



Black Women and the Sage We Breathe

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New book focuses on subculture of drugs and money systematically ruining our community!

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MILWAUKEE

COMMUNITY JOURNAL

WISCONSIN'S LARGEST AFRICAN AMERICAN NEWSPAPER



Election Watch 2026/The Primaries: The Results!



History was made in the early hours of Wednesday, August 12, when Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley became the first African American to be elected the Democratic nominee for Wisconsin governor.

David Crowley 39.8%
315,278 Votes

Francesca Hong 39.3%
311,495 Votes

Kelda Roys 7.5%
59,438 Votes

Joel Brennan 4.7%
37,132 Votes

He narrowly defeated state Rep. Francesca Hong, a democratic socialist whose campaign had challenged the party establishment.

Crowley could also be called 'the comeback kid,' after suspending his at the time foundering campaign four weeks ago due to low poll ratings and scarce campaign funds.

After Wisconsin Lt. Gov. Sara Rodriguez dropped out the race last month amid controversial campaign finance discrepancies, Crowley relaunched his campaign and received the endorsement of outgoing Democratic Gov. Tony Evers in an effort to turn back the momentum by Hong.

If Crowley, 40, defeats Republican gubernatorial candidate and U.S. Rep. Tom Tiffany this

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Crowley attended a morning rally against his upcoming November general election opponent GOP U.S. Rep. Tom Tiffany at Sherman Phoenix, where he gave his victory speech (he didn't speak on election night).



Fellowship Open announces major AI project, 2026 youth beneficiaries

26th annual tournament, weekend of youth empowerment SOLD OUT!

The annual Fellowship Open Charity Golf Event, sold out for the 26th consecutive year, announced a major educational partnership along with this year's youth beneficiaries today.

"Building on our concentrated involvement with tech-based initiatives like Sports Analytics Club Program (SACP) and our commitment to staying ahead of industry

trends, we are collaborating extensively with nationally acknowledged t-Lab, our academic partner in accelerated learning," noted Fellowship Open President John W. Daniels III.

"Together, we are developing a tailored training curriculum designed to recruit, engage, and equip young students with proficiency in artificial intelligence.

Many of our significantly invested supporters are extremely excited about the advancement of this major educational and technological initiative with Microsoft.

The creation of this initiative speaks to the power and impact of the Fellowship Open and MKE Fellows initiative for Milwaukee youth."

While announcing the youth beneficiaries of this year's support, organizers have also released a schedule of events which includes a trip to the Obama Center in Chicago, and a round table chat with Dr. Trisha Bailey the 2026 Fellowship Open National Corporate Leadership Honoree.

Every year funds raised by the Fellowship Open are awarded to Milwaukee area youth-serving programs, initiatives, and organizations.

This year's awardees are: Sports Analytics club program (SACP) - the nationally acclaimed, project-based, data research curriculum designed to provide students entrée and stimulus to compete in the emerging technological workforce; Community Arts & Funk Festival - an annual free, family-friendly, cultural awareness event in Milwaukee celebrating visual and performing arts, funk music, and community unity featuring, art competition, local vendors, and youth performances at Davidson Park; Neu-Life Community Development - a Milwaukee-

based nonprofit that empowers youth and families through programs and career development, the arts, well-being, health, and life skills focusing on restorative practices and building personal accountability, and; Steam Open - a collaborative stem-based partnership between the MKE Fellows and Milwaukee School of Engineering, (MSOE) designed to educate and inspire Milwaukee area students in technological professions including coding and AI.

For 26 consecutive years, thousands of youngsters have been uplifted and empowered by these organizations and initiatives selected as awardees supported through your generosity.

The Fellowship Open Opening Night VIP Reception Kickoff takes place Thursday, August 20 at the Institute for the Preservation of African American Music and Arts (IPAMA), 3200 West Hampton Avenue.

The 25th annual Fellowship Open golf tournament event is scheduled for Friday, August 21, at Kettle Hills Golf Course in Richfield, WI. For more information visit www.fellowshipopen.org.

Valerie Daniels-Carter
President & CEO
V&J Holding Companies, Inc.
Legacy Honoree

Michele Hooper
President & CEO
The Directors' Council
National Corporate Leadership Honoree

Charly Palmer
American fine artist, illustrator, and graphic designer
National Change Agent Honoree

Chris Webber
American Former Basketball Player
Legends Honoree

www.fellowshipopen.org

Ray-Ban, Clicks and the OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation Provide Life-Changing Vision Care to Milwaukee Students

Over 200 Milwaukee Students Receive Free Eye Exams and Prescription Glasses

Two hundred, eleven Milwaukee-area students received the gift of clear sight during a two-day community vision clinic on August 8-9 hosted by Ray-Ban, Milwaukee retailer Clicks and the OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation.

Students identified through a partner school as needing vision care received comprehensive eye exams from licensed optometrists and, in most cases, left the clinic with their new prescription glasses the same day.

Supported by volunteers from Clicks, Ray-Ban and EssilorLuxottica, the clinic helped equip children with the clear vision they need to learn, grow and succeed in school.

The clinic reflects the shared commitment of the OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation and Ray-Ban to expand access to quality vision care alongside Clicks' dedication to addressing the unique needs of underserved children and families in Milwaukee.

By helping students see clearly, the partners are working to ensure more children can learn, thrive and reach their full potential.

"At Ray-Ban, we believe everyone deserves the opportunity to see clearly and reach their full potential," said Maria Colón, Vice President, Ray-Ban North America.

"We're proud to partner with Clicks and the OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation to help expand access to quality vision care

EssilorLuxottica volunteer Chris Misiur with one of the patients served at the recent two-day community vision clinic in Milwaukee.



and support Milwaukee students so they can start the school year with the clear vision they need to succeed."

"The Milwaukee community is deeply important to me and I'm proud to be from here. Giving back to our community has always been at the heart of Clicks," said Eric "Shake" James, Founder and Owner, Clicks.

"Partnering with Ray-Ban and the OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation allows us to invest in local students in a meaningful way.

Helping children see clearly isn't just about vision—it's about giving them the confidence and opportunity to succeed."

"Good vision opens the door to learning, confidence and opportunity," said Becky Palm, Executive Director, OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation, North America.

"When children can see clearly, they're better equipped to learn, participate in the classroom and engage fully in everyday life.

We're grateful to Ray-Ban, Clicks and our volunteers for helping make quality vision care accessible to more Milwaukee families."

To learn more about the OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation, the difference it is making in communities across the U.S. and around the world, and how you can support its mission to expand access to vision care, visit www.onesight-essilorluxottica.com.

Black Wisconsin to the DSA: "Not So Fast!"

Badger State's primary reinforces growing political truth: Black voters are rejecting the Democratic Socialists of America!

After Months of Primaries from NY to the Midwest Reveal Consistent Trend, National Black Empowerment Action Fund (NBEAF) Senior Advisor Darius Jones Emphasizes Black Voters Continue to Choose Results Over Rhetoric and Focus on Economic Advancement & Jobs, Lowering Costs, Safe Neighborhoods, Schools and Housing Over Ideological Rhetoric Best Left to the Faculty Lounge, Pushed by the DSA - and Its Base of Wealthy, White Gentrifiers.

Jones, a leading expert on national, Black politics declared that Black Wisconsin sent a message to the DSA Tuesday night: 'not so fast.'

"David Crowley's win is the latest evidence that Black voters are the bulwark against the rise of the DSA - which was dealt a significant blow last night.

"But this is not simply a Wisconsin story. It is another data point in a growing national divide between the priorities of Black working families and the politics being pushed by the DSA.

Jones said Wisconsin follows the same pattern seen in Missouri, where Black voters helped Congressman Wesley Bell decisively defeat a DSA-aligned candidate.

And while Abdul Al-Sayed, a DSA darling, eked out a slight victory in Michigan, it was without the support of deep-Black precincts.

"The DSA may be winning attention, endorsements and support from white, affluent, educated, progressive communities. But elections are ultimately won by building broad coalitions, and Black voters remain one of the most important constitu-

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Crowley makes history as first Black Dem nominee for Wisconsin governor

(continued from front page)

November, he will be the state's first Black governor.

Republicans see the fall election as a chance to flip the governor's mansion their way. Democrats hope to hold it and turn at least one chamber of the legislature, where both are now controlled by the GOP.

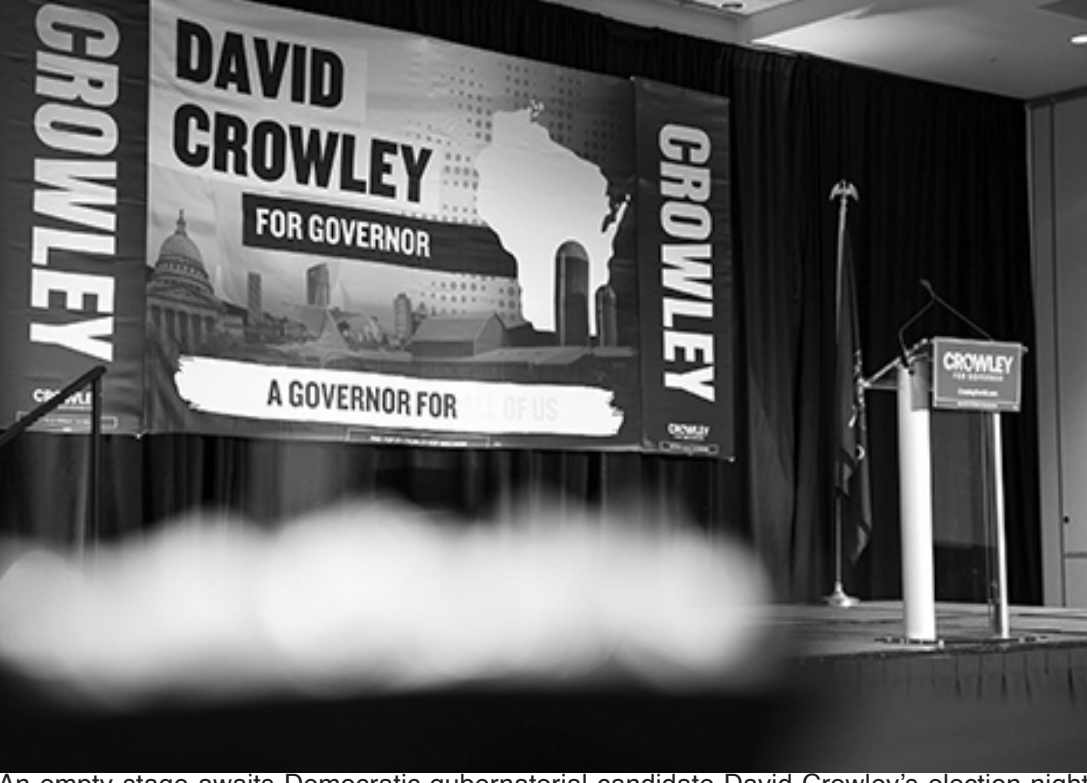
Crowley's supporters presented him as a more electable alternative to Hong, whose past statements about defunding police, abolishing prisons and canceling Thanksgiving would give Republicans some lines of attack as they geared up for November.

But Crowley chafed at being called an establishment alternative to a progressive upstart. He's a native of inner city Milwaukee, who grew up experiencing eviction and drug addiction in his family.

