

The Tasteful Talents Of Theron Cook



Theron Cook

Far too many of Reading's most talented and well-educated citizens are living and working out of state. One notable exception is Theron Cook. Cook is a native of Reading and a graduate of Reading High School.



Mural painted by Theron Cook in the 400 block of South 7th Street in Reading.

After attending college in Philadelphia and achieving professional success (as an artist in New York), he returned to his hometown and founded his own business, SMART BRAND, as a brand strategist and a designer. Most importantly, he also founded the THERON QUIT ART DON'T QUIT FOUNDATION, INC. This foundation entertains and educates young adults on how they learn while enjoying visual arts.

On Saturday, July 8, 2023, there was a commemoration of the new mural that Cook painted in the 400 block of South 7th Street in Reading. We hope that you will visit that site or take advantage of Cook's art online at (<https://www.theroncookart.com>).

Lonnie Walker Is Now Playing For The Brooklyn Nets



Reading's Lonnie Walker IV helps open renovated basketball courts

photo courtesy wfmz.com

Our hometown hero, Lonnie Walker, recently signed a contract to play for the Brooklyn Nets. Inasmuch as Brooklyn New York is just a three-hour drive from Reading, PA, many local basketball fans will be watching Lonnie play live both in Philadelphia and Brooklyn.

Recently (June 28th) Walker was at a ceremony at Baer Park to cut the ribbon for the newly renovated basketball court, the cost of which was shared by the Lonnie Walker IV foundation and the City of

Reading. Lonnie Walker IV created The Lonnie Walker IV Foundation to make a difference and show anyone can live out their dreams with work.

Black and Gold Sounds Like Solid Gold



Pictured above are left to right, Bynee Waples, who composes, produces, and plays the guitar, Noel Baynes, who is their vocalist, and Riley Monasmith, who composes, produces and plays the trumpet.

Last month (July 10, 2023), the mellow sounds of the talented trio (hip hop and rhythm and blues musicians), called *Black and Gold* were broadcasted on the Berks Community Television Program. "*Diversity: The Wider Vision.*"

This annual (every July) program features poets and musicians who recite or perform works that the artists have written and/or composed. All three members of this most impressive trio are graduates of Reading High School.

Unfortunately, an electrical thunderstorm prevented them from playing their guitars during the taping of the program.

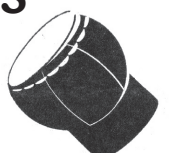
Fortunately, they were able to play two of their recordings, which mesmerized us! We can't wait to see one of their live performances!

"It is easier to build strong children, than to repair broken men."

-Frederick Douglass

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- plus more!



THE DRUM

NEWSPAPER

Necessitously Neat Nish

By Aries Franklin

I think we can all agree the first thought when it comes to basketball is always the players. Whether it be Lonnie Walker, Cynthia Cooper or Micheal Jordan, we often place the coaches that helped develop these prime time players in the back burner.



Kanisha "Coach Nish" Edwards

Kanisha "Coach Nish" Edwards has been coaching girls basketball for 8 years. She has been a key factor in the development and discipline it takes to take youth girls from good players to great players. Coach Nish graduated from Reading High School in 2008 and has been kicking doors down since. Her love for the game and desire to help girls reach their highest potential has pushed open doors that very few of us get to walk through.

When asked what her biggest milestone she's accomplished over the years is, her response was simple and humble:

"Coaching AAU and watching these girls start at a young age and blossom into amazing high school players and ultimately reaching their goals of continuing their journey into college."

When asked what the toughest part of being a coach was, her answer was still humbling:

"Getting these players to see their full potential even when they don't see it at times. Pushing their limits and giving them the tools they need in such a short amount of time, basketball lessons are life lessons as well."

Life lessons indeed. Discipline, team work, temperament training, mental calmness, on top of physical training is not only a workout for the players, but also a workout for any coach trying to see that their players excel in every way possible.

"My hope is to reach any ballers that want



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"You have to be able to accept failure to get better."

~Benjamin Carson

THE DRUM QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Location of the Interviews: The 400 Block of South 7th Street just before the COMMEMORATION OF THE NEW MURAL BY THERON COOK

Date of the Interviews: Saturday, July 8, 2023

The Question:

Can you name a person who has made a monumental contribution toward the betterment of Reading, PA

Responses:

Jeanette Buchanon:

"Me. I was born and raised in this community, and I have always worked for its improvement."



Tashemia Sharp

(clerk at the Family Dollar Store):

"Here's a gift for you (a free bag of popcorn). Now you repeat the gesture and do something good for the community."



Ramon de Jesus:

"Mayor Eddie Moran."

Inasmuch as the publisher/editor, Joseph Amprey, inadvertently erased our photo of Mr. de Jesus, we are inserting a photo of his response, the Mayor of Reading Eddie Moran.



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BLACK HEROES

FAMOUS BLACKS BORN IN AUGUST

Whitney Houston (1963-2012)



Whitney Houston
bio.Biography.com

Whitney Elizabeth Houston, who was born on August 9, 1963, was one of the best-selling music artists of all time. She sold more than 200 million records world wide, and in 2023, the "Rolling Stone Magazine" proclaimed the second greatest singer of all time. Her most appropriate nickname was "The Voice."

Houston was part of a talented musical family, Her mother, Emily Cissy Houston was also a successful professional singer, and her cousin, Dionne Warwick, is one of the best selling American singers.

Whitney Houston was also a very successful actress. Her debut performance was in the romantic thriller film, "The Body Guard" in 1992. It became the 10th highest grossing film to date, and its soundtrack won the Grammy award for album of the year. That soundtrack is still the best selling film soundtrack of all time.

Unfortunately, Whitney Houston passed away prematurely from substance abuse. The important lesson herein is that none of us are immune from the overpowering effects of substance abuse.

Deion Sanders, Sr. (1967 -)



Deion Sanders Sr.

Deion Luwynn Sanders, who was born on August 9, 1967, is the head football coach at the University of Colorado Boulder. Sanders is a former Major League Baseball and National Football League player. He was an outstanding NFL cornerback for 14 seasons, who was in two victorious Super Bowls. His nickname was Prime Time. Sanders was a major league outfielder for 9 seasons, and he played in the World Series in 1992 making him the only athlete to play in both the Super Bowl and the World Series.

After retiring from professional sports, Sanders enjoyed success as a television sports analyst before becoming a very successful head coach at Jackson State University, a Historically Black University in Mississippi. He led Jackson State to two consecutive Celebration Bowl Appearances and their first undefeated season in 2022.

Now, "the football world" watches "Prime Time" on the big state of Title I NCCA Football in Colorado.

Follow us online at: www.thedrumnewsonline.com



Master Plan for Older Adults
Listening Sessions



The Pennsylvania Department of Aging has embarked on the development of a 10-year strategic plan designed to help transform the infrastructure and coordination of services for Pennsylvania's older adults, and they want your input!

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- 8/14 at 1:30 PM - Wyomissing Public Library
- 8/15 at 8:30 AM - Boyertown Area Multi-Service Center at Spring Street
- 8/16 at 10 AM - Berks Encore Reading Center
- 8/23 at 10 AM - Berks Encore Mifflin Center
- 8/24 at 12:30 PM - Berks Encore Strausstown Center

Call to register - 1-800-753-8827

Visit aging.pa.gov/MasterPlan to learn about the plan and to submit your input by electronic form.

ABOUT US

THE DRUM is published 6 times annually. We publish in February, April, June, August, October, & December. Unless otherwise indicated, all articles herein are written by the Publisher/Editor, Joseph Amprey.

OUR MISSION IS TO CELEBRATE BLACK ACHIEVEMENT AND SUCCESS.

Please call us at 240.729.5293 or email us at readingdrumnewspaper@gmail.com or write to us at **THE DRUM**, P.O. Box 12711, Reading PA, 19612 with topic suggestions.

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NEWSPAPER

Sergeant Joi Franklin Is A Sensational Sister

By Aries Franklin



Joi Franklin

Typically when you watch any movie or television show that has to do with jail or prison, you don't see many female guards. I mean, there may be a few, but not enough that would spark a young person's interest to take on such a challenging career. ESPECIALLY, in the African American/

People of Color community. It's far too often that anything that has to do with corrections, actually sits on the opposite end of what people of the community want to do. Often people turn their noses up at career choices like this, not even taking into consideration how hard a position like this is.

However, Sergeant Joi Franklin has taken this stigma and completely burned it to the ground. Twenty-eight years ago, this wasn't her "dream job." When she first took interest in the position, she was only looking for a reliable income stream. She states, "It turned out, although it wasn't by my desire to work in corrections, it was by God's design that I was placed there."

Before becoming a sergeant, Joi was not only the first woman to receive the officer of the year award, but also the first African American woman to receive this honor. Through that she stayed humble, became a sergeant, and still considers raising her children to be her greatest accomplishment. She revealed, "I raised children that are

responsible, respectful, smart, resilient and overall good human beings. They're everything that our ancestors dreamed of."

You can only imagine how hard a position like this can be both physically and mentally. Her comment is, "The toughest part of my profession is always holding out hope for the betterment of mankind. Even when dealing with some people that have so much despair and hopelessness. You want to see people at their best and usually I see them at their worst. However, I try to show up in a positive way, to show young girls and women like me that we have a seat at any table we want to sit at."

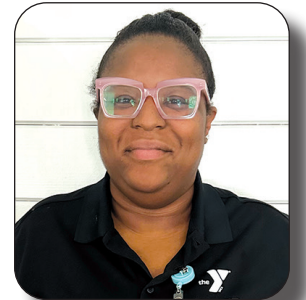
Sergeant Franklin's goals are staying in her position until retirement and starting her own business. Just from her walk you can tell she carries herself with pride and honor of her accomplishments. When asked what advice she'd give to anyone coming out of "the system" or people that walk on the edge of becoming a part of the system she simply stated, "Life isn't easy. We're all learning together. Don't let what other people think of you determine your destiny or put you in situations that can alter your destiny. Oftentimes, it's pure luck that they get it right. Just know that God is bigger than any situation and oftentimes the test you're going through is just a promotion for what he has in store for you next."

Thank you Sergeant Franklin for creating a pathway for women to walk with their heads held high.



Monae Williams Sparkles on BCTV

Recently (on Monday, June 12, 2023) Monae Williams, an assistant director of the Reading branch of the YMCA, appeared on the Berks Community Television (BCTV) station program, "Diversity: The Wider Vision." She, along with William Folk, the director of the Reading YMCA, talked about summer activities.



Monae Williams

Williams encouraged the viewers of the program to take advantage of the "Y's" summer camp. For 10 years, Monae Williams has been employed at the "Y's" Day Care Center.

The other local agencies represented on that program were Safe Berks, the Reading Recreation Commission, and the Berks County Recreations and Parks Department.

We are blessed to have numerous healthy summer activities in Berks County.



"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character — that is the goal of true education."

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

Super Bo & Super Sally:
Episode 12
BLACK SUPER HEROES
Story by Joseph Amprey
Illustrations by Stan Barnes



Big Ben stands up after having been knocked on the ground by Super Bo, and he says, " Please don't hit me again!"



Bo punches Big Ben.

Big Ben falls on the ground and pleads, "Please stop hitting me!"



Bo replies, "If you ever bully anyone again, I will hit you even harder, and then I will have you arrested."



to be continued...

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AFRICAN AMERICAN Do you know?

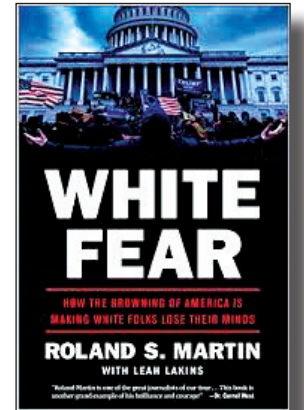
1. Who is the African American who invented the traffic light, and when did he invent it?
2. Who is the African American, who is the current Secretary of Defense of the United States, and what is his former position?
3. What award was recently bestowed on an African American actress?
4. Who is the former Philadelphia 76er who led the Miami Heat to the 2023 NBA finals?
5. Who are the three current African American United States Senators, what are their political parties, and which states do they represent?
6. Who is the award-winning African American Correspondent on the CBS television program, "60 Minutes," and from what institutions has he been awarded degrees?
7. Who is the billionaire African American woman who owns a magazine, a television network and a production studio?
8. Who is the Black British prolific screen writer and film producer, and for what film is he most famous?
9. Who is the African American woman who wrote the short film, "Gilga," and Donald Glover's new thriller, "Swarm," for Amazon?
10. Who is the African American Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., and where was he educated?

