

THRIVING!

THE NEWSLETTER OF BLACK PR WIRE, INC.

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HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

*Fathers have important roles in our lives ...
Like moms, they wipe the tears from our eyes.
Fathers are considered to be strong, taking care of us all along ...
Until we can take care of ourselves on our own.
For daughters, fathers are the first men that they adore...
So the impact of fathers is something that we cannot underscore.*

President Barack Obama is a prominent father who does all of this and more. He is a totally committed father who has greatly contributed to society through his nurturing love and support. He is admired for holding his daughters to high standards of morality and proper behavior. As President of the United States, it is amazing how he always seems to have time to be a part of his daughters' lives and



regularly offer them solid fatherly advice and wisdom. He is truly a pillar of strength and a great example of a father who inspires fathers and families in a magnificent way.

To all fathers, Black PR Wire sends well wishes your way.
Happy Father's Day!

GRADUATION CELEBRATIONS



For decades, Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs) have played a key role in producing African American college graduates who lead their fields.

According to The Network Journal, HBCUs are responsible for 22 percent of bachelor's degrees granted to African Americans in various fields of study. Approximately 40 percent of all congressmen, 12.5 percent of CEOs, 40 percent of engineers, 50 percent of professors at non-HBCUs, 50 percent of lawyers and 80 percent of judges, are HBCU graduates.

HBCUs build a path to graduation that cannot be denied. A continued focus on education will hopefully result in more graduation celebrations. Currently, the college graduation rate for African American students is 34.3 percent, compared to 47.1 percent for Asian students, 46.2 percent for white students, and 41.05 percent for Hispanic students (National Center for Education Statistics, 2015).

Now is the time to continue pushing the importance of education, so that there can be even more graduation celebrations. We want the future generation to join a long list of famous HBCU alumni such as W.E.B. Dubois (Wilberforce), Martin Luther King, Jr. (Morehouse), and Oprah Winfrey (Tennessee State), who blazed a trail for progress and success.



W.E.B. DUBOIS



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



OPRAH WINFREY

IN TUNE WITH THE TIMES



Erykah Badu



Marvin Gaye



Patti LaBelle



Ne-Yo



Jill Scott

June is the perfect month to get in tune with the times and jam into the sultry months of summer. Dubbed Black Music Month, June's heat is a reminder of the trailblazing African-American music artists who have helped shape American society as we know it today.

From the spirituals of slaves to present day pop and hip hop, music symbolizes the social climate of the times. The harmonious moans and groans of slaves echoed the message of the injustice they endured through captivation and oppression. From these memories, gospel music emerged.

Celebrating black music month in June is a time for America to

rejoice in the accomplishments and contributions of African American artists. Syncopated jazz tunes reflect the medley of black people, yet simultaneously exude our unity. Jazz is often noted as "America's classical music," and its influence on American culture will live on in our hearts forever. It is because of all forms of music that we celebrate Black Music Month!

So whether you are swaying to the groove of rhythm and blues, or loosing control and turning up the heat from soul, Black Music Month is the time to remember the hard work and dedication of our musical geniuses of past and present. The opportunity is ripe and prime to get in tune with the times!

Snoop Dogg

Estelle

Stevie Wonder

Tina Turner

Michael Jackson



Black PR Wire, Inc. is a premier news distribution service center that delivers to the very core and pulse of the Black community. The company holds a comprehensive listing of over 1,200 Black-owned

publications and media, as well as provides services to social service and grassroots organizations and influential leaders throughout the United States and the Caribbean. Plus, we provide our services in

English and Creole. To find out more about Black PR Wire, Inc., call us toll free at 1-877-BlackPR or visit the website at: WWW.BLACKPRWIRE.COM.

"There is POWER in the Wire... At Black PR Wire, we distribute the news our media can use!"

