

# THRIVING!

THE NEWSLETTER OF BLACK PR WIRE, INC.

January 2015



## *Celebrating the Legacy:*

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MLK!

As Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is commemorated throughout the nation, it is natural to take a moment to reflect on what his presence in the world has meant. Dr. King gave voice to injustices and atrocities taking place in his lifetime. He was one of the most important and prolific leaders of the Civil Rights movement; and his message continues to resonate and influence the Black community to this day.

As we celebrate Dr. King's birthday, we must celebrate the fact that his legacy remains alive and strong today. Many groups and individuals continue to work for changes that Dr. King so diligently fought for. Dr. King left the legacy of a lifetime and we look forward to honoring that legacy on the third Monday of January as we celebrate the life and work of a born leader, hero and champion.

The overall message that we should keep in mind is that at any given point in history, every person has the power to improve and rise higher. Today, African Americans have broken barriers and have established themselves as leaders in many social, economic and political arenas. From politics to medicine to communications,

African Americans have made a huge impact. The Honorable Barack Obama became the nation's first Black president in the United States. Dr. Ben Carson is a pioneer in pediatric neurosurgery and made history in 1987 with an operation to separate a pair of Siamese twins. Oprah Winfrey is a household name both in the U.S. and abroad. From her beginnings as a reporter and anchor to her meteoric rise to becoming the head of a communications empire and her OWN network, Oprah is a trailblazer among Black business leaders. These great strides were achieved because leaders like Dr. King took the time to take a stand and pave the way.

Thank you and happy birthday, Dr. King!

### THE SKANNER READER TO HOST 29TH ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BREAKFAST ON JANUARY 19TH IN PORTLAND, OREGON

The Scanner Reader, a website and newspaper published in Portland, Oregon, and Seattle, Washington, will host its **29th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast on Monday, January 19, 2015**. The event takes place from **8:30 am —10:30 a.m.** at the **Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE Martin Luther King Junior Blvd.**, in Portland. The keynote speaker is the **Rev. Benjamin Chavis**, executive director of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and a former assistant to the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

At the age of 24, Chavis became one of the Wilmington 10, a group of teenagers and civil rights activists wrongly convicted of firebombing a grocery store in the city in 1971. A pastor in the United Church of Christ, Chavis served as vice president of the National Council of Churches in 1988; and was elected the youngest executive director of the national NAACP in 1993.

### BLACK PR WIRE WELCOMES NEW TEAM MEMBER

Black PR Wire welcomes a new team to better serve YOU! **Simone Cook** has joined the firm as an Account Coordinator. In this role, Simone will assume responsibility for preparing client service agreements and posting press releases. She will also oversee client relations.

Simone is a graduate of Florida International University where she received her B.A. in Communications. She has several years of professional experience in the Communications field. This wide scope of experience makes Simone very acclimated to the many different tasks she performs at Black PR Wire and a valuable asset to the team.



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](http://WWW.BLACKPRWIRE.COM).



## POWER PROFILER: BENJAMIN CHAVIS

Dr. Benjamin Franklin Chavis, Jr. is a civil rights leader born in Oxford, North Carolina. In his youth, Dr. Chavis was an assistant to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who inspired him to work in the civil rights movement.

At the age of 24, Dr. Chavis rose to international prominence as the leader of the Wilmington Ten. After the conviction of the entire group that would be overturned on appeal, Dr. Chavis received a sentence of 34 years in prison. Along with the other members of the Wilmington Ten, Dr. Chavis walked to his freedom in 1980 after the federal appeals court overturned the convictions and cited "prosecutorial misconduct." Upon his release from prison, Dr. Chavis returned to the field of civil rights, and he became a Vice President of the National Council of Churches.

The board of the NAACP elected Dr. Chavis as the Executive Director of America's oldest civil rights organization. Dr. Chavis later served as the National Director of the Million

Man March, and the Founder and CEO of the National African American Leadership Summit (NAALS). Since 2001, Dr. Chavis has been CEO and Co-Chairman of the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network in New York City, which he co-founded with hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons.

In 2009, Dr. Chavis joined with Ezell Brown and established Education Online Services Corporation, headquartered in Coral Springs, Florida. In 2011, Dr. Chavis collaborated with multi-platinum music producer and author Sahpreem A. King on "Surviving the Game: How to Succeed in the Music Business." Dr. Chavis is credited as author of the foreword and technical advisor.

On June 24, 2014, Dr. Chavis became the interim president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, an African-American organization which focuses on supporting and advocating for publishers of the nation's more than 200 black newspapers.

## 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.

**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service**  
Various Dates  
Various Locations  
[www.mlkdjay.gov](http://www.mlkdjay.gov)

**Chante Moore**  
1-2-15  
Washington, DC  
[www.headzup-events.com](http://www.headzup-events.com)

**Mo'Nique**  
1-10-15  
Baltimore, MD  
[www.headzup-events.com](http://www.headzup-events.com)

**MLK Festival of Laughs Miami 2015**  
1-16-15 – 1-17-15  
James L. Knight Center  
Miami, FL  
[www.jebapresents.com](http://www.jebapresents.com)



**2015 Eagle Awards**  
1-17-15  
Orlando, FL  
Xavia Sullivan

**"Raisin' Cane: A Harlem Renaissance Odyssey" Starring Jasmine Guy \* Avery Sharpe Trio**  
1-24-15  
Fairfax, VA

**Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities**  
1-24-15 – 2-1-15  
Eatonville, FL

For a complete listing of events, please visit [www.blackprwire.com](http://www.blackprwire.com)

### OUR TEAM

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### BPRW ALLIANCES

Black PR Wire has several alliances and strategic partnerships with wire services and national organizations. They include:

