



Expanding Internet Access 3



Dr. Bernice King Moving Forward 7



Malcolm X's Daughter Dies 15

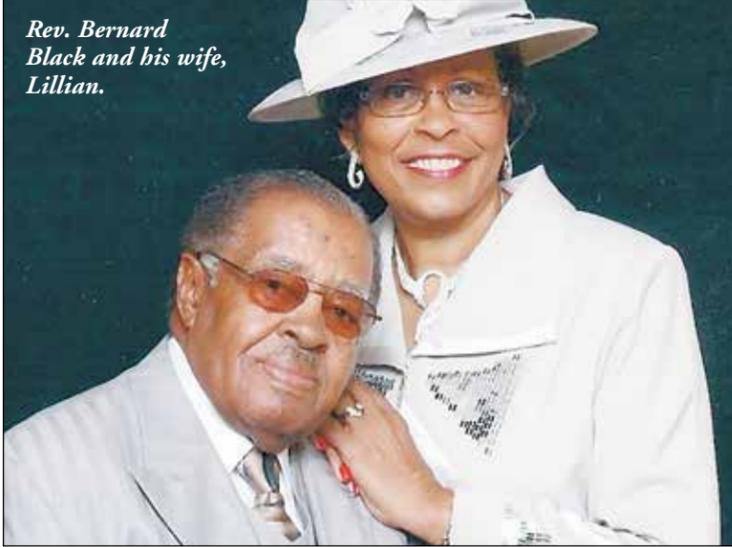


Bishop Curry Spreads Love 16

OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY: 1971-2021 CELEBRATING 193 YEARS OF THE BLACK PRESS

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Rev. Bernard Black and his wife, Lillian.

A Longlasting Legacy

Rev. Bernard Black Dies At Age 94

By Informant Staff

Dr. Rev. Bernard Black, 94, of Phoenix, died Nov. 23, in his home. He was the pastor of South Phoenix Baptist Church since 1965.

Church historians recall: "In the midst of hard times, one Saturday night, seven church members met in prayer and voted to call a young, inexperienced Minister from the Union Institutional Baptist Church, Rev. Bernard Black, to accept the challenge of becoming Pastor of South Phoenix Missionary Baptist Church."

Under his leadership South Phoenix Baptist grew to become a mainstay in the community providing spiritual and material support for members and non-members alike.

Deacon Board Chair Charles Fanniel related, "While visiting members in the hospital Pastor Black would often stop and pray for people he didn't even know as well as members of other churches."

Rev. Black held national Baptist, and statewide and local Association offices throughout his career in the ministry.

Working as a principal in the Williams and Jones Construction Company, Rev. Black helped provide high-quality houses in the Sheraton Park, Park South, and oth-



Rev. Black celebrating his first year at South Phoenix Baptist.

er neighborhoods in south Phoenix, thus providing a higher standard of living for African Americans.

Rev. Black, also a 33rd degree Mason and a Shriner, helped organize Prince Hall South Phoenix Lodge #25, which later merged with Lodge #1. Black served on the Roosevelt School Board for 22 years. The district honored him with the naming of a K-8 elementary school.

Dr. Black also was a devoted family man. His first wife, Stella, preceded him in death. The present Mrs. Lillian Black became a consummate 'helpmate' until the end.

Rev. Black's legacy as a pastor, businessman, education board member, Mason and family man will not soon be matched. His compassion and concern for his fellowman are some of the unique characteristics he shared with all of us.

Services information forthcoming.



State Of Pure Growth

Pure Farmland™ recognized TigerMountain Foundation (TMF) in Phoenix, Ariz. for its positive local impact with a check donation of \$15,000. The contribution is part of the Pure Growth Project, an initiative launched by Pure Farmland in 2020 to ensure community gardens and farms continue to thrive and help increase access to fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables nationwide.

TMF was selected as a grant recipient because of its mission to empower people by building community gardens, providing job skills and aiding workforce development through neighborhood re-

vitalization with multi-ethnic and multi-generational initiatives.

After receiving 103 applications from community gardens and farms across 29 states, 55 organizations were carefully selected to receive grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$20,000, providing a total of \$125,000 in financial support to nurture these unique neighborhood spaces. In the spirit of continued growth, Pure Farmland increased its financial commitment by 25 percent this year in hopes of positively supporting as many green spaces as possible.

Pure Farmland joined TMF at an event to celebrate the organiza-

tion's achievements and highlight the impact their hard work has on the community. The non-profit announced the grant will help fund Garden of Tomorrow, which is TMF's one-acre garden located in a food desert area in south Phoenix.

Specifically, the funds will be used to expand a 10-year-old irrigation system in the garden. The upgrades will provide better water efficiency and enlarge the current irrigation system so additional garden beds can be added. A new trellising installation will also provide more shade to the garden beds, allowing for maximum growth of plants and

continued on page 4

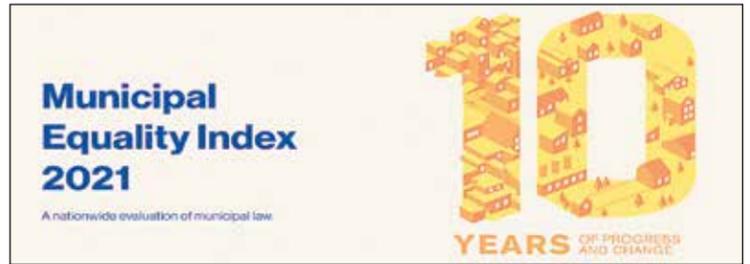
Tempe: Perfect MEI Score

The City of Tempe was honored by the Human Rights Campaign for its perfect score of 100 in the 2021 Municipal Equality Index (MEI). The MEI measures inclusive policies for the LGBTQ community.

The City of Tempe has earned a perfect score of 100 since 2014.

The MEI examines how inclusive municipal laws, policies, and services are of LGBTQ people who live and work there. Cities are rated based on non-discrimination laws, the municipality as an employer, municipal services, law enforcement and the city leadership's public position on equality.

"Equality is a central value to all who live and work in our city. We are proud to have achieved a perfect score on the MEI consistently since 2014," said Tempe Mayor Corey



Woods. "The Tempe City Council looks forward to continuing to advance equality in every service, program and policy to ensure we are a welcoming city to all."

The 2021 MEI analyzed 506 American cities. There were 110 cities that scored 100 points. The national average was 67 points. These were both record high scores for the report. One reason for the increased scores: more cities than ever offer their employees transgender-in-

clusive health care benefits, which Tempe has done for years.

While the total score available is 100, Tempe also earned nine bonus points for its domestic partner benefits program, for providing services for LGBTQ youth and homeless people as well as for those living with HIV/AIDS. Points also were awarded for LGBTQ leadership in Tempe.

Read the report and see city scores at hrc.org/mei.

THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY: NOV 30 1912

"I saw that the camera could be a weapon against poverty, against racism, against all sorts of social wrongs." – Gordon Roger Alexander

Buchanan Parks, an award-winning photographer, musician, writer and film director, is born in Fort Scott, Kan.





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