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SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

May 27 - June 2, 2021

100 Years After Tulsa Race Massacre The Damage Remains

By Aaron Morrison



This photo provided by the Department of Special Collections, McFarlin Library, The University of Tulsa shows the ruins of Dunbar Elementary School and the Masonic Hall in the aftermath of the June 1, 1921, Tulsa Race Massacre in Tulsa, Okla. (Department of Special Collections, McFarlin Library, The University of Tulsa via AP)

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — On a recent Sunday, Ernestine Alpha Gibbs returned to Vernon African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Not her body. She had left this Earth 18 years ago, at age 100. But on this day, three generations of her family brought

Ernestine's keepsakes back to this place which meant so much to her. A place that was, like their matriarch, a survivor of a long-ago atrocity.

Albums containing black-and-white photos of the grocery business that has employed generations of Gibbses. VHS cassette

tapes of Ernestine reflecting on her life. Ernestine's high school and college diplomas, displayed in not-so-well-aged leather covers.

The diplomas were a point of pride. After her community was leveled by white rioters in 1921 -- after the gunfire, the

arson, the pillaging -- the high school sophomore temporarily fled Tulsa with her family. "I thought I would never, ever, ever come back," she said in a 1994 home video.

But she did, and somehow found a happy ending.

"Even though the riot

took away a lot, we still graduated," she said, a smile spreading across her face. "So, we must have stayed here and we must have done all right after that."

Not that the Gibbs family had it easy. And not that Black Tulsa ever really recovered from the dev-

astation that took place 100 years ago, when nearly every structure in Greenwood, the fabled Black Wall Street, was flattened -- aside from Vernon AME.

The Tulsa Race Massacre is just one of the

Continue **Tulsa** Page 4



With the Historic Vernon African Methodist Episcopal Church at foreground left, Interstate 244 cuts through the middle of historic Greenwood neighborhood of Tulsa, Okla., on Monday, May 24, 2021. . (AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki)



This photo provided by the Department of Special Collections, McFarlin Library, The University of Tulsa shows an unidentified man standing alone amid the ruins of what is described as his home in Tulsa, Okla., in the aftermath of the June, 1, 1921, (Department of Special Collections, McFarlin Library, The University of Tulsa via AP)



This photo provided by Carolyn Roberts of the Gibbs family shows Tulsa Race Massacre survivor Ernestine Alpha Gibbs in her 1923 high school graduation photo in Tulsa, Okla. (Courtesy Carolyn Roberts via AP)



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EDITORIAL PAGE

‘How Did 12 Percent of Black Men vote for Trump?’

By **Stacy M. Brown**, NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent@StacyBrownMedia

Juan Williams posited that he’s a Black man born in a Latin country and grew up in a Spanish-speaking family.

The author and Fox News political analyst then stated a head-scratching fact that many still find difficult to rationalize.

“It stuns me to see that President Trump set a record last week by attracting the highest percentage of the non-white vote of any Republican presidential candidate in the last 60 years,” Williams wrote in an editorial for the Hill.

Perhaps most stunning, lamented Williams, “How did 12 percent of Black men vote for Trump?”

Although an overwhelming majority of Black men, 80%, voted for President-elect Joe Biden, support for the Democratic presidential ticket reached a new low among Black men in 2020, according to the NBC News poll of early and Election Day voters.

In the same poll, 8% of Black male voters were reported to have cast their ballots for alternative candidates.

In Barack Obama’s first presidential campaign, of all Blacks casting ballots, 95 percent of Black men and 96 percent of Black women chose him, NBC News reported.

Four years later, Black women’s support remained at 96 percent for Obama’s 2012 re-election. However, the black male vote decreased to 87 percent.

In 2016, when the nominee was Hillary Clinton, Black men dropped even further to 82 percent, while

Black women’s support for Clinton remained high at 94 percent. Biden came close to matching that this year, garnering the support of 91 percent of Black women.

“It’s a trust issue. I view the Black community’s relationship with the Democratic Party, for example, as sort of like a domestic violence relationship,” Demetre Coles, a 25-year-old African American who lives in Waterbury, Conn., told NPR.

Coles told the outlet he voted for Green Party candidate Howie Hawkins because Coles couldn’t connect with Democrats or Republicans.

“We’ve been giving our vote to them loyally for 55, 60 years, and we have got nothing in return,” Coles remarked. And as for the Republican Party, I don’t feel as if they care about me at all. It’s just more blatant.”

While Coles expressed a reason for casting his ballot for an alternative candidate who had virtually no chance to win, his declaration didn’t explain why so many other Black men voted for Trump.

“Black men are hurting. Political parties mostly forget them, and then there’s this anger — whether it’s right or misguided — towards Biden for the 1994 Crime Bill,” said Unique Tolliver, a New York-based mathematician.

The 1994 Crime Bill, which was authored by then Senator Biden, and signed by President Bill Clinton, was crafted to



address rising crime in the United States. The law contained numerous crime prevention provisions, including the controversial “three strikes” mandatory life sentences for repeat violent offenders.

The law, which also called for funding community policing and prisons, disproportionately punished African American men, and most observers said it caused mass incarceration.

“But, what Black people [today] fail to understand is that, at the time, there were all of these Black people, including the clergy, who supported the bill,” said Lenora Turner, a California-based psychologist.

“So, with Black men still smarting over that bill and holding it against Biden, and Trump repeatedly spreading the falsehood of how much he’s done for the Black community, you had quite the storm brewing among Black male voters,” Turner offered.

“You also had respected strong Black men like Ice Cube — even though he said he didn’t endorse Trump — swaying Black

men. I know that makes it sound like Black men don’t have a mind of their own, but think about what Ice Cube came out and said. He said the Democrats told him we’d talk later while Trump ‘listened’ and agreed to institute some of Cube’s initiatives in the President’s overall plan.”

Still, as Juan Williams noted in his editorial, Trump’s racism toward Blacks and Latinos is so well-established. “It’s sad to say, but a lot of Black and Latino voters, especially the men, got distracted by Trump’s boasts and bling,” said Williams.

Half of all Americans in a June 2020 YouGov/Yahoo News poll said outright that he is a racist, and another 13 percent could only say they are “not sure” whether he is a racist or not.

A Quinnipiac University poll in July 2019, found that 80 percent of Black people and 55 percent of Latinos said Trump is a racist.

A Fox News poll in July 2019 found 57 percent of Americans agreed that Trump has no respect for racial minorities.

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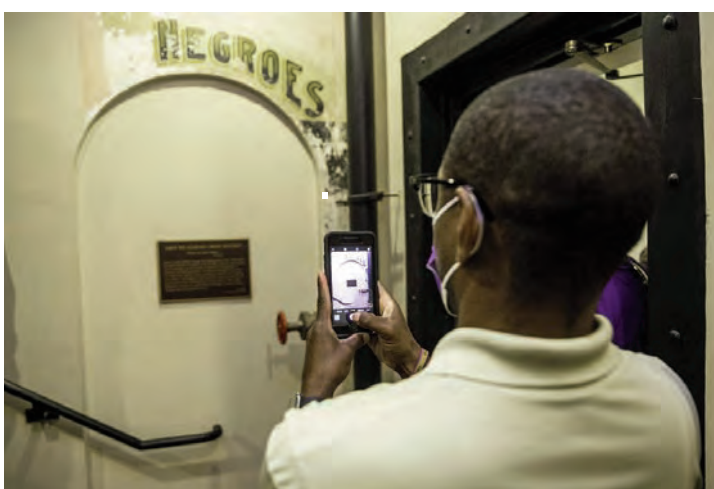
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Continued **Ellis** Page 1



Dannion McLendon takes a photo of the historical marker placed and sign that reads “NEGROES” at the Ellis County Courthouse in Waxahachie, Texas, on Monday, Nov. 16, 2020. Ellis County Constable Precinct 3 Curtis Polk Jr. (Lynda M. González/The Dallas Morning News via AP)

kept so the evil of requiring people of another color to drink at an alternate water fountain would never happen again.”

During a live-streamed interview on Wednesday, Polk said that he and Little found a solution to his problem. That same day, the sign was covered up.

“It was good to work together to move forward,” Polk said during the livestream. “Once me and the judge sat down and had a heart-to-heart talk, he saw fit to give me this office, which is one of his offices, and he was willing to make things right.”

Little said the commis-

sioners’ goals in the office relocations were “never to offend Curtis or his people.” However, he admitted that their plans “were not well thought out.”

Little said the county’s historical commission

will decide the sign’s fate.

“If something like this is something that is too painful for us to view in the future, then we’re open to changing it,” Little said.



Ellis County Constable Precinct 3 Curtis Polk Jr. poses for a photo in his relocated basement office at the Ellis County Courthouse in Waxahachie, Texas, on Monday, Nov. 16, 2020. Polk, a Black official in north Texas is getting a private office after speaking out about being moved to a shared work space that was near a “Negroes” sign leftover from the segregation era. (Lynda M. González/The Dallas Morning News via AP)

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Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
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Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY
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Support Groups 6:30 p.m.

"A JOURNEY THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF JOHN"

St. JOHN 16: 1-11

CHRIST STRENGTHENS HIS DISCIPLES - PART II

By Rev. JOHNNY CALVIN SMITH

What an awesome passage we have before us – one that is filled with tender instruction in view of Christ's departure from His beloved eleven disciples! In this passage, our blessed Lord will pick up the subject of the world's enormous enmity against the Father, against Himself, and His disciples. In a very tender manner, the Lord warns His disciples plainly of what they should expect from the world (v. 1). The reason He warns His disciples is that He did not want them to be offended or fall away.

When trouble invades our walk, we should not get offended, for trouble is a part of the Christian's walk. Jesus has not exempted us from trouble, for the latter part of St. John 16:33 says – "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." If we continue to trust in the Lord, He will grant us His awesome peace in the midst of our troubling experience, in that, Isaiah 26:3 says – "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee." Verse 4 of that said chapter says – "Trust ye in the Lord

for ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength." As an extension of His warning in verse 1, Christ went on to warn His beloved disciples that the world's hostility will be seen in the disciples being excommunicated and experiencing even death itself (v. 2).

In the early church period, saints such as Stephen (Acts 7:58-59), James (Acts 12:1-2), and even Paul (II Timothy 4:6-8) were prime examples of those who experienced persecution even to their death! By inflicting persecution and

even death on God's saints, the world thinks that it would be offering a service to God! In verse 3, the Lord cites the reason for the world's hostility toward the disciples: "the world does not know the Father nor the Son." The world is spiritually ignorant of the Father and the Son. If the Jews really were acquainted with God the Father, they would not have rejected His Son, whom the Father sent.

It was indeed instructive to know that our Lord warned His disciples of the peril ahead to fortify their faith. Knowing the awesome knowledge that Christ possessed of future events would certainly increase His disciples' confidence in Him (v. 4). As long as Christ was with them, He did not tell them of the persecution that they would

face; however, He did progressively unfold that fact to them! Relating to His disciples of His impending departure, certainly brought sadness to them (v. 5-6). They would no longer experience the Lord's personal presence. However, the disciples should have experienced joy, because Christ was going home to be with His Father. The disciples were obsessed with their own problems, for they did not understand the importance of Christ finishing the work that He was sent to do! However, the departure of Jesus was vital; although it might have been a tremendous painful experience for His beloved disciples (v. 7).

Christ's departure paved the way for the Comforter to come – "The Holy Spirit." The Comforter came into the world in an unusual way

on the day of Pentecost to abide in every child of God (Acts 2). The Holy Spirit has always been in the world because He is omnipresent; however, in this age of Grace, He takes up residence in every believer. One of the awesome ministries of the Holy Spirit is to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment (vs. 8-11). The Holy Spirit convicts the minds of unsaved, manifesting to them the truth of God's word. In other words, the Holy Spirit convinces the unsaved of their desperate need of a Saviour (v. 9); and that Jesus Christ is righteous (v. 10); and that Jesus' death and resurrection, totally defeated Satan, the prince of this world (v. 11). May God Bless!

May God bless!



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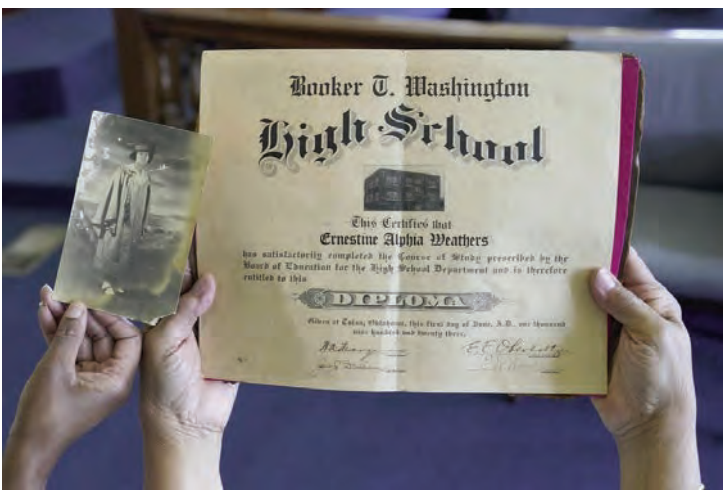
100 Years After Tulsa Race Massacre, The Damage Remains ~ Continued Page 1



This photo provided by the Department of Special Collections, McFarlin Library, The University of Tulsa shows the ruins of Dunbar Elementary School and the Masonic Hall in the aftermath of the June 1, 1921, Tulsa Race Massacre in Tulsa, Okla. (Department of Special Collections, McFarlin Library, The University of Tulsa via AP)



This postcard provided by the Department of Special Collections, McFarlin Library, The University of Tulsa shows fires burning during the Tulsa Race Massacre in Tulsa, Okla. on June 1, 1921. (Department of Special Collections, McFarlin Library, The University of Tulsa via AP)



A graduation photo and the high school diploma of Tulsa Race Massacre survivor Ernestine Alpha Gibbs are pictured during an interview with her descendants, Sunday, April 11, 2021, in Tulsa, Okla. (AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki)



In this undated photo provided by Carolyn Roberts of the Gibbs family in April 2021, Tulsa Race Massacre survivor Ernestine Alpha Gibbs holds one of her grandchildren, DeShayla Roberts, two decades earlier. (Courtesy Carolyn Roberts via AP)



In this photo provided by the Department of Special Collections, McFarlin Library, The University of Tulsa, the Mt. Zion Baptist Church burns in Tulsa, Okla. during the Tulsa Race Massacre of June 1, 1921. (Department of Special Collections, McFarlin Library, The University of Tulsa via AP)

Continued **Tulsa** Page 1

examples of how Black wealth has been sapped, again and again, by racism and racist violence -- forcing generation after generation to start from scratch while shouldering the burdens of being Black in America.

All in the shadow of a Black paradise lost.

“Greenwood proved that if you had assets, you could accumulate wealth,” said Jim Goodwin, publisher of the Oklahoma Eagle, the local Black newspaper established in Tulsa a year after the massacre.

“It was not a matter of intelligence, that the Black man was inferior to white men. It disproved the whole idea that racial superiority was a fact of life.”

Prior to the massacre, only a couple of generations removed from slavery, unfettered Black prosperity in America was urban legend. But Tulsa’s Greenwood district was far from a myth.

Many Black residents took jobs working for families on the white side of Tulsa, and some lived in detached servant quarters on weekdays. Others were shoeshine boys, chauffeurs, doormen, bellhops or maids at high-rise hotels, banks and office towers in downtown Tulsa, where white men who amassed wealth in the oil industry were kings.

But down on Black Wall Street — derided by whites as “Little Africa” or “N—town” — Black workers spent their earnings in a bustling, booming city with in a city. Black-owned grocery stores, soda fountains, cafés, barbershops, a movie theater, music venues, cigar and billiard parlors, tailors and dry cleaners, rooming houses and rental properties: Greenwood had it.

According to a 2001 report of the Oklahoma Commission to Study the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921, the Greenwood district also had 15 doctors, a chiropractor, two dentists, three lawyers, a library, two schools, a hospital, and two Black publishers printing newspapers for north Tulsans.

Tensions between Tulsa’s Black and white populations inflamed when, on May 31, 1921, the white-owned Tulsa Tribune published a sensationalized report describing an alleged assault on Sarah Page, a 17-year-old white girl working as an elevator operator, by Dick Rowland, a 19-year-old Black shoeshine.

“Nab Negro for Attacking Girl in Elevator,” read the Tribune’s headline. The paper’s editor, Richard Lloyd Jones, had previously run a story extolling the Ku Klux Klan for hewing to the principle of “supremacy of the white race in social, political and governmental affairs of the nation.”

Rowland was arrested. A white mob gathered outside of the jail. Word that some in the mob intended to kidnap and lynch Rowland made it to Greenwood, where two dozen Black men had armed themselves and arrived at the jail to aid the sheriff in protecting the prisoner.

Their offer was rebuffed and they were sent away. But following a separate

deadly clash between the lynch mob and the Greenwood men, white Tulsans took the sight of angry, armed Black men as evidence of an imminent Black uprising.

There were those who said that what followed was not as spontaneous as it seemed -- that the mob intended to drive Black people out of the city entirely, or at least to drive them further away from the city’s white enclaves.

Over 18 hours, between May 31 and June 1, whites vastly outnumbering the Black militia carried out a scorched-earth campaign against Greenwood. Some witnesses claimed they saw and heard airplanes overhead firebombing and shooting at businesses, homes and people in the Black district.

More than 35 city blocks were leveled, an estimated 191 businesses were destroyed, and roughly 10,000 Black residents were displaced from the neighborhood where they’d lived, learned, played, worked and prospered.

Although the state declared the massacre death toll to be only 36 people, most historians and experts who have studied the event estimate the death toll to be between 75 and 300. Victims were buried in unmarked graves that, to this day, are being sought for proper burial.

The toll on the Black middle class and Black merchants is clear. According to massacre survivor Mary Jones Parrish’s 1922 book, R. T. Bridgewater, a Black doctor, returned to his home to find his high-end furniture piled in the street.

“My safe had been broken open, all of the money stolen,” Bridgewater said. “I lost 17 houses that paid me an average of over \$425 per month.”

Tulsa Star publisher Andrew J. Smitherman lost everything, except for the metal printing presses that didn’t melt in the fires at his newspaper’s offices. Today, some of

his descendants wonder what could have been, if the mob had never destroyed the Smitherman family business.

“We’d be like the Murdochs or the Johnson family, you know, Bob Johnson who had BET,” said Raven Majia Williams, a descendant of Smitherman’s, who is writing a book about his influence on Black Democratic politics of his time.

“My great-grandfather was in a perfect position to become a media mogul,” Williams said. “Black businesses were able to exist because they could advertise in his newspaper.”

Smitherman moved on to Buffalo, New York, where he opened another newspaper. It was a struggle; eventually, after his death in 1961, the Empire Star went under.

“It wasn’t a very large office, so I’d often see the bills,” said his grandson, William Dozier, who worked there as a boy. “Many of them were marked past due. We didn’t make a lot of money. He wasn’t able



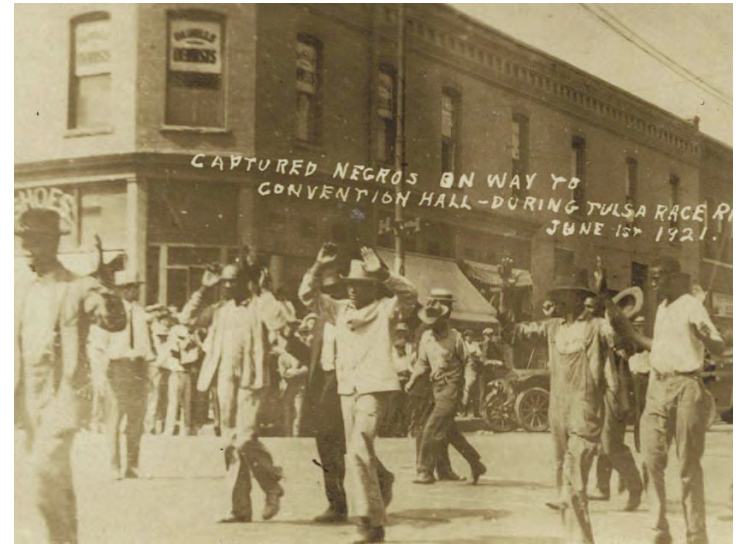
The high school and college diplomas of Tulsa Race Massacre survivor Ernestine Alpha Gibbs (born Weathers) are pictured during an interview with her descendants, Sunday, April 11, 2021, in Tulsa, Okla. (AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki)



A sculpture commemorating the Tulsa Race Massacre stands in John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park in Tulsa, Okla., Wednesday, April 14, 2021, with new construction in the background. (AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki)



James Goodwin, owner of the Oklahoma Eagle newspaper, speaks during an interview Wednesday, April 14, 2021, in Tulsa, Okla. “Greenwood proved that if you had assets, you could accumulate wealth. ... It was not a matter of intelligence, that the Black man was inferior to white men. It disproved the whole idea that racial superiority was a fact of life.” The Black newspaper was established in Tulsa a year after the massacre. (AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki)



In this photo provided by the Department of Special Collections, McFarlin Library, The University of Tulsa, a group of Black men are marched past the corner of 2nd and Main Streets in Tulsa, Okla., under armed guard during the Tulsa Race Massacre on June 1, 1921. (Department of Special Collections, McFarlin Library, The University of Tulsa via AP)



This postcard provided by the Department of Special Collections, McFarlin Library, The University of Tulsa shows a truck parked in front of the Convention Hall, with a man whose condition is unknown, lying on the bed of the truck, and two others sit to either side. A man in civilian attire stands guard over them during the Tulsa Race Massacre June 1, 1921, in Tulsa, Okla. (Department of Special Collections, McFarlin Library, The University of Tulsa via AP)

Continue **Tulsa** Page 5

Continued **Tulsa** Page 4

to pass any money down to his daughters, although he loved them dearly.”

Over the years, the effects of the massacre took different shapes. Rebuilding in Greenwood began as soon as 1922 and continued through 1925, briefly bringing back some of Black Wall Street.

Then, urban renewal in the 1950s forced many Black businesses to relocate further into north Tulsa. Next came racial desegregation that allowed Black customers to shop for goods and services beyond the Black community, financially harming the existing Black-owned business base. That was followed by economic downturns, and the construction of a noisy highway that cuts right through the middle of historic Greenwood.

Chief Egunwale Amusan, president of the African Ancestral Society in Tulsa, regularly gives tours around what’s left. Greenwood was much more than what people hear in casual stories about it, he recently told a small tour group as they turned onto Greenwood Avenue in the direction of Archer Avenue.

Interstate 244 dissects the neighborhood like a Berlin wall. But it is easy for visitors to miss the engraved metal markers at their feet, indicating the location of a business destroyed in the massacre and whether it had ever reopened.

“H. Johnson Rooms, 314 North Greenwood, Destroyed 1921, Reopened,” reads one marker.

“I’ve read every book, every document, every court record that you can possibly think of that tells the story of what happened in 1921,” Amusan told the tour group in mid-April. “But none of them did real justice. This is sacred land, but it’s also a crime scene.”

No white person has ever been imprisoned for taking part in the massacre, and no Black survivor or descendant has been justly compensated for who and what they lost.

“What happened in Tulsa wasn’t just unique to Tulsa,” said the Rev. Robert Turner, the pastor of Vernon AME Church. “This happened all over the country. It was just that Tulsa was the largest. It damaged our community. And we haven’t rebounded since. I think it’s past time that justice be done to atone for that.”

Some Black-owned businesses operate today at Greenwood and Archer avenues. But it’s indeed a shadow of what has been described in books and seen in century-old photographs of Greenwood in its heyday.

A \$30 million history center and museum, Greenwood Rising, will honor the legacy of Black

Wall Street with exhibits depicting the district before and after the massacre, according to the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission. But critics have said the museum falls far short of delivering justice or paying reparations to living survivors and their descendants.

Tulsa’s 1921 Black population of 10,000 grew to roughly 70,500 in 2019, according to a U.S. Census Bureau estimate; the median household income for Tulsa’s Black households was an estimated \$30,955 in 2019, compared to \$55,278 for white households. In a city of an estimated 401,760 people, close to a third of Tulsans living below the poverty line in 2019 were Black, while 12% were white.

The disparities are no coincidence, local elected leaders often acknowledge. The inequalities also show up in business ownership demographics and educational attainment.

Attempts to force Tulsa and the state of Oklahoma to take some accountability for their role in the massacre suffered a major blow in 2005, when the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear survivors’ and victim descendants’ appeal of a lower federal court ruling. The courts had tossed out a civil lawsuit because, justices held, the plaintiffs had waited too long after the massacre to file it.

Now, a few living massacre survivors —106-year-old Lessie Benningfield Randle, 107-year-old Viola Fletcher, and 100-year-old Hughes Van Ellis — along with other victims’ descendants are suing for reparations. The defendants include the local chamber of commerce, the city development authority and the county sheriff’s department.

“Every time I think about the men and women that we’ve worked with, and knowing that they died without justice, it just crushes me,” said Damario Solomon-Simmons, a native Tulsan who is a lead attorney on the lawsuit and founder of the Justice for Greenwood Foundation.

“They all believed that once the conspiracy of silence was pierced, and the world found out about the destruction, the death, the looting, the raping, the maiming, (and) the wealth that was stolen ... that they would get justice, that they would have gotten reparations.” Solomon-Simmons said.

The lawsuit, which is brought under Oklahoma’s public nuisance statute, seeks to establish a victim’s compensation fund paid for by the defendants. It also demands payment of outstanding insurance policies claims that date back the massacre.

Republican Mayor G.T. Bynum, who is white (Tulsa has never had a



A sculpture commemorating the Tulsa Race Massacre stands in John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park in Tulsa, Okla., on Wednesday, April 14, 2021. (AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki)



In this photo provided by Department of Special Collections, McFarlin Library, The University of Tulsa, two armed men in walk away from burning buildings as others walk in the opposite direction during the June 1, 1921, Tulsa Race Massacre in Tulsa, Okla. (Department of Special Collections, McFarlin Library, The University of Tulsa via AP)



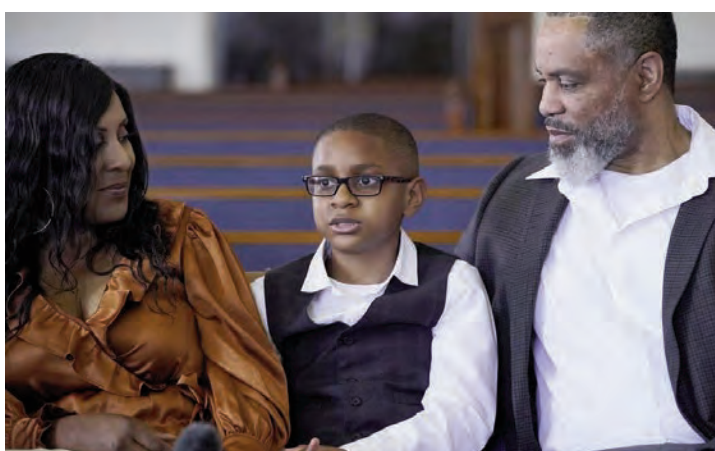
Carolyn Roberts, daughter of Tulsa Race Massacre survivor Ernestine Alpha Gibbs, holds family photos of the Gibbs family business during an interview in Tulsa, Okla., on Sunday, April 11, 2021. Roberts said although her parents lived with the trauma of the massacre, it never hindered their work ethic: “They survived the whole thing and bounced back.” (AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki)



This photo provided by the Department of Special Collections, McFarlin Library, The University of Tulsa shows an African American woman and girl sitting on a porch swing, both dressed in coats and hats, by the side of a house. Provenance is unknown; however, it is believed that these photos were taken in Tulsa, Okla. prior to the Tulsa Race Massacre. (Department of Special Collections, McFarlin Library, The University of Tulsa via AP)



Javohn Perry, left, of Seattle, and her cousin, Danielle Johnson, right, of Beggs, Okla., walk past a mural commemorating Black Wall Street in Tulsa, Okla., on Monday, April 12, 2021. (AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki)



LeRoy “Tripp” Gibbs III, center, 12-year-old great-grandson of Tulsa Race Massacre survivor Ernestine Alpha Gibbs, speaks during an interview with family members in Tulsa, Okla., on Sunday, April 11, 2021. With him are his parents, Tracy and LeRoy Gibbs II. LeRoy II. AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki)

Black mayor), does not support paying reparations to massacre survivors and victims’ descendants. Bynum said such a use of taxpayers’ money would be unfair to Tulsans today. “You’d be financially punishing this generation of Tulsans for something that criminals did a hundred years ago,” Bynum said. “There are a lot of other areas of focus, when you talk about reparations. People talk about acknowledging the disparity that exists, and recognizing that there is work to do in addressing those disparities and making this city one of greater equality.”

State Sen. Kevin Matthews, who is Black and chairs the massacre centennial commission, said no discussion of reparations can happen without reconciliation and healing. He believes the Greenwood Rising history center, planned for his legislative district, is a start.

“We talked to people in the community,” Matthews said. “We wanted the story told first. So this is my first step, and I do agree that reparations should happen. Part of reparations is to repair the damage of even how the story was told.”

Among the treasured keepsakes that came home to Vernon AME was a certificate of recent vintage that recognized Ernestine Gibbs as a survivor of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre.

But for Gibbs and her family, the real pride is not in survival. It is in surmounting disaster, and in carrying on a legacy of Black entrepreneurial spirit that their ancestors exemplified before and after the massacre.

After graduating from Langston University, Ernestine married LeRoy Gibbs. Even as she taught in the Tulsa school system for 40 years, Ernestine and her husband opened a poultry and fish market in the rebuilt Greenwood in the 1940s. They sold

turkeys to order during the holidays.

Carolyn Roberts, Ernestine’s daughter, said although her parents lived with the trauma of the massacre, it never hindered their work ethic: “They survived the whole thing and bounced back.”

Urban renewal in the late 1950s forced LeRoy and Ernestine to move Gibbs Fish & Poultry Market further into north Tulsa. The family purchased a shopping center, expanded the grocery market and operated other businesses there until they could no longer sustain it.

The shopping center briefly left family hands, but it fell into disrepair under a new owner, who later lost it to foreclosure. Grandson LeRoy Gibbs II and his wife, Tracy, repurchased the center in 2015 and revived it as the Gibbs Next Generation Center. The hope is that the following generation -- including LeRoy “Tripp” Gibbs III, now 12 -- will carry it on.

LeRoy II credits his grandmother, who not only built wealth and passed it on, but also showed succeeding generations how it was done. It was a lesson that few descendants of the victims of the race massacre had an opportunity to learn.

“The perseverance of it is what she tried to pass on to me,” said LeRoy Gibbs II. “We were fortunate that we had Ernestine and LeRoy. ... They built their business.”

After the fires in Greenwood were extinguished, the bodies buried in unmarked mass graves, and the survivors scattered, insurance companies denied most Black victims’ loss claims totaling an estimated \$1.8 million. That’s \$27.3 million in today’s currency.

Monetary losses from Tulsa Race Massacre

A partial look at the monetary losses sustained after the deadly May 31, 1921 massacre and their present-day value.

NAME	LOSSES	PRESENT-DAY VALUE
J.B. Stratford	\$125,000	\$1,800,000
Luia T. Williams	\$85,000	\$1,200,000
O. Gurley	\$65,000	\$962,000
Jim Cherry	\$50,000	\$740,000
Elliott & Hooker, Clothiers and Dry Goods	\$45,000	\$666,000
A.L. Phillips	\$40,000	\$592,000
W.H. Smith (Welcome Grocery)	\$40,000	\$592,000
Annie Partee	\$35,000	\$518,000
A.F. Bryant	\$30,000	\$444,000
J.H. Goodwin	\$30,000	\$444,000

Source: “Events of the Tulsa Disaster”, University of Tulsa, McFarlin Library Special Collection



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Moderna says its COVID-19 shot works in kids as young as 12

By LAURAN NEERGAARD

Moderna said Tuesday its COVID-19 vaccine strongly protects kids as young as 12, a step that could put the shot on track to become the second option for that age group in the U.S.

With global vaccine supplies still tight, much of the world is struggling to vaccinate adults in the quest to end the pandemic. But earlier this month, the U.S. and Canada authorized another vaccine — the shot made by Pfizer and BioNTech — to be used starting at age 12.

Moderna aims to be next in line, saying it will submit its teen data to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and other global regulators early next month.

The company studied more than 3,700 12- to 17-year-olds. Preliminary findings showed the vaccine triggered the same signs of immune protection in kids as it does in adults, and the same kind of temporary side effects such as sore arms, headache and fatigue. There were no COVID-19 diagnoses in those given two doses of the Moderna vaccine compared with four cases among kids given dummy shots. In a press release, the company also said the vaccine appeared 93% effective two weeks after the first dose.

While children are far less likely than adults to get seriously ill from COVID-19, they represent about 14% of the nation's coronavirus cases. At least 316 have died in the U.S. alone, according to a tally by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

With plenty of vaccine supply in the U.S., younger teens flocked to get Pfizer's shot in the days after FDA opened it to them, part of a push to get as many kids vaccinated as possible before the next school year.

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We understand that people may have concerns about the safety of the COVID-19 vaccine. However, these vaccines went through rigorous clinical trials and safety checks needed to be approved.

The more people who receive the vaccine, the quicker we can get back to a more normal life including visiting family and friends, attending worship services, going to sports events, entertainment and other activities. The vaccine will also help stop the spread of the virus in our community and end the pandemic.

Anyone 16 years and older can get a COVID-19 vaccine without an appointment from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Saturday at Parkland's drive-through locations, Ellis Davis Field House, 9191 S. Polk St., Dallas, 75232 and Dallas College Eastfield Campus, 3737 Motley Dr., Dallas 75150. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. Vaccines are at no cost to you.

For more information about how to get the COVID-19 vaccine, visit www.parklandhospital.com/covid19vaccines. You can also call the Parkland COVID vaccine help line at 214-590-7000 for information about COVID testing, vaccine sites and MyChart help. This help line is open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday - Friday.

Twin MDs battle entrenched racism in the medical world Part II

By LINDSEY TANNER

--Medical school instruction on skin diseases typically shows how they appear on white skin, not Black or brown, leading to missed diagnoses.

--In psychiatry, impulsive, disruptive behavior in white children is often labeled attention deficit disorder, a diagnosis that often guarantees classroom accommodations. Identical behavior in Black kids is more often labeled conduct disorder, leading to detention rather than accommodations "unless they have a really sharp parent who advocates the hell out of it," Jackson said.

--A commonly used algorithm for kidney function gauges it differently in Black patients, potentially leading to under-treatment of kidney disease. Rush University Medical Center is among several U.S. health systems that recently stopped using that algorithm.

The sisters' message isn't new, said Dr. David

Ansell, a physician at Rush who has worked with their institute. But their timing is uncanny -- coming at the convergence of a deadly pandemic that has highlighted racial health inequities, a rise in white supremacy, and civil unrest over police brutality.

At such a moment, he said, the sisters can make a difference.

Their curiosity in science and medicine started young. James remembers taking "field notes" while spying on people. Jackson remembers turning their mother's blue bead case into a bug hospital.

"We emptied it and would go under rocks in search of potato bugs, worms. We gave each their own compartments ... then would examine them and took notes when they appeared sluggish." Once, they sprinkled salt on a snail to dry it out when it seemed "too moist. He just curled up and died. I still feel bad about the

snail," Jackson said.

Their parents were hard-working and supportive, but the twins didn't tell them when they were accepted at Cornell University, knowing the cost was prohibitive. They broke the news when they landed full scholarships.

It was during a college summer program that James for the first time saw a Black doctor. She stared. "It was like a unicorn," but it planted a seed.

They separated for medical school -- Northwestern for Jackson, University of Michigan for James. Surrounded by rich white kids and professors, James struggled.

"It was this huge feeling like I don't belong here. None of the professors look like you, what you're learning about people like you is racist and you're getting tested on it."

She left school for a year and sank into a deep depression until getting involved in volunteer

community health work. Colleagues there encouraged her to go back. In low moments, James says she draws on the strength of ancestors.

"I'm not being bombed. I'm not being hosed," she said. "You have to keep getting up."

Now, she and her sister serve as mentors to other medical students from nontraditional backgrounds.

Medical resident Shan Siddiqi is a Canadian Muslim whose parents are from Pakistan. He works under James' guidance at a clinic where James says "the sickest of the sick" go for treatment, patients with chronic illnesses worsened by poverty, stress from living in violent neighborhoods and now COVID-19. Siddiqi said he's impressed by her compassion, taking the time to treat them as humans and helping them overcome challenges to

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Doncic and Mavs beat Clippers 127-121, take 2-0 series lead

By BETH HARRIS



Dallas Mavericks forward Tim Hardaway Jr., top, passes the ball over Los Angeles Clippers guard Patrick Beverley during the first half in Game 2 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series Tuesday, May 25, 2021, in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez)

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A familiar face sat behind the Dallas Mavericks' bench. Dirk Nowitzki, who led the franchise to its only championship in 2011 during his 21 seasons,

came to see his old franchise that hasn't won a playoff series since its title.

Led by Luka Doncic, this edition is looking pretty good.

"I certainly believe him being there tonight was a lucky charm for us," Mavs coach Rick Carlisle said.

Doncic scored 39 points, Tim Hardaway Jr. added 28 and the Mavs again outshot the NBA's best 3-point team in a 127-121 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Tuesday night to take a 2-0 lead in the first-round playoff series.

"We can't rest," Hardaway said. "We know what they're capable of."

Kristaps Porzingis added 20 points and Maxi Kleber had 13. Hardaway hit a playoff career-high six 3-pointers and Doncic had five as fifth-seeded Dallas was 18 of 34 from long-range. The Mavs made 17 3-pointers in winning Game 1 on Saturday.

"The mentality was, go out there, play aggressive, have fun," Doncic said.

The fourth-seeded Clippers were led by Kawhi Leonard, who scored 30 of his 41 in the first half. Paul George had 28 points and 12 rebounds.

"I'm pretty sure everyone expected us to win this," George said. "They're playing free and with confidence and I think we're giving them a little too much confidence. It's up to us to shut that down."

Leonard added, "Just got to stay focused and keep an eye on the prize. We got to play defense. Too many easy baskets out there for Dallas."

Game 3 is Friday in Dallas, where the Mavs will have several thousand more fans on hand than were allowed at Staples Center.

"I'm not concerned," first-year Clippers coach Tyronn Lue said. "They won two games on our home floor and now we got to return the favor."

Count Basie Orchestra Director Talks Jazz and Welcomes Back Live Performances

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent@StacyBrownMedia



The legendary William James "Count" Basie enjoyed a keen eye for talent and greatness.

Over the years, the New Jersey-born icon enlisted legends like Billie Holiday, Joe Jones, and Sweets Edison to perform in The Count Basie Orchestra.

Formed in 1935, The Count Basie Orchestra has proven the benchmark for jazz bands and musicians, performing in movies, television shows, and before kings and queens.

The group's 19 Grammy Awards is the most earned by any orchestra.

Since 2013, Scotty Barnhart, a graduate of the historically black Florida A&M University, has directed The Count Basie Orchestra and has continued the legacy of his hero, who died in 1984 at the age of 79.

"Mr. Basie was a great human being and the greatest bandleader in history," Barnhart told the Black Press during a

live interview. "I was in the trumpet section as a soloist for 20 years, so by the time I got to be director, things lined itself so that it was an easy transition." Barnhart, a professor of Jazz Trumpet at Florida State University, qualifies as a legend himself. With two Grammy Awards as a solo artist, Barnhart has performed with Cab Calloway, Tony Bennett, Frank Sinatra, and many other icons.

Formed in 1935, The Count Basie Orchestra has proven the benchmark for jazz bands and musicians, performing in movies, television shows, and before kings and queens. The group's 19 Grammy Awards by far is the most earned by any orchestra. Since 2013, Scotty Barnhart, a graduate of the historically black Florida A&M University, has directed The Count Basie Orchestra and has continued the legacy of his hero, who died in 1984 at the age of 79.

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Continued Twins Page 6

getting medication or specialty care.

Jordan Cisneros, a third-year medical student who Jackson has mentored at Rush Medical College, says her guidance has helped him get through a tough year. His father died from COVID-19 in January and George Floyd's televised death last May felt personal.

"I've had run-ins with police. I've had run-ins with racism. I've seen things firsthand," he said.

In a Zoom class last year, Jackson brought up Floyd's death and broke down crying. "It's very taboo to cry in medicine," but Jackson made it seem OK to show emotion and vulnerability, he said.

The sisters are extremely close, often finishing each other's sentences, but there are differences too.

James is married to a white physician, a guy she thought was a math nerd when they met but is now her partner in battle. She tears up when asked what she wishes for their 1 1/2-year-old daughter, Lillian.

"I don't want her to have to live in a box like I did,"

James said. "I want her to raise her voice so she knows it's OK to be everything that she is, especially when the world is trying so hard to make Black and brown girls small and not heard."

Jackson is single, loves to cook in her spare time and thinks like a scientist in the kitchen, marveling at how a humble carrot can transform into something sublime with just a little butter and brown sugar.

James wears her passion on her sleeve and pours her soul into Twitter, calling out racism every time she sees it. Jackson says she has no appetite for Twitter wars and "tries to be the one who is grounding. I want to come at it with a loving, calm energy," she said.

The sisters are hitting their stride in 2021; Jackson calls it the year of Black women: Michelle Obama helped pave the way, now there's Vice President Kamala Harris.

"It moves me to tears that all of my ancestor Black women who never got to see the day ... that they were in vogue and their voice was listened to," she said. "It is Black women's lives that survive and keep surviving."

"I was just thinking..."

Awaiting Chauvin sentence, pundits still analyzing George Floyd's purpose

By Norma Adams-Wade
Founding Member of the
National Association of Black Journalist
Texas Metro News Columnist



George Floyd, a blank piece of paper, unlearned characters in the Bible. George Floyd was just a nobody. Right? Laws would call him a criminal. A blank sheet of paper is just paper. Right? Its status rises when something important is written on it. Unlearned Bible characters, with no wealth or titles, were simple peasants but continue to intrigue Bible scholars and believers.

Just a this, just a that – and then, something happens to change the narrative and history. Floyd, of course, became a cause célèbre when he died Memorial Day, May 25, 2020, during an arrest. Derek Chauvin, at the time a Minneapolis police officer, pressed his knee on Floyd's neck for more than nine minutes while the 46-year-old was handcuffed on the ground repeatedly saying "I can't breathe." Floyd died under the officer's knee. A bystander videotaped the killing, posted it on social media, and global protests erupted, plus shrill calls for police reform policies.

Media widely reported the prophetic words of

Floyd's then six-year-old daughter, Gianna "Gigi" Floyd, who acknowledging the global outpouring, proudly proclaimed on social media, "Daddy changed the world!" A jury, 11 months later on April 20, 2021, unanimously found Chauvin guilty on three charges: second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder, and second-degree manslaughter. The former 19-year veteran officer is set to be sentenced June 16. Meanwhile, News headlines continue to chronicle new deaths of African-Americans at the hands of police – one that happened and was widely reported on the day of Chauvin's verdict. Ironically, Chauvin's sentencing date is three days before African-Americans, across the nation and particularly in Texas, will celebrate Juneteenth. The date commemorates June 19, 1865 when enslaved Africans in Texas learned two years late that the government had legally ended slavery in the nation.

Some pundits see social justice parallels between Juneteenth and Chauvin's sentencing. In the meantime, society has changed, drasti-

cally, brought about largely by just an ordinary man -- flawed, off-course and maybe destined for the demise the world witnessed on camera and social media. KARE TV 11, in Minneapolis where Floyd was killed, investigated the legal fallout that followed the murder of the Fayetteville, NC native who grew up in Houston. The station's research shows that the proposed George Floyd Justice in Policing Act – a police reform bill that passed the Democratic-led House March 3, 2021 and is stalled in the Senate -- is among a ballooning numbers of police reform laws spurred by Floyd's murder. KARE 11's investigation quotes Amber Widgery, Principal (or leader) of the bipartisan National Conference of State Legislatures that tracks national, state and local police reform bills.

Widgery was quoted in mid-April as saying that since Floyd's May 25, 2020 death, 11 new policing reform laws have passed, about 1,600 others still are pending, and nearly 50 bills and resolutions bear Floyd's name.





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Biden to meet Putin for Geneva summit amid US-Russia tension

By AAMER MADHANI, JONATHAN LEMIRE and JAMEY KEATEN

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden will hold a summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin next month in Geneva, a face-to-face meeting between the two leaders that comes amid escalating tensions between the U.S. and Russia in the first months of the Biden administration.

The White House confirmed details of the summit on Tuesday. The two leaders’ meeting, set for June 16, is being tacked on to the end of Biden’s first international trip as president next month when he visits Britain for a meeting of Group of Seven leaders and Brussels for the NATO summit.

“The leaders will discuss the full range of pressing issues, as we seek to restore predictability and stability to the U.S.-Russia relationship,” White House press secretary Jen Psaki said in a statement announcing the summit.

Biden first proposed a summit in a call with Putin in April as his administration prepared to levy sanctions against Russian officials for the second time

during the first three months of his presidency.

White House officials said earlier this week that they were ironing out details for the summit. National security adviser Jake Sullivan discussed details of the meeting when he met with his Russian counterpart, Nikolay Patrushev.

The Kremlin, in its own statement announcing the meeting, said that the presidents will discuss “the current state and prospects of the Russian-U.S. relations, strategic stability issues and the acute problems on the international agenda, including interaction in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic and settlement of regional conflicts.”

The White House has repeatedly said it is seeking a “stable and predictable” relationship with the Russians, while also calling out Putin on allegations that the Russians interfered in last year’s U.S. presidential election and that the Kremlin was behind a hacking campaign — commonly referred to as the SolarWinds breach — in which Russian hackers

infected widely used software with malicious code, enabling them to access the networks of at least nine U.S. agencies.

The Biden administration has also criticized Russia for the arrest and jailing of that Russian agents were offering bounties to and publicly acknowledged that it has low to moderate confidence in the Taliban to attack U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

The Biden administration announced sanctions in March against several mid-level and senior

Russian officials, along with more than a dozen businesses and other entities, over a nearly fatal nerve-agent attack on Navalny in August 2020 and his subsequent jailing. Navalny returned to Russia days before Biden’s Jan. 20 inauguration and was quickly arrested. Last month, the administration announced it was expelling 10 Russian diplomats and sanctioning dozens of Russia companies and individuals in response to the SolarWinds hack and election interference allegations.

‘Turning mourning into dancing’: Festival to remember Floyd

By DOUG GLASS



FILE - In this Aug. 28, 2020, file photo, people carry posters with George Floyd on them as they march from the Lincoln Memorial to the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial in Washington. As the anniversary of George Floyd’s murder approaches, some people say the best way to honor him is for Congress to pass a bill in his name that overhauls policing. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster, File)

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The intersection where he took his final breaths is to be transformed Tuesday into an outdoor festival on the anniversary of his death, with food, children’s activities and a long list of musical performers.

“We’re going to be turning mourning into dancing,” rapper Nur-D tweeted. “We’re going to be celebrating 365 days of strength in the face of injustice.”

Floyd, 46, who was Black, died on Memorial Day 2020 after knelt on his neck, pinning him to the ground for about 9 1/2 minutes. Chauvin,

who is white, and faces sentencing June 25. Three other fired officers still face trial.

The site of Floyd’s death, 38th and Chicago, will host a “Rise and Remember George Floyd” celebration, including a candlelight vigil at 8 p.m., caps several days of marches, rallies and panel discussions about his death and where America is in confronting racial discrimination.

Many members of the Floyd family are scheduled to be in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday, in a private meeting with President Joe Biden, who called family members after the Chauvin verdict and

pledged to continue fighting for racial justice.

Floyd family attorney Ben Crump said he hoped Biden will renew his support for that would ban chokeholds and no-knock police raids and create a national registry for officers disciplined for serious misconduct.

“Now is time to act,” Crump said Tuesday on CNN. “Not just talk but act.”

Floyd’s brother Philonise, appearing alongside Crump, said he thinks about George “all the time.”

“My sister called me at 12 o’clock last night and said ‘This is the day our brother

left us,’” he said, adding: “I think things have changed. I think it is moving slowly but we are making progress.”

Nur-D, whose real name is Matt Allen, took to the Minneapolis streets in the days after Floyd’s death, often providing medical assistance to protesters who were shot or gassed in confrontations with police. He eventually founded an organization, Justice Frontline Aid, to support safe protest.


He described the past year as “like we’ve lived 20 years inside of one” and hoped that people would feel “honesty and a real sense of togetherness” during Tuesday’s celebration at what’s informally known as George Floyd Square.

“If you’re angry, you can be angry. If you’re sad, you can be sad,” Nur-D said in a follow-up interview. “If you’re feeling some sense of joy over the verdict and some sort of like step in the right direction, and you want to celebrate that, do that as well.”

The event was organized by the George Floyd Global Memorial. Angela Harrelson, an aunt of Floyd’s and a member of the board of directors, said the organization has stockpiled 3,000 items surrounding Floyd’s death — things like artwork left behind in the square — and will display some of them in a pop-up gallery.

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