He rose through political positions, working on Democratic U.S. Sen. Russ Feingold's 2010 reelection campaign, before joining the state Assembly. In 2020, he became the youngest and first Black Milwaukee County executive.—National Public Radio.org

Other election results pertaining to Black MKE U.S. Congressional race—Dist. 4

Gwen Moore (D)	71.9%
81,709 Votes	
Tim Rogers (R)	80.8%
10,079 Votes	



An empty stage awaits Democratic gubernatorial candidate David Crowley's election night watch party Aug. 11, 2026, at the Hyatt Regency in Milwaukee. (Jonathan Aguilar/Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service/CatchLight Local)

7 takeaways from David Crowley's stunning win in the Democratic primary for governor!

A historically rare endorsement, a party hungry to win, a democratic socialist under fire: Here are some reasons for Crowley's surprising comeback.

Article courtesy of Wisconsin Watch

Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley's win over Madison Rep. Francesca Hong in Tuesday's gubernatorial primary was undoubtedly a shocking comeback.

In the last Marquette Law School Poll before the primary, Hong had 38% support compared with 7% for Crowley. But don't blame the polling!

That same poll showed former Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes with 16% support before he dropped out. Another 34% were undecided. The rapid pace of the modern news cycle means voters likely didn't even tune in until the final weeks.

We knew Democrats were sharply divided heading into Tuesday, but predicting precise results proved to be a fool's errand.

But now that we know the winner, here are some factors that might account for what happened.

A sitting governor's endorsement matters — a lot

There's no modern precedent — not since 1970 — for a sitting Wisconsin governor backing a candidate in their party's primary.

The lack of clear direction from the establishment allowed several candidates to hang around until Tuesday, but once Gov. Tony Evers started stumping for Crowley, conservative and moderate Democrats had clarity.

(continued on page 3)

Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin uses month of August to dispel myths and increase awareness and importance of ORGAN DONATION

By Thomas Mitchell, Jr.

A local blood and organ donor company is facing a tough challenge this August, which is National Multi-ethnic Donor Awareness Month: a decline in registered organ donors due to the withdrawal of organ donor families' afraid hospitals will prioritize harvesting organs over saving their loved one.

Wisconsin residents are removing themselves from the organ donor registry in record numbers. More than 3,600 Wisconsin residents removed themselves in just the last year, according to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

Registry removals are double and even triple the number from the same time from the previous year. The dramatic decline in potential donors can be attributed to several issues, but personal misgivings about medical care is most often cited.

Only 41% of Milwaukee County residents are registered organ, tissue, and eye donors, which is lower than 55.7% of Wisconsinites.

Residents in the 55-59-year-old age range in Milwaukee County are most likely to be registered, with 44% of them registered. Only 36% of first-time drivers in Milwaukee County are registered donors.



The shortage is especially acute among the families of potential Black organ donors. This is due—in part—because of racism Black Americans have suffered (and continue to suffer) at the hands of the medical establishment that goes back to the founding of the nation.

Overall, roughly 1,500 people are actively waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant. One-third of these individuals belong to diverse and multicultural communities. African Americans make up the largest minority group on the state's transplant waiting lists, and the vast majority of these candidates reside within Milwaukee County and the surrounding southeastern counties.

In addition, African American, Hispanic, and other minority communities experience disproportionately higher rates of hypertension and diabetes, driving up the need for renal (kidney) and other organ interventions.

According to the National Institute of Health (NIH), Black Americans suffer disproportionately from kidney disease compared to White Americans (four times more—5,855 cases per million for Black Americans compared to 1,704 cases per million for white Americans).

For diabetes, Black American adults are about 60 percent more likely to be diagnosed with the disease than White Americans.

According to data from the American Diabetes Association and the Office

of Minority Health (OMH), roughly 12.1 to 12.2 percent of non-Hispanic Black adults suffer from diabetes, compared to about 6.9 percent to 7.1 percent of non-Hispanic White adults.

These statistics make the need for organs even more critical, said Colleen McCarthy, vice president of Versiti Organ and Tissue at Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin, which oversees blood and organ donations in Milwaukee and Southeast Wisconsin.

McCarthy and Versiti believes the yearly observance helps to dispel many of the myths and misconceptions about organ donation, while increasing awareness about the need for more African Americans to become organ donors.

Versiti's Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) is one of the federally designated, non-profit organizations in the U.S. responsible for recovering organs and tissues for life-saving transplants.

An OPO performs several critical functions to facilitate the gift of life: 1) Evaluating Potential Donors: Assessing medical suitability for organ and tissue donation after a severe medical event or death occurs 2) Family Support: Guiding and supporting grieving families through the donation process and offering aftercare. 3) Organ Allocation & Recovery: Managing the clinical care of the donor, coordinating with hospital staff, and allocating recovered organs to patients on the national transplant waiting list.

"Organ donation is a very personal decision for a family to consider," said McCarthy. "They're experiencing grief...loss. It's difficult to make a clear decision."

As noted earlier, the main reason for the withdrawal of donors is the question of whether the hospital will do all they can to save the life of a loved one—the patient.

McCarthy stressed hospital staff are dedicated to saving lives and will do all they can to do so, holding off any request by Versiti's OPO team to ask the family to consider organ donation until all methods of saving the life of a patient are completely, utterly exhausted.

"We don't want families to feel as if they're not supported, or their loved one not cared for," said McCarthy.

One Black Milwaukeean who received the gift of an organ transplant—kidneys from a person who was declared brain dead—was Kobena-Marcus Collins, who received his new organs in January of 2022. Collins expressed his gratefulness to the family for making the decision that saved his life.

Noting that the best organ matches are those in which the donor and recipi-

(continued on page 4)

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN

COMING AND PAST HAPPENINGS IN AND OUTSIDE OF YOUR COMMUNITY!

Sickle Cell Warriors to hold two events to bring greater awareness and information about Sickle Cell Anemia disease

September 3rd and 5th will be packed with information and inspiration when the Sickle Cell Warriors of Wisconsin hold two important events focusing on Sickle Cell Anemia, one of the most formidable diseases impacting African Americans and people of color.

On Thursday, September 3, the Sickle Cell Warriors will present, 'Wisconsin Sickle Cell Summit 2026!'

The theme is, 'Shaping the Future of Sickle Cell Care Through Leadership, Innovation, and Collaboration!'

The summit's goal is to unite leaders, researchers, healthcare professionals, advocates, and families to build a stronger future for Wisconsin warriors.

The summit will be from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Baird Center (North building), 405 W. Kilbourn Ave.

During the Summit, the Sickle Cell Warriors will hold a Community Blood Drive at the Baird Center, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Appointments are preferred, but

walk-ins will be welcomed.

For an appointment, call 1-800-Red Cross (1-800-733-2767) or visit Red-CrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code: SickleCellMKE.

As an added health insight, the American Red Cross is offering free Sickle Cell Trait screenings to donors.

Individuals who participate in the blood drive will receive a \$20 amazon.com gift card by email.

rcblood.org/scpromo.

For more information about either event, go to sicklecellmke.org.

On Saturday, September 5, the Sickle Cell Warriors will hold the 'Walk to Break the Sickle Cycle,' at Di-

neen Park, 6901 W. Vienna Ave., from 11 a.m. to

3 p.m.

The event helps to create greater awareness, educate, inspire and empower individuals about the disease.

Participants who are dealing with Sickle Cell personally, or have friends or family who are, should come out and help build awareness one mile at a time.



Seven takeaways from David Crowley's stunning win in the Democratic primary for governor!

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Also worth noting: Evers is still relatively popular. The Marquette Poll found 47% of all voters had a favorable view compared with 43% who had an unfavorable view (most politicians these days are under water).

His job approval was at 51%. And 36% of likely Democratic primary voters said Evers' endorsement made it more likely they would support Crowley.

Democrats want to win

When Democrats were desperate to defeat Gov. Scott Walker in 2018, they nominated the moderate old white guy.

That became a blueprint for winning the 2020 presidential election as well. After electing five Supreme Court justices and knocking on the door of a legislative majority this fall, they don't want to blow a once-in-a-generation chance to enact their agenda (i.e. reversing Act 10, accepting Medicaid expansion, protecting abortion access, boosting public schools).

Hong spent the last two weeks of the primary as the presumptive nominee and faced an avalanche of negative press about her past social media statements about defunding the police and canceling Thanksgiving.

Whether you like those views or not, they're not moderate. But Wisconsin general election voters generally are.

It's possible that's what kept progressives like U.S. Sens. Tammy Baldwin and Bernie Sanders and U.S. Reps. Mark Pocan and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez on the sidelines.

One other consideration: Crowley has been running Milwaukee County government for six years. A primary is like a job interview, and Crowley's resume was a better fit for the traditional notion of what a governor does.

Huge turnout

There were nearly 800,000 votes cast in the Democratic primary this year. In 2018 there were 538,000 votes cast.

Evers won about 42% that year. Crowley won just shy of 40%.

There was some speculation that Republicans would cross over and vote for Hong in the primary to help U.S. Rep. Tom Tiffany.

But in the final weekend top Republicans, including Walker, were discouraging that strategy because of concerns about a democratic socialist winning in November.

Whether that was more bluster aimed at pushing voters into Hong's column ... doesn't really matter any more.

Hong won Dane County, Crowley won Milwaukee County — but not by much

Neither candidate ran up the scoreboard on their home turf. But that's likely because there are moderate and progressive Democrats all over.

Some noted Sen. Kelda Roys' strong showing in Dane County might have cost Hong progressive votes. Roys received about 10,000 fewer votes than she did in 2018.

Hong also polled much better among young voters, and she appeared to do well in counties with University of Wisconsin campuses like Eau Claire, La Crosse, Kenosha and Winnebago, but undergraduates don't return until the end of August.

Black voters are mobilizing in 2026

Black voters are a small (about 5% of the general electorate) but important voting bloc for Democrats. When they stay home, Republicans have a better shot of winning statewide elections.

When they mobilize, Democrats like Barack Obama win Wisconsin by double digits.

There's some evidence that Republican attempts to dismantle majority-Black voting districts for the sake of picking up House seats in the South are mobilizing voters there.

Elections are nationalizing, and what

mobilizes a voting bloc in one part of the country could be mobilizing them everywhere. In Milwaukee County there were 151,000 votes cast, up from 113,000 in 2018.

Worth noting: Crowley would be Wisconsin's first Black governor. The United States has only ever had six Black men serve as governor. Only Maryland Gov. Wes Moore is serving currently.

Betting markets on the governor's race have flipped

In the weeks before the election, Tiffany had overtaken a generic Democratic candidate in the betting markets (which Wisconsin voters can't legally participate in) with a 60% chance of winning.

As it became clear that Crowley had a chance of beating Hong on Tuesday night, the market flipped to 78% in favor of Crowley.

Another easily preventable late Milwaukee ballot count

Ballot-counting errors happen. When elections are blowouts, no one notices. When they're close, every little misstep gets overblown.

Milwaukee didn't report its final absentee ballot count until early Wednesday morning.

There was a mistake in downloading data from vote tabulators. There's no evidence that votes were tampered with or changed. Republicans still pounced on the delay as evidence of something suspicious.

It's worth noting that Republicans are also the ones who have refused to pass a clean bill that would allow absentee ballots to be processed starting on the Monday before an election.

That would likely prevent the kind of hyperventilating that happens when a winner isn't known before the 10 o'clock news.

Wisconsin Watch is a nonprofit, nonpartisan newsroom. Subscribe to our newsletters for original stories and our Friday news roundup.



