

seattlemedium.com

THE SEATTLE MEDIUM (ISSN 746-5394) is published weekly on Wednesday for \$34.00 per year by Tiloben Publishing Company, Inc., 2600 South Jackson Street, Seattle, WA 98144. Periodicals postage paid at Seattle, WA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: THE SEATTLE MEDIUM, 2600 South Jackson Street, Seattle, WA 98144.

Chris B. Bennett & Joan Owens, Co-Publishers
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S.A.K.S. Salon

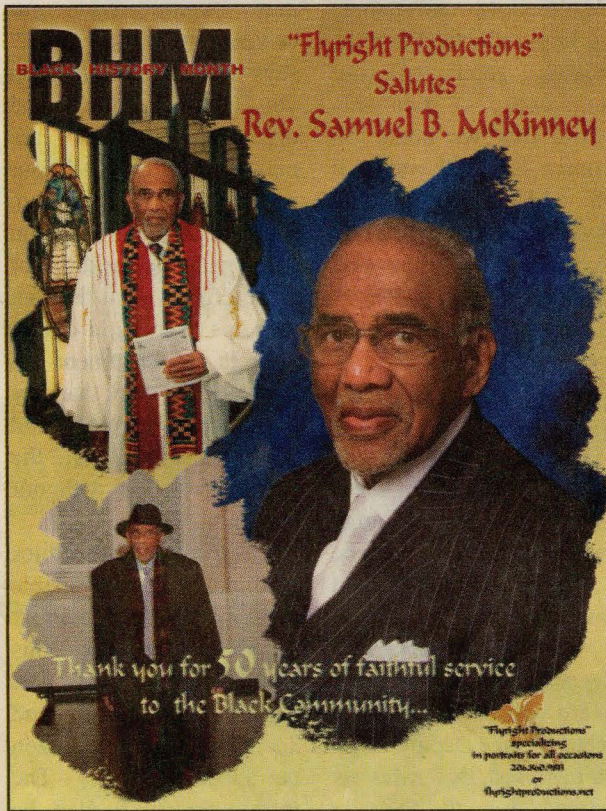
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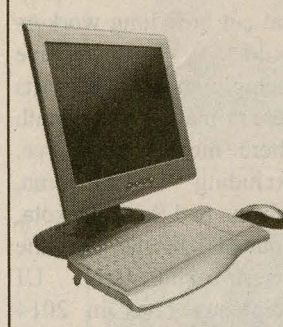
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DNA Evidence

Continued From Front Page

appeals. Because preservation rules may differ from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, or even agency to agency, Zarowsky said there is no guarantee that DNA evidence will be available for testing if cases are appealed. She said that her group reviewed about 70 potential DNA cases between 2011 and 2013 and found that in 25, including murder and

rape prosecutions, biological evidence was destroyed in eight cases and lost in one. "This is one of those areas where it's clear that we need state guidance on what the baseline should be," she said. Orwall's measure passed the House on a bipartisan 77-20 vote last month, and has been referred to the Senate Law & Justice Committee, where it will have a public hearing on

Thursday. Mitch Barker, executive director for the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, said that the bill is still a work in progress and that his organization has been talking with Orwall and others on some of the language concerning statute of limitations for cold cases. Barker noted that for some crimes, like murder, there is no

statute of limitations, and he said that the law enforcement community wants to make sure "we're not holding stuff forever." Zarowsky said that new language being considered as the bill moves through the Senate would address that, putting the timeframe for holding the DNA at 99 years or the statute of limitations, whichever is shorter.

Former Workers

Continued From Front Page

(31.4 percent Black pop.), South Carolina (27.9 percent Black pop.) and Florida (16.7 percent Black pop.) had some of the lowest short-term UI reciprocity rates in the country. The highest short-term UI reciprocity rate in the country was 65.7 percent in New Jersey (14.7 percent Black) and the lowest was South Carolina at 14.8 percent. When lawmakers in North Carolina (22 percent Black) cut the duration for UI and the dollar amount for weekly benefits,

"reciprocity rate fell by 16.3 percentage points, 8.6 times more than the overall national decline, since the cuts went into effect," the report said. Researchers suggested that throwing more federal money at states that want to keep UI programs "as small and stingy as possible" won't fix the problem. They said that UI advocates should focus on setting federal standards for benefits and financing. "The point of unemployment insurance is to help workers who are out of work through no fault of

their own, and give them a chance to support themselves and their families while they look for another job," said Will Kimball, a research assistant at EPI, that specializes in wages, labor markets, macroeconomics, international trade, and health insurance. "When states cut the generosity and length that benefits were available, they failed the workers who need help the most." Earlier this month the Labor Department reported that the Black unemployment rate

increased from 10.3 percent in January to 10.4 percent in February and the labor force participation rate, the share of workers that are employed or looking for jobs, also increased from 61 percent to 61.2 percent over the same period. Even as the economy continues to grow, the Black unemployment rate is still more than double the White unemployment rate, which fell from 4.9 percent in January to 4.7 percent in February. Employers added 295,000 to the economy in February and the national unemployment rate ticked down to 5.5 percent.

But for those lucky enough to have jobs, wages largely remain stagnant. In a blog post on wage growth, Elise Gould, a senior economist and director of health policy research at EPI, said that, because corporate profits are near all-time highs, employers can pay their workers more without having to raise prices. "They might even find that workers who are paid more have more company loyalty, leading to better recruitment and retention, and higher productivity," wrote Gould. "It's a reminder that the path we've chosen - one where economic gains are disproportionately enjoyed by those at the top - is a choice."

Gould said that increases in the minimum wage across the country (18 states in 2014) show that the right policies can help turn things around. "And this change made a difference: while real hourly wages fell or stagnated across the board last month, low wage workers actually saw a modest wage increase," said Gould.

That modest increase is good for Black workers who disproportionately earn low wages. "We're still far enough away from full employment that additional fiscal stimulus would pay big dividends. This is unfortunately not on the table, politically speaking, though economically it would be relatively easy," said Gould. "But it's important that policymakers - particularly those at the Federal Reