAN GRUNSVEN 901 N. 9th Street, CH206 Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233  
DATE: JULY 1, 2026, TIME 9:30 A.M.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:**  
Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
Dated 5-20-2026  
BY THE COURT:  
HON. PAUL VAN GRUNSVEN  
Circuit Court Judge  
223/5-20-27/6-3-2026

**SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT**

**MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 26CV004819**

In the matter of the name change of: DALE ALLEN FAHRNOW JR.  
By (Petitioner) DALE ALLEN FAHRNOW JR.

**NOTICE IS GIVEN:**  
A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:  
FROM: DALE ALLEN FAHRNOW JR. TO: DALE JENNARO FRAGASSI  
Birth Certificate: DALE ALLEN FAHRNOW JR.

**IT IS ORDERED**  
This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
Judge's Name: HON. PAUL VAN GRUNSVEN RM 206 PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233  
DATE: JULY 1, 2026, TIME 9:30 A.M.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:**  
Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
Dated: 5-20-2026  
BY THE COURT:  
HON. PAUL VAN GRUNSVEN  
Circuit Court Judge  
224/5-20-27/6-3-2026

**SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 26CV004829**

In the matter of the name change of: KATHLEEN HELEN FITZGERALD-VILLOTH

**NOTICE IS GIVEN:**  
A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:  
From: KATHLEEN HELEN FITZGERALD-VILLOTH to: KATHLEEN HELEN FITZGERALD  
Birth Certificate: KATHLEEN HELEN FITZGERALD

**IT IS ORDERED**  
This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
Judge's Name: HON. TIMOTHY WITKOWIAK RM 415 PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233  
DATE: JUNE 24, 2026, TIME 10:30 A.M.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:**  
Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
Dated: 5-20-2026  
BY THE COURT:  
HON. TIMOTHY WITKOWIAK  
Circuit Court Judge  
225/5-20-27/6-3-2026

**SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 26CV004571**

In the matter of the name change of: DAVID HARDY KROEZE  
By (Petitioner) DAVID HARDY KROEZE

**NOTICE IS GIVEN:**  
A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:  
From: DAVID HARDY KROEZE to: HARDY WATSON KROEZE  
Birth Certificate: DAVID HARDY

**PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT THE MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY JOURNAL TO PUBLISH LEGAL NOTICES**

The Milwaukee Community Journal expanded its services to the greater Milwaukee community with the publishing of legal notices in the 'WEEKEND EDITION.' As a qualified provider of the publication of legal notices, MCJ will serve City, County and State offices for publishing community notifications.

Such notifications include:  
Public Hearings  
Public Meetings  
Election Notices  
Divorce Proceedings  
Name Changes  
Publication of Summons when personal services cannot be made to defendants  
Notice of Auction of unclaimed storage property  
Probate Notices  
Foreclosure Sheriff's sales notice of creditor listing of property for sale.  
Other general legal and public notices

**ABOUT MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY JOURNAL (MCJ) WEEKEND EDITION**

The Milwaukee Community Journal Weekend Edition is published weekly. Each week, MCJ Weekend focuses on different subjects, HEALTH, PERSONAL, FINANCE, FAMILY, MEN, AND WOMEN. THE WEEKEND EDITION now includes the publishing of records designated by the Milwaukee County Circuit Court for publication of legal notices, with added value in the Wednesday Edition. The Weekend Edition is a public newspaper of general circulation that complies with the laws of Wisconsin relating to publication of legal notices. MCJ Weekend Edition has published weekly over ten years, in the State of Wisconsin and Milwaukee County. We have a paid circulation of approximately 89% of our circulation, weekly. And our actual paid subscribers are over the 1000 required by State Statute.

**ABOUT THE MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY JOURNAL (MCJ)**

The Milwaukee Community Journal (MCJ) is a quality news organization published throughout Milwaukee and the surrounding suburbs. Established in 1976, the Milwaukee Community Journal has advanced the plight, struggles and victories of minorities in Wisconsin, with a passion for building community. The MCJ accentuates the positive, analyzes the negatives and advocates to seed success. The Milwaukee Community Journal stockholders are Patricia O'Flynn Pattillo (90%); Mikel Holt (5%); and Todd Thomas Thomas (5%) respectively, and is current in filing by the State of Wisconsin, effective October 10, 2018.

Signed: Patricia O'Flynn Pattillo, President/Publisher

**KROEZE**

**IT IS ORDERED**  
This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
Judge's Name: HON. MICHAEL J HANRAHAN ROOM 500 PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233  
DATE: JUNE 24, 2026, TIME 2:00 P.M.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:**  
Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
Dated: 5-20-2026  
BY THE COURT:  
HON. MICHAEL J HANRAHAN  
Circuit Court Judge  
226/5-20-27/6-3-2026

**STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY (SMALL CLAIMS) PUBLICATION SUMMONS AND NOTICE Case No. 2026SC005711**

Plaintiff(s) TERESA FREMONT SEEM 1800 W Woodbury Ln. Glendale WI 53209 vs Defendant(s) NORTH SHORE LIBRARY FOUNDATION, INC c/o A PAUL PEDERSEN President of the Foundation, 360 E Daphne Rd Fox Point WI 53217/KURT GLAISNER, President of The Foundation, 945 W Calumet Rd River Hills WI 53217

Publication Summons and Notice of Filing TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE AS DEFENDANT(S): You are being sued by the person(s) as named above Plaintiff(s). A copy of the claim has been sent to you #3at your address as stated in the caption above. The lawsuit will be heard in the following Small Claims court: Milwaukee County Courthouse Telephone Number of Clerk of Court: 414-278-4140 Courtroom/ Room Number 400 Address: 901 N 9TH Street City: 53233 Milwaukee State WI Zip 53233 on the following date and time: Date: JUNE 16, 2026, Time: 8:30 A.M

If you do not attend the hearing, the court may enter a judgment against you in favor of the person(s) suing you. A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. A judgement may be enforced as provided by law. A judgement awarding money may become a lien against any real estate (property) you own now or in the future and may also be enforced by garnishment of seizure of property.

**IT IS ORDERED**  
This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
Dated: 5-18-2026  
Plaintiff/Attorney TERESA FREMONT SEEM  
219/5-20-27/6-3-2026

**SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 26CV004859**

In the matter of the name change of: NICOLE LYNN SZABO  
By (Petitioner) NICOLE LYNN SZABO

**NOTICE IS GIVEN:**  
A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:  
FROM: NICOLE LYNN SZABO TO: NICOLE LYNN TOTKA  
Birth Certificate: NICOLE LYNN

**IT IS ORDERED**  
This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
Dated: 5-21-2026  
BY THE COURT:  
HON. J.D. WATTS  
Circuit Court Judge  
228/5-27/6-3-10-2026

**TOTKA**

**IT IS ORDERED**  
This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
Judge's Name: HON. PAUL VAN GRUNSVEN 901 N. 9th Street, CH206 Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233  
DATE: JUNE 29, 2026, TIME 4:00 P.M.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:**  
Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
Dated 5-21-2026  
BY THE COURT:  
HON. PAUL VAN GRUNSVEN  
Circuit Court Judge  
227/5-27/6-3-10-2026

**SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 26CV004848**

In the matter of the name change of: NATALIE ANNE COPPELMAN

**NOTICE IS GIVEN:**  
A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:  
FROM: NATALIE ANNE COPPELMAN TO: CHASE NATHANIEL COPPELMAN  
Birth Certificate: NATALIE ANNE COPPELMAN

**IT IS ORDERED**  
This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
Judge's Name: HON. J.D. WATTS BR 15 ROOM 414 PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233  
DATE: JULY 1 2026, TIME 9:30 A.M.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:**  
Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
Dated: 5-21-2026  
BY THE COURT:  
HON. J.D. WATTS  
Circuit Court Judge  
228/5-27/6-3-10-2026

# The newspaper with its finger on the PULSE of Black MKE! YOUR MKE Community Journal!

**SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 26CV003477**  
 In the matter of the name change of: SHAWONDA DECHAUNE BEZUE By (Petitioner) SHAWONDA DE-CHAUNE BEZUE

NOTICE IS GIVEN:  
 A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:  
 FROM: SHAWONDA DECHAUNE BEZUE TO: SHAWONDA DE-CHAUNE LEE  
 Birth Certificate: SHAWONDA DE-CHAUNE TONEY

IT IS ORDERED  
 This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
 Judge's Name: HON. PAUL VAN GRUNSVEN 901 N. 9th Street, CH206 Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: MAY 27 2026, TIME 3:00 P.M.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:  
 Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
 Dated 4-13-2026  
 BY THE COURT:  
 HON. PAUL VAN GRUNSVEN  
 Circuit Court Judge  
 229/5-27/6-3-10-2026

**SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 26CV004959**  
 In the matter of the name change of: AMY ELIZABETH KOZINA

NOTICE IS GIVEN:  
 A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:  
 From: AMY ELIZABETH KOZINA to: AMY ELIZABETH LOTZ  
 Birth Certificate: AMY ELIZABETH LOTZ

IT IS ORDERED  
 This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
 Judge's Name: HON. TIMOTHY WITKOWIAK RM 415 Hearing to take place by Zoom. Please call (414) 278-4582 on the date and at the time listed below. PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: JULY 6, 2026, TIME 11:00 A.M.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:  
 Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
 Dated: 5-26-2026  
 BY THE COURT:  
 HON. TIMOTHY WITKOWIAK  
 Circuit Court Judge  
 231/5-27/6-3-10-2026

**SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 26CV005003**  
 In the matter of the name change of: YAZMIN ALEXANDRA RODRIGUEZ By (Petitioner) YAZMIN ALEXANDRA RODRIGUEZ

NOTICE IS GIVEN:  
 A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:  
 From: YAZMIN ALEXANDRA RODRIGUEZ to: YAZMIN ALEXANDRA NEGRON ARUZ  
 Birth Certificate: YAZMIN ALEXANDRA NEGRON ARUZ

IT IS ORDERED  
 This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
 Judge's Name: HON. MICHAEL J HANRAHAN ROOM 500 PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: JULY 23, 2026, TIME 2:00 P.M.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:  
 Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
 Dated: 5-26-2026  
 BY THE COURT:  
 HON. MICHAEL J HANRAHAN  
 Circuit Court Judge  
 230/5-27/6-3-10-2026

**SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 26CV004419**  
 In the matter of the name change of: ABIGAIL ALEXANDRIA MARTIN By (Petitioner) ABIGAIL ALEXANDRIA MARTIN

NOTICE IS GIVEN:  
 A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:  
 FROM: ABIGAIL ALEXANDRIA MARTIN TO: FLUFFLES ALEXANDRIA ZAFFIRA  
 Birth Certificate: ABIGAIL ALEXANDRIA MARTIN

IT IS ORDERED  
 This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
 Judge's Name: HON. J.D. WATTS BR 15 ROOM 414 PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: JUNE 22, 2026, TIME 2:00 P.M.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:  
 Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
 Dated: 5-7-2026  
 BY THE COURT:  
 HON. J.D. WATTS  
 Circuit Court Judge

232/5-27/6-3-10-2026  
**SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 2026CV004995**  
 In the matter of the name change of: BROOKLYN NICOLE LOCKHART By (Petitioner) CATRICE A LOCKHART

NOTICE IS GIVEN:  
 A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:  
 FROM: BROOKLYN NICOLE LOCKHART to: BROOKLYN NICOLE LOCKHART-NICHOLS  
 Birth Certificate: BROOKLYN NICOLE LOCKHART-NICHOLS

IT IS ORDERED  
 This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
 Judge's Name: HON. JEAN M KIES RM 413 PLACE 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: JULY 10, 2026, TIME 9:00 A.M.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:  
 Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
 Dated: 5-27-2026  
 BY THE COURT:  
 HON. JEAN M KIES  
 Circuit Court Judge  
 233/5-27/6-3-10-2026

**SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 26CV004970**  
 IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF: SCORPIO SKO SKIPWITH

NOTICE IS GIVEN:  
 A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:  
 FROM: SCORPIO SKO SKIPWITH TO: SCORPIO SKO STEWART  
 Birth Certificate: SCORPIO SKO SKIPWITH

IT IS ORDERED  
 This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
 Judge's Name: HON. WILLIAM POCAN RM #401 PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: JULY 7, 2026, TIME 10:00 A.M.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:  
 Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
 Dated: 5-26-2026  
 BY THE COURT:  
 HON. WILLIAM POCAN  
 Circuit Court Judge

236/6-3-10-17-2026  
**SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 26CV005075**  
 In the matter of the name change of: GRACE ANNE COCHRANE

NOTICE IS GIVEN:  
 A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:  
 From: GRACE ANNE COCHRANE to: ZEDDY MORRISON COCHRANE  
 Birth Certificate: GRACE ANNE COCHRANE

IT IS ORDERED  
 This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
 Judge's Name: HON. TIMOTHY WITKOWIAK RM 415 PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: JULY 6, 2026, TIME 1:30 P.M.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:  
 Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
 Dated: 5-28-2026  
 BY THE COURT:  
 HON. TIMOTHY WITKOWIAK  
 Circuit Court Judge  
 235/6-3-10-17-2026

**SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 26CV005122**  
 In the matter of the name change of: LAYLA EI HAB MASOUD

NOTICE IS GIVEN:  
 A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:  
 From: LAYLA EI HAB MASOUD to: OLIVIA HANDLER  
 Birth Certificate: LAYLA EI HAB MASOUD

IT IS ORDERED  
 This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
 Judge's Name: HON. TIMOTHY WITKOWIAK RM 415 PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: JULY 9, 2026, TIME 2:00 P.M.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:  
 Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.  
 Dated: 5-29-2026  
 BY THE COURT:  
 HON. TIMOTHY WITKOWIAK  
 Circuit Court Judge  
 238/6-3-10-17-2026

**STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY (SMALL CLAIMS) PUBLICATION SUMMONS**

**AND NOTICE Case No. 26SC012536**  
 Plaintiff(s) MADISON L MEINEN N14978 Point Rd. Park Falls WI 53209 vs Defendant(s) LEGENDS TOWING LLC 3950 N Holton St. Milwaukee WI 54552  
 Publication Summons and Notice of Filing  
 TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE AS DEFENDANT(S):  
 You are being sued by the person(s) as named above Plaintiff(s). A copy of the claim has been sent to you #3at your address as stated in the caption above. The lawsuit will be heard in the following Small Claims court: Milwaukee County Courthouse Telephone Number of Clerk of Court: 414-278-5362 Courtroom/ Room Number 400 Address: 901 N 9TH Street City: 53233 Milwaukee State WI Zip 53233 on the following date and time: Date: JUNE 29, 2026, Time: 8:30 A.M

If you do not attend the hearing, the court may enter a judgment against you in favor of the person(s) suing you. A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. A judgement may be enforced as provided by law. A judgement awarding money may become a lien against any real estate (property) you own now or in the future and may also be enforced by garnishment of seizure of property.

You may have the option to Answer without appearing in court on the court date by filing a written Answer with the clerk of court before the court date. You must send a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff(s) named above at their address. You may contact the clerk of court at the telephone number above to determine if there are other methods to answer a Small Claims complaint in that county.  
 Date: 6/1/2026  
 Plaintiff/Attorney  
 MADISON L MEINEN  
 237/6-3-10-17-2026

**STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT RACINE COUNTY SUMMONS WITHOUT MINOR CHILDREN Case No. 26FA000011 Divorce: 40101**  
 PLAINTIFF: TYRA LYNN JONES, 1111 Jackson Place Mt Pleasant WI 53406 Petitioner and ANTONIO L TURNER 2522 W Capitol Dr Apt 4 Milwaukee WI 53206 Respondent

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN, to the person named above as a respondent

You are hereby notified that your spouse has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The Petitioner, which is attached, states the nature and basis of the legal action.

Within 20 days of receiving this Summons, you must provide a written response, as that term is used in Ch. 802, Wis. Stats., to the Petition. The Court may reject or disregard a response that does not follow the requirements of the statutes.