TRIPPIN'

Coming Home to Milwaukee After 12 Years an Arizonian
By Yolanda D. White Poullard

Things Wisconsin Remembered That Arizona Forgot

- The weather argues with itself every ten minutes.
- Sitting outside and having complete strangers start hour-long conversations.
- Porches actually being used for talking instead of decoration.
- Fireflies instead of scorching sunsets.
- The sound of crickets, katydids, cicadas—even frogs—at night.
- The smell after a summer rain.
- Streets that carry your memories as much as your directions.

- Running into someone who remembers who you used to be.
- Festivals everywhere—Summerfest,



- neighborhood festivals, church festivals.
- Giant old trees that make shade worth sitting in.
- Humidity that makes you complain...and then somehow miss it.
- Looking at a corner and remembering who stood there in 1984.
- Being able to tell stories that begin with, "Right over there..."
- Hearing accents that sound like home.
- The way people linger instead of rushing from air conditioning to air conditioning.
- Seeing Black history woven into ordinary places instead of having to search for it.
- Lake air that changes the whole mood of a day.

- Old brick neighborhoods that have out-lived generations.
 - Conversations that wander without needing a destination.
 - People who ask your story before they ask what you do.
 - Feeling recognized, even by people you've never met.
 - A sky with clouds that seem to have personalities.
 - Real seasons leaving their fingerprints on everything.
 - Discovering that home isn't always where you live.
 - Realizing that sometimes you have to leave home to understand what home gave you.
- Up Next...TSA and Metal Plates**

NOTICE

Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) is requesting proposals for **Testing, Repairing and Recharging Fire Extinguishers and Fire Suppression Systems at Various Sites**, 1124 N. 11th Street, Milwaukee, WI. Project scope, proposal requirements and guidelines may be obtained online at: <https://mps.aegraphics.com/>. **THEN:**

1. Click on "All Public Jobs".
2. Search for the project listed above.
3. **OR** paper copies may be obtained from 7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.; Monday through Friday from A/E Graphics, Inc.; 4075 North 124th Street, Brookfield, WI 53005; phone (262) 781-7744; fax (262) 781-4250. Call A/E Graphics, Inc. for availability of proposal documents.

MPS HUB and Student Employment / Participation requirements are as stated within the proposal documents.

A virtual pre-proposal meeting will be held at 10:00 AM on Thursday, August 13, 2026. Refer to the RFP for log-in instructions.

All questions should be submitted in writing prior to 12:00 PM on Thursday, August 20, 2026 to DFMSPProcurement@milwaukeepublicschools.org. No questions will be answered after that date and time. No questions will be answered verbally. No verbal information from any source is to be relied upon by any respondent in the development of their response to the RFP. Written questions and responses will be documented by way of addenda, which will be forwarded to all bidders.

Submit all proposals, as stated within the proposal document instructions, no later than 3:00 PM on Thursday, August 27, 2026.

FIRST SUNDAY

MKE Community Journal's Religion Section



RIGHTS & RITUALS: Black Women and the Sage We Breathe

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.—Revelation 22:1-2

After spearheading four months of collective discernment with the congregation of Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C., my co-lead and I established the Immigration

Ministry in June last year while celebrating National Caribbean American Heritage Month. Marking our one-year anniversary with our ministry's first Annual Day on Sunday, June 7 was momentous.

The formal ministry has become part of the historic work of liberation in the life of the Metropolitan and the AME denomination.

I cherish the memories of my conversations with the late Bishop Reginald Jackson, in his role as chair of the AME Social Action Commission, and of his decision to elevate immigration justice to the

Commission's national agenda.

Bishop Francine Brookins continues this elevation in her inspirational leadership of the Commission.

In 2025, Bishop Jackson convened the "Somebody Ought to Say Something Press Conference" in Metropolitan's sanctuary to issue a call to action in response to presidential executive orders. During her remarks, Atty. Sherrilyn Ifill pointed to the need to respond to government actions against immigrants.

Noting the AME Connectional structure and members

Gov. Evers, WHEDA Announce \$50 Million in Affordable Housing Loan Program Awards to Support the Creation of Nearly 1,900 Affordable Housing Units Statewide

Awards build on Evers Administration efforts to expand access to safe, reliable, affordable housing, supporting over 35,000 affordable housing units since 2019

Gov. Tony Evers, together with the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA), today announced \$50 million to support 22 new housing developments across 10 counties, creating nearly 1,900 workforce housing units in communities across the state.

The funding is provided by the Vacancy-to-Vitality, Infrastructure Access, and Restore Main Street loan programs, which were created through bipartisan legislation signed by Gov. Evers in 2023 and supported by \$525 million—the largest state investment in workforce housing in state history—provided by the 2023-25 Biennial Budget.

To date, these three programs have supported nearly 3,500 housing units statewide, building on the Evers Administration's longstanding efforts to ex-

pand access to affordable housing.

All told, since 2019, more than 35,000 housing units have been built to address the needs of Wisconsin's workforce, seniors, families, and communities.

"Expanding access to safe, stable, and affordable housing is a key part of our work to support kids and families, strengthen our communities, and grow our state's workforce," said Gov. Evers.

"I'm proud of our efforts to build affordable housing statewide—to the tune of over 35,000 new units—that will help communities grow, and workers, families, and seniors thrive. Together, we are building the future we want to see for folks and communities across our state."

In April 2026, Gov. Evers signed additional bipartisan legislation, making specific modifications to the Vacancy-to-Vitality, Infrastructure Access, and Restore Main Street loan programs to make them more effective in expanding affordable housing options across the state.

Including this round of awards, WHEDA has diligently administered more than \$76.5 million of the available loan funding.

"Affordable housing is challenging to fund and build," said WHEDA Executive Director and CEO Elmer Moore Jr. "These loans make a difference in getting needed projects to the finish line."

National Multiethnic Donor Awareness Month and the importance of Organ Donation

(continued from page 2)

ient share the same ethnic background, Collins said he is very committed to increasing the number of Black Americans on the donor list.