POWER PROFILER: **JEFF FRIDAY** *Founder, The American Black Film Festival*

Jeff Friday entered the film business in 1996 when he became president of UniWorld Films, a division of UniWorld Group, Inc. His success there put him at the forefront of the independent Black film movement and fueled his commitment to transform the business of Black cinema.

Under his direction, the company founded the Acapulco Black Film Festival and he began to market movies to studios, including DreamWorks' Amistad, to the African American audience.

In 2001, Friday founded Film Life, Inc and one year later, he acquired the rights to the Acapulco Black Film Festival, moved it stateside and renamed it the American Black Film Festival (ABFF).

With diversity and social responsibility at its core, the festival supports aspiring actors, filmmakers and industry executives in unprecedented ways. Since its inception, the ABFF has showcased more than 800 films, rewarding and redefining artistic excellence in independent filmmaking. Now in its 17th year, it is widely considered the premier international festival for African American and urban content.

Friday is the Executive Producer of ABFF Independent, a two-hour weekly television

program featuring the best feature-length, short and documentary films made by emerging Black artists. Hosted by actor Omari Hardwick, ABFF Independent launched in June 2012 on Magic Johnson's new cable network, ASPIRE.

Cited for his experience and knowledge of the film industry, Jeff Friday is highly sought after as a public speaker. He devotes considerable time to nurturing the careers of individuals in front of and behind the camera. Friday's professional efforts have been covered in numerous publications, including Variety, The Hollywood Reporter, Crain's, Essence, The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, Uptown magazine and VIBE. He has also been profiled on WNBC-TV in New York and featured in print advertising campaigns for such brands as Walmart, Allstate and Bleu de Chanel.



Jeff Friday boasts more than twenty-five years of success as a product marketer, entertainment executive and entrepreneur. A cum laude graduate of Howard University, with a degree in finance, he received his MBA in marketing from New York University's Leonard Stern School of Business.

He resides in New Jersey with his wife, Nicole, and children.

ISLANDS OF PARADISE

Antigua, Aruba, Barbados, Belize, Cayman Islands, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, St. Croix, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, U.S. Virgin Islands, Tortola, and Trinidad and Tobago. These are just a few of the thousands of islands of paradise that are part of the Caribbean region.

Did you know that June is considered Caribbean-American Heritage Month? Now is the time to celebrate the great contributions that Caribbean Americans have made to the fabric of our Nation. Because of the multicultural diversity among people of color, we are more vibrant and hopeful because of the talent, faith, and our values of Caribbean Americans.

Millions of Americans proudly share their Caribbean heritage throughout the U.S., in promoting and celebrating Caribbean style Carnivals around the country. Caribbean Americans have done much to shape and form virtually all areas of life in the United States throughout our country's great history. It's time to recognize and pay homage to our growing community of Caribbean-Americans! It's Caribbean-American Heritage Month, mon' – make your vow to visit one of these islands of paradise now!



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

This section is designed to keep you in the know and on the go.

Check out some of the latest happenings in Black communities throughout the country this month.

Capital Jazz Fest
6/05/15 – 6/07/15
Columbia, MD
www.capitaljazz.com

American Black Film Festival
6/11/15 – 6/14/15
New York, NY
www.abff.com

Juneteenth Celebrations
6/19/15
Various Dates and Cities
www.juneteenth.com

FunkFest Tour
6/06/15
Mobile, AL
www.funkfestconcerts.com

San Francisco Black Film Festival
6/11/15 – 6/14/15
San Francisco, CA
www.sfbff.org

Blogging While Brown Conference
6/19/15 – 6/20/15
Austin, TX
www.bloggingwhilebrown.com

Caribbean Carnival
6/11/15-6/12/15
Baltimore, MD
www.dccaribbeanfestival.org

Chicago Blues Festival
6/12/15 – 6/14/15
Chicago, IL
www.chicagobluesfestival.us

BET Experience
6/25/15 – 6/28/15
Los Angeles, CA
www.bet.com/bet-awards

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