The response must be sent or delivered to the following government office: Racine County 730 Wisconsin Ave. Racine WI 53406.

The response must also be mailed or delivered within 20 days to the petitioner

at the address above.  
 It is recommended, but not required, that you have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not provide a proper response within 20 days, the court may grant judgment against you and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the Petition.

A judgement may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

Dated in Milwaukee, Wisconsin this 5th day of January 2026  
 BY: TYRA LYNN JONES  
 234/6-3-10-17-2026

**STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY (SMALL CLAIMS) PUBLICATION SUMMONS AND NOTICE**

**Case No. 2026SC005711**  
 Plaintiff(s) TERESA FREMONT SEEM 1800 W Woodbury Ln. Glendale WI 53209 vs Defendant(s) NORTH SHORE LIBRARY FOUNDATION, INC c/o A PAUL PEDERSEN, 360 E Daphne Rd Fox Point WI 53217/ A PAUL PEDERSEN, individually, in his capacity as a board member and President of the Foundation/, 360 E Daphne Rd Fox Point WI 53217/KURT GLAISNER, individually, in his capacity as a board member and Treasurer of The Foundation, 945 W Calumet Rd River Hills WI 53217  
 Publication Summons and Notice of Filing

TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE AS DEFENDANT(S):  
 You are being sued by the person(s) as named above Plaintiff(s). A copy of the claim has been sent to you #3at your address as stated in the caption above. The lawsuit will be heard in the following Small Claims court: Milwaukee County Courthouse Telephone Number of Clerk of Court: 414-278-4140 Courtroom/ Room Number 400 Address: 901 N 9TH Street City: 53233 Milwaukee State WI Zip 53233 on the following date and time: Date: JUNE 16, 2026, Time: 8:30 A.M

If you do not attend the hearing, the court may enter a judgment against you in favor of the person(s) suing you. A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. A judgement may be enforced as provided by law. A judgement awarding money may become a lien against any real estate (property) you own now or in the future and may also be enforced by garnishment of seizure of property.

You may have the option to Answer without appearing in court on the court date by filing a written Answer with the clerk of court before the court date. You must send a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff(s) named above at their address. You may contact the clerk of court at the telephone number above to determine if there are other methods to answer a Small Claims complaint in that county.  
 Date: 5/18/2026  
 Plaintiff/Attorney  
 TERESA FREMONT SEEM  
 219/5-20-27/6-3-2026



**“A man who stops advertising to save money is like a man who stops a clock to save time!”**  
**Don't stop your business from profiting and growing! Place your display or classified ad in YOUR MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY JOURNAL, the newspaper that has BLACK MILWAUKEE'S ATTENTION!**



A person walks into the Milwaukee Public Schools Administration building before a committee meeting on May 19. The MPS 2027 budget was passed during a meeting there Thursday. (Photo by Jonathan Aguilar / Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service / CatchLight Local)

## MPS budget approved as new report cites concerns over financial future of the district

(continued from front page)

staff and reductions in Black and Latino Male Achievement coordinators.

Reagan High School junior and Black and Latino Male Achievement Chapter President De'Myen Dixon said students will have to take on more responsibility to keep monthly meetings running after losing a coordinator.

The district approved a 2.63% raise for Milwaukee Teacher Education Association-represented staff, with about half to start on July 1 and the remaining implemented on Jan. 1, 2027.

Union representatives have demanded a full 2.63% raise by July 1 for several months.

The budget will cut 15 staff in the Department of Multilingual and Multicultural Education, including three literacy specialists, one Native American program coordinator, five teachers and four teacher leaders.

Luz Hernandez, an MPS elementary bilingual teacher, told the school board on May 26 that the cuts have taken place quietly without community or staff input.

Jennifer Santiago, art teacher at Academia De Lengua y Bellas Artes, told the board during that meeting that the cuts weaken the district's ability to provide a quality education and services for bilingual and English-learning students.

"Enrollment of English learners and multilingual students continues to increase," Santiago said. "This is precisely the time the district should be investing in (Department of Multilingual Multicultural Education) infrastructure in its budget, not dismantling it."

### Report finds that new budget won't solve district's financial troubles

A new brief by the Wisconsin Policy Forum, a non-partisan policy research organization, found that while the new budget does balance the books in the short-term, the district's long-term financial outlook

is murky.

"The district's five-year forecast projects a structural deficit for its main fund emerging as soon as 2028," read a Wisconsin Policy Forum press release.

The deficit coincides with the final year the district will see increased revenue as part of the phased implementation of the \$252 million MPS referendum passed in 2024.

According to the report, spending is projected to outpace revenue by \$63.7 million by 2029.

Among the short- and long-term financial pressures for MPS are lost revenue from departing charter and alternative schools, paying new hires, declining student enrollment and aging buildings.

"Families, teachers, residents and investors need to have confidence in the district's ability to meet these coming challenges, or MPS will find it harder to maintain and attract the necessary enrollment, staff and capital financing to accomplish its crucial mission," stated a brief from the report.

Still, the report did identify a number of positives in the 2027 budget, including the leveraging of available funding to avoid cuts and make investments, the district's vacancy adjustments, a steady rate of debt repayment and its progress in addressing operational issues.

"Students deserve a budget that puts them at the center. And teachers deserve classes that allow them to give students personalized attention," Cassellius said. "This budget invests in our valued employees, tackles our deficit head on and takes important steps toward financial stability with an eye toward the difficult economic realities ahead."

The approved budget and changes will go into effect next school year.

—*Alex Klaus is the education solutions reporter for the Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service and a corps member of Report for America, a national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on under-covered issues and communities. Report for America plays no role in editorial decisions in the NNS newsroom. Jonathan Aguilar is a visual journalist at Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service who is supported through a partnership between CatchLight Local and Report for America.*



## Black Birders Week brings community together at Havenwoods State Forest

By Jonathan Aguilar / Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service / CatchLight Local

On a sunny Saturday morning, birders and nature enthusiasts of color gathered at Havenwoods State Forest, 6141 N. Hopkins St., for Milwaukee's Black Birders Week community celebration.

The May 30 event was put on by the BIPOC Birding Club of Wisconsin, Zoological Society of Milwaukee and Havenwoods Neighborhood Partnership.

For attendee Linetta Alexander, the event was an opportunity to introduce her younger cousins to birding.

"It's great because it's needed," Alexander said. "To be in an inclusive space where you could just be yourself among nature is ideal. I knew right away that it was going to be safe for them to be here."

Milwaukee's Black Birders Week community celebration was inspired by the national Black Birders Week movement, which began in 2020 following the racial profiling of birder Christian Cooper in New York's Central Park and broader conversations about racism in outdoor spaces.

Founded in 2021, the BIPOC Birding Club of Wisconsin grew out of a desire to make birding and outdoor spaces more welcoming to Black, Indigenous and other people of color. The organization hosts bird walks and educational events across Wisconsin for

birders of all experience levels.

Co-founder Dexter Patterson said the group's work extends beyond just identifying birds.

"I tell people all the time, birding isn't just about the birds," Patterson said. "It is about people coming together, it is the questions, it is the little kids taking on leadership roles."

Throughout the morning, participants explored trails during a guided bird walk, built bird feeders and visited activity stations designed for children and families.

The event took place at Havenwoods State Forest, a 237-acre urban forest and environmental education center on Milwaukee's North Side.

Tim Scott, founder of Urban Nature Connection and a volunteer at the event, said he appreciates having natural spaces, such as Havenwoods, in the heart of Milwaukee's Black community.

"We're actually getting into birding. I thought birds were bad until I started learning about the benefits of birds, and that we can't live without them," Scott said. "Now, I want to know more. I want to see them, I want to hear them, I want to look at the different kinds of birds."

Patterson said the organization's long-term goal extends beyond birding.

"I hope that we can not only grow the birding community, but also normalize Black and Brown people outside," Patterson said.

Ultimately, he said, he wants one distinction in particular to no longer be necessary.

"I would hope eventually that people see Black birders as just birders."

—*Jonathan Aguilar is a visual journalist at Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service who is supported through a partnership between CatchLight Local and Report for America.*

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**50**

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