"People think the organ donation experience is cold," Collins said, quickly adding that such a decision is a very impactful moment for a family like the one that donated the kidneys Collins received.

Collins said if it hadn't been for the family and their decision, he would not have had a chance to earn a Brown Belt in Karate. "(Organ transplant) changes people's lives and what they can do."

Collins was diagnosed with kidney failure several years ago and avoided dialysis until his condition was so bad, if he hadn't started dialysis when he did, he would have been dead in two days.

Before his eventual kidney transplant Collins was trapped in a cycle of dialysis, a process that filters waste, extra salt, and water from a person's blood when 80 to 90 percent of their kidney function is lost (end-stage kidney disease).

The process requires kidney patients to go to a clinic three times a week for three to four hours per session or do it at home. He described dialysis as a "taxing" experience, preventing him from spending quality time with his family.

McCarthy also noted another reason individuals and their families opt out of organ donation: its a highly reg-

ulated, ethical process, which includes transplant safeguards and strict health requirements for the potential donor.

McCarthy and Collins noted the Versity project, which brings together the "Divine Nine," the nine major Black fraternities and sororities in the nation, to express the importance of organ donations and transplants.

Versity also has a traveling multimedia exhibition titled, "LifeLine: The Ultimate Bond."

This community-focused art and storytelling project aims to increase organ and tissue donor registration, specifically addressing health disparities and dispelling myths within Black, Indigenous, and communities of color.

The exhibition includes:

- Multimedia Artwork: Created and contributed by talented Wisconsin-based African American artists.

- Personal Testimonies: Showcases moving survival and donation accounts from members of Milwaukee's "Divine Nine" historically Black Greek-letter organizations.

- Interactive Data: Features supplemental statistics and digital mapping highlighting the real-world need for organ transplants in the region.

- Collaborative Partners: Developed alongside groups like Donate Life Wisconsin, America's Black Holocaust Museum, and UMOs.

"For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."

—2 Timothy 1:7

in the Caribbean and Africa, she asked, "Or do we think that has nothing to do with us?"

Metropolitan boldly answered. Our immigration ministry focuses on interventions through faith-rooted advocacy, grassroots activation, and rapid-response participation; the embodiment of welcome and creative education and awareness; and revisioning and building new systems of support and resilience.

Every act of ministry—a blooming fruit on branches of love in the sacred tree of life extending across borders.

As a daughter of Caribbean immigrants, I see this ministry grow organically from my heart. In the face of detractors, saboteurs, naysayers, mischief-makers, disbelievers who claim that immigration is a black issue, and gatekeeping bars constructed by haughty spirits, our ministry flows with spiritual defiance and depth,

like a river of the water of life in the middle of the streets of our communities.

Like the miraculous rivers of Windward Island folklore of the revolutionary and healer Queen Nanny of the Maroons, who escaped a plantation and established the first com-

"From legacies of medicine women like Queen Nanny, in the face of colonizers who dehumanize and demonize, we continue to clear the bush of the pathogens of white supremacy and systemic greed, the exploitation of the vulnerable, and the weaponization of faith."

munity of Jamaican freedom fighters along a 900-foot precipice in the mountains.

From legacies of medicine women like Queen Nanny, in the face of colonizers who dehumanize and demonize, we continue to clear the bush of the pathogens of white supremacy and systemic greed, the exploitation of the vulnerable, and the weaponization of

faith.

We have always been humble, passionate vanguards of justice and equity, from the hush harbors of our ancestors to our sanctuaries today. Burning sage. Finding sage. Being sage. Breathing sage. Each of us—a leaf of healing.

Dora is the principal of Creative Grace, LLC, and founder of The AWARE Project (Advocacy for Women's Activism, Rights & Empowerment). She is the Ambassador to Women for the Institute of Caribbean Studies and a consultant at Theologies of CARE at Faith in Public Life.

The post Rights & Rituals: Black Women and the Sage We Breathe appeared first on The Christian Recorder.

Based on reporting by The Christian Recorder.

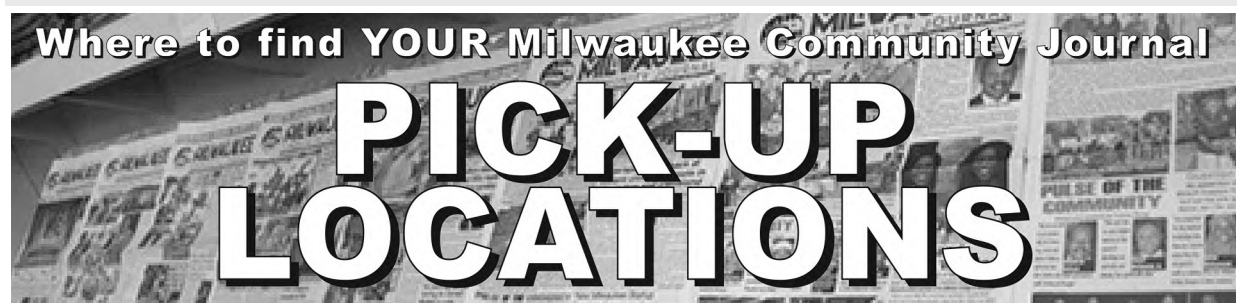
A busy summer continues at Brentwood

The Brentwood Church of Christ is inviting the community to join them for their annual 'Community Day,' Saturday, August 22, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the church's grounds and parking lot, located at 6425 N. 60th St.

Families, friends, and neighbors are encouraged to come out and enjoy a celebration that is safe, fun, and welcoming. There will be free food (hot dogs, chips, water, and ice cream—while supplies last!). Food vendors will be on hand to provide food that must be purchased.

There will be a bike giveaway, horseback rides, bounce house, face painting, arts and crafts stations, games, activities, giveaways, wellness and community vendors, live music and entertainment, free bak-to-school supplies and clothes (while supplies last).