The answers can be found on page 6.

A BOOK REVIEW

A Book Review of "White Fear" by Roland S. Martin

Title: *White Fear: How the Browning of America Is Making White Folks Lose Their Minds*
Publisher: Ben Bella Books, Inc., Dallas, TX
 144 Pages
 2022



This is the most important book published in 2022. It addresses the problem that has plagued the United States since its inception. Its exploitation of people of color. However, the problem is now more catastrophic than ever before! Roland Martin clearly identifies why the problem has become worse than ever before: By 2043, less the 47% of the population of the United States will be white. That fact is petrifying millions of Americans.

White fear has motivated Republicans in several southern states to use political gerrymandering to redraw voting district voting districts in order to weaken the Black vote. Martin revealed that the state senate in Texas has passed a bill limiting extended early voting hour, prohibiting drive-through voting, banning local election officials from proactively sending vote-by-mail applications, and allowing poll watchers to videotape voters receiving assistance in filling out their ballots, essentially allowing poll watchers to intimidate voters.

Martin sets forth agendas for both black and white Americans for confronting white feat and calling out and eliminating voter suppression laws, gerrymandering, relining, predatory loans, underfunded school systems, gentrification, police brutality, and any other practices that prevent people of color front sharing in the American dream.

White Fear... should be a "must read" for all Americans in order for us to live up to the promises of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence.



"Now I think it's one of the most useless questions an adult can ask a child—What do you want to be when you grow up? As if growing up is finite. As if at some point you become something and that's the end."

~Ava DuVernay

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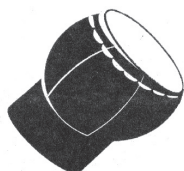
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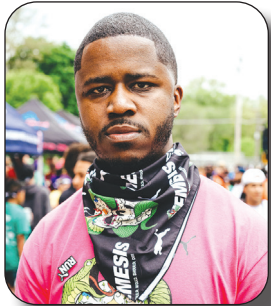
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Community Influencer

By Rosa J. Parra, Editor and Founder, Palo Magazine & Maritza Loaiza



Paul Redford Jr

Paul Redford Jr, from Reading, PA, has an incredible passion for fitness and community. He is what we would call a community influencer . . . people gravitate to him and want to be part of what he creates or is a part of.

He works with other running groups in other major cities and runs in marathons and other races throughout the US and has been able to create good relationships with Puma, Nike, and Maurteen. Puma donated sneakers for this last run and will be doing the same for the upcoming run in July. Both companies continue to work with him on potentially sponsoring one of his future races. All great things for our city.

He started the runs in 2019 with a few friends and now has grown them into a series of events people look forward to attending.

This last race was the largest so far, with over 600+ people, young and old, from all different backgrounds participating. He does all the design work, marketing, branding, and promo. He funds the races himself with the support of his friends and local small businesses to ensure all things provided are at no charge to participants.

Paul does an amazing job bringing the community together in a wholesome way



Nemesis Fitness - Cinco de Mayo Run - Group Run

filled with creativity and fun and showing our community the positive impact that exercise like running brings. Back in October, he organized a Nemesis Fitness 5k Breast Cancer Awareness Color Run (free community run) which raised \$10K for Breast Cancer Support Services of Berks County and kicked off the 2023 community run season this past spring with a Cinco de Mayo run. The next free community run is scheduled for Sunday, July 23rd. Anyone interested can sign-up at runsignup.com/Race/PA/Reading/Nemesis5kColorRun.

Thanks to Paul and his group of friends. When people unite and share a passion for fitness and a desire to have fun while being healthy, building community and self-confidence, it empowers them to overcome challenges - their Nemesis - and the Nemesis Fitness mantra is born - Could. Would. Should. DID. Follow or reach out to Paul Redford Jr., Founder of Nemesis Fitness, for more information or interest in supporting or sponsoring, contact info@nemesisfitness.com or via Instagram at [@nemesisetc](https://www.instagram.com/nemesisetc).

Answers to Do You Know

1. Garrett Morgan was issued a patent for the traffic light on November 20, 1923.
2. Lloyd Austin, a retired 4 Star United States Army General, is the current United States Secretary of Defense.
3. On June 26, 2023, it was announced that Angela Bassett would be awarded an honorary Oscar at the 2023 Governors Awards.
4. Jimmy Butler led the Miami Heat to the 2023 NBA Finals.
5. The current three African American United States Senators are Corey Booker, a democrat from New Jersey, Tim Scott, a Republican from South Carolina, and Raphael Warnock, a democrat from Georgia.
6. Bill Whittaker has earned a Bachelor's Degree from Hobart College, a Master's Degree from Boston College, and Honorary Doctorates of Human Letters from Hobart, Knox, and William Smith Colleges.
7. Oprah Winfrey, the former talk show host and actress, owns Harpo Productions, Inc. which produces films and television programs, and the OWN, a television network, and *O, The Oprah Magazine*.
8. Sir Steve McQueen is most famous for the film, *12 Years a Slave*, for which he won the Academy Award for Best Picture, the BAFTA Award for Best Film, and the Golden Globe Award for Best Motion Picture – Drama. McQueen is the first black filmmaker to win the Academy Award for Best Picture.
9. Malia Obama, a graduate of Harvard University, wrote the short film, "Gilga," and Donald Glover's new thriller, "Swarm" for Amazon.
10. Dr. Lonnie Bunch, the first African American Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, enrolled in Howard University, after which he transferred to the American University (Washington, D.C.) from which he earned a Bachelor's Degree, a Master's Degree and a Ph.D. Degree.

A Word From The Publisher

Joseph Amprey, Ph.D.



Greetings Readers of THE DRUM

I hope that you will read *White Fear...* by Roland Martin (which is reviewed on page 5).

Martin mentions the fact that in many states of the United States of America, Republicans are making it more and more difficult for African Americans to vote. Our ancestors fought and died for this very important right! If you aren't registered, please register. Most importantly, it is essential that we vote in every election. November is just three months away.

"It's okay to fail; it's not okay to quit."

~Chris Paul

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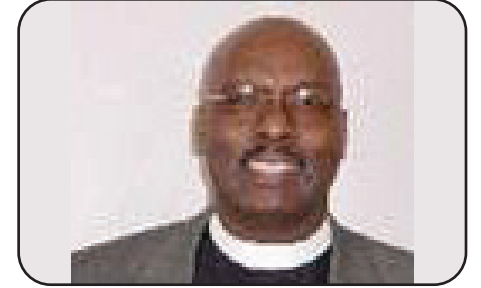
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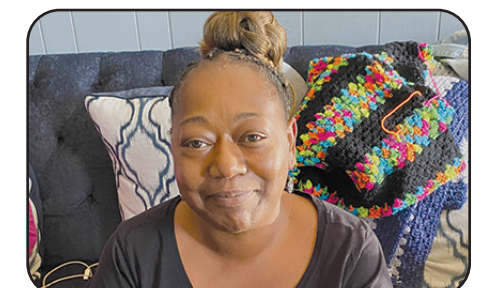
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Pastor Kelly

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Pastor Alicia Snead

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715 N 10th St., Reading, PA 19604
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Pastor: Pastor Alicia Snead

Service Times:
Sunday Worship: 10:30 am

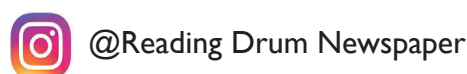
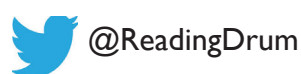


Reverend Dr. Alick

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610.376.5944
Pastor: Reverend Dr. Bruce Alick

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Bible Study: Tuesday - 11 a.m. and Wednesday - 5:30 p.m.

*Praying is to the Soul
what breathing is to the Body*



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