There will also be information on government resources available; as well as information from private agencies. For more information, call 414-353-6757.



Milwaukee Community Journal Office-3612 N. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive

Milwaukee County Courthouse-901 N. 9th Street

Milwaukee City Hall-200 E. Wells Street

Milwaukee Public Library/Central Branch-814. W. Wisconsin Ave.

Milwaukee Public Library/Atkinson Branch-1960 W. Atkinson Ave.

Milwaukee Public Library/Martin Luther King Branch-2767 N. MLK, Jr. Drive (new library currently under construction)

Milwaukee Area Technical College/Downtown MKE Campus-700 W. State St.

University Wisconsin-Milwaukee Student Center-3210 N. Maryland Ave.

Beans & Barley-1901 E. North Ave.

Knapp Senior Citizen Apartments-Knapp Street

Arlington Court Senior Citizen Public Housing-1633 N. Arlington Place

Lapham Square Apt.-1901 N. 6th Street

BMO Bank-2745 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Drive

St. Ann's Milwaukee/Bucyrus Campus-2450 W. North Ave.

YWCA 1915 N. Dr. MLK, Jr. Drive

Walgreens 2826 N. Dr. MLK, Jr. Drive

Coffee Makes You Black-2803 N. Teutonia Ave.

PICK N' SAVE STORES/MILWAUKEE-BROWN DEER-GLENDALE

North 35th street location-2355 N. 35th St.

Midtown location-5700 W. Capitol Drive East Garfield location-1100 E. Garfield St.

East Point location-605 E. Lyon Street Brown Deer location-120 W. Brown Deer Rd.

Glendale location-1735 W. Silver Spring Dr.

GALST GROCERY STORES

Galst Foods at 1622 W. North Ave. Galst Foods at 4030 N. Teutonia Ave.

BP Gas Station-807 W. Atkinson Ave.

Sids Barber Shop-2420 W. Hopkins St.

CHURCHES

Mt. Calvary-2959 N. Teutonia Ave.

Mt. Zion Assembly-4300 N. Green Bay Ave.

St. Matthew CME-2944 N. 9th St.

Progressive Baptist-8324 W. Keefe Ave. Greater Galilee-2432 N. Teutonia Ave.

St. Mark AME-1616 W. Atkinson Ave. Ephesians Missionary Baptist-510 W. Meinecke Ave.

All Saints Catholic Church-4015 N. 26th St.

Ebenezer Worship Center 3132 N. Dr. MLK Drive

Holy Redeemer Church of God in Christ-3500 W. Mother Daniels Way

**WE HAVE
BLACK MILWAUKEE'S
ATTENTION!**



Local activist and mentor Lawton Merritt has written an informative—albeit shocking—book that details an all-encompassing subculture of drugs and violence that is destroying the lives of thousands of young Black men and women.

Titled ‘Percs: King of Da Streets,’ the short (62-page) book paints an alarming portrait of the large-scale drug scene that is influencing the future of too many Black youth who are caught up in an ethos that leads to addiction, prison and death.

While crack and other street drugs were yesterday’s great evils, today they may have been overrun by Percs (Percocets), Fentanyl and ‘Leans,’ a reference to a street concoction that serves as an introduction to other drugs.

‘King of Da Streets’ is an informational resource, a counseling guide, and a community appeal to youth caught up in the drug community. It also focuses on avenues to intercept and redirect the lives of drug consumers and merchants.

The book “ain’t just a title, it’s a mission, a lifeline and warning; it’s a call to action,” Lawton explains.

Written in street slang and providing hard facts, Lawton speaks not from ‘both sides of the glass.’

Drugs, like guns, are flooding the community by design, he explained; thus we are both victim and victimizer.

The strong allure of money and a hammer to break the glass ceiling have been the dual motivations of the powers-that-be to neutralize

AODA counselor’s new book focuses on subculture of drugs, violence in community!



“Today, our community is under what he called a ‘strategic assault.’ We aren’t just fighting a drug; we are fighting a (top-down) systemic trap designed by corporate ghosts and fueled by a culture that has rebranded slow-motion suicide as ‘fashion’...” —Lawton Merritt (insert photo above)

our successes. It is not a coincidence that while drugs have been allowed to flood our community, educational opportunities have been stunted.

The media brainwash our youth, indoctrinating them to believe they are ‘niggers’ (n-word) and bitches (b-word), uncivilized and uneducated savages.

“For 20 years, I sat in the rooms you don’t hear about: clinical reviews, provider meetings, and crisis stabilization centers. I’ve directed programs for youth and counseled those trapped in the cycle of AODA.

“I have the degrees, the certifications and titles.

“But I also have a ledger written in scars.”

“Today, our community is under what he called a ‘strategic assault.’

“We aren’t just fighting a

drug; we are fighting a (top-down) systemic trap designed by corporate ghosts and fueled by a culture that has rebranded slow-motion suicide as ‘fashion,’ “he lamented.

“Whether it’s the fentanyl laced into a \$10

bill or the slow poison of a chemically treated blunt wrap, the game is rigged to liquidate your potential before you even realize you have it.”

In lay people’s terms, Lawton sees a drug disease that influences Black youth, starting with peer-pressured sharing of blunts, to the introduction of Lean (a mixture of soda and cocaine-infused cough syrup).

Next comes the new ‘glamour drug’, Percocets, a narcotic that is also sometimes infused with fentanyl, not only a serious combination, but one that frequently ends with death.

Many dealers, Lawton revealed, are themselves people with an addiction, who find they can’t maintain the expense of self-medication, and turn to selling.

An alarming conclusion to

this cycle (aside from death) is imprisonment.

Lawton recounts a conversation with a young prison inmate who provided a perfect example of a user/seller who spent as much as he made.

An inmate named ‘Keywon’ followed the worn-out path of innocent victim to a place among the middle of the food chain dealers.

Responding to Lawton’s inquiry about the meaning of a new drug called ‘Roller’, Keywon opened up about his own experience.

Rollers, Keywon explained, “are street pills---meth, fentanyl, caffeine, cocaine, and cutting agent—all pressed together. You never know what you’re getting. It’s different every time.”

Keywon’s lifestyle crashed with his upscale ‘dealership,’ leading to stints in prison.

In the morning, he would consume Percs (\$60), ‘Tussin’ cough syrup (\$200 to \$300), and cigarettes (which today cost as much as many other

drugs.

The evening consisted of dropping several Percs, Rollers, Adderall and ‘Lean.’

The daily cost of his addiction was \$530, which adds up to a monthly cost of \$14,800. Annually, that amounts to the average cost of a central city house.

Drugs paid for his elaborate lifestyle and addiction. Still, in the end, the young victim/victimizer could not afford to bail himself out of jail when caught (as most intermediate-level drug dealers will eventually find out).

“Where did the money go?” Lawton asked.

“I tricked that money off many times and couldn’t get out. I didn’t know I was that reckless. That money could’ve gone to my kids, a house and all kinds of stuff. I missed too much of my daughter’s life. My family sees me like a dope fiend. I’m ashamed.”

The allure of a lavish lifestyle, drugs, and the women (who go with those temptations) are traps that often end in prison, or worse.

Few dealers see beyond the big cars, high-priced Jordans, and large wads of cash.

None of the dealers realize their ‘careers’ can be shortened by gold-plated handcuffs.

In the beginning it’s “all about partying, fun, sex and coping,” Keywon explained. “They see the Big Homie in the Benz truck, making thousands in minutes and cars rolling up to pay.

“Man, they’re working the ‘game’ from every angle, buying pill presses and keeping fresh ‘scripts’ on the Lean; selling pints for around \$4,000.”

Lawton, who is on a mission to educate both the victim and victimizer on what he calls a national scheme to destroy the Black community, provides a dictionary of drugs, including many I was totally unaware of.

Ironically, many innocent Black teens who can’t recite the Black national anthem (nor read the instructions on a bottle of aspirin) can tell you the names of drugs, and how to cop them.

The counselor/interceptor also noted that marijuana use is

so pervasive in the Black community that businesses and schools are undertaking processes to warn parent(s) of the impact on children.

Toward that end, ‘King of Da Streets’ includes a letter sent to parent(s) by Mac’s Childcare:

“Please be advised that the staff at Mac’s Childcare have smelled some of you ‘out.’ What you do in your leisure (time) is none of our concern. However, when your habit follows you into our facility, it then becomes a problem.

Please, before you drop your child and/or children off, ‘smell check;’ if you come into our facility and you or your child smells like marijuana or any other illegal substance, we will call CPS or the police...we apologize for being so BLUNT!”

Lawton uses his position as a free-flowing Lone Ranger to intervene between young victims and dealers. He also seeks to help dealers jump off the drug ‘Wheel of Fortune’.

I found Lawton’s book, one in a series he is publishing, very enlightening. And scary. And upsetting.

In some respects, the book aged me.

I thought I was up to date on what’s happening in our community, and as such knew we had an ever-evolving drug subculture.

But when I went through his definitions of street slang, I had to come to grips with the fact that I’m not as in touch as much as I thought.

And leave no doubt that we are in a war, not just for our youth who are caught in the middle, but for the very soul of what we once called ‘our community.’

Sadly, it’s a battle we are losing because there are not enough Lawtons out here. Nor are there enough parents to warn or interject before their offspring see another ‘daddy’ (beyond the one who is MIA) who will provide them with a ‘snip-snip’ to get them started.

The allure of drugs---starting with weed (do they still call it weed?) is a door hinge. Little do the victims realize what’s on the other side of that door.

Hotep.

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“Milwaukee Black Legacy Families,” retail site.

“NOT SO FAST DSA!”: *Badger State’s primary reinforces growing political truth: Black voters are rejecting the Democratic Socialists of America!*

(continued from page 2)

encies in the Democratic coalition. That is why we should stop confusing activist energy with voter sentiment. And the DSA’s rhetoric and policies stand in direct opposition to what Black voters want: which is results focused on economic advancement, home ownership, safe neighborhoods, good schools we choose for our kids, and officials aligned with our needs, not academic theory best left to the faculty lounge and an obsessive focus on the Middle East, over the Midwest.

An obsession with Gaza and politically correct mumbo jumbo doesn’t ensure Black families are living in a neighborhood free of guns and gangs or can buy their first home or start a business.

“The National Black Empowerment Action Fund will continue organizing, educating and empowering Black voters

to demand more from our political leaders.

Our communities deserve results over rhetoric, opportunity over ideology and a politics centered on the future of Black families.”

The Wisconsin gubernatorial race tells an important story about where Democratic voters are today.

Crowley’s victory was anchored by Milwaukee’s Majority-Black North Side. Milwaukee County, where 27% of residents are Black, was central to his voter turnout, as were Racine and Kenosha, where Black residents make up 12.3% and 8% of the population.

Meanwhile, Hong’s strongest support came from heavily white, college-oriented far-far-left progressive communities, like Dane County, home to Madison and UW-Madison, which is

74.5% White and just 6.1% Black.

These results underscore a growing disconnect. The communities that remain central to the Democratic coalition, particularly Black and working-class voters, are not moving in the same direction as the party’s increasingly influential progressive activist base.

National Black Empowerment Action Fund (NBEAF) is an advocacy organization focused on ensuring that congressional representation of Black communities is held accountable and meets the actual needs of the communities.

Through public education, voter mobilization and participation, and advocating for common-sense policies, NBEAF aims to transform policy in America to meaningfully improve quality of life for Black Americans.

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THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING US
TO FEEL THE PULSE OF YOUR
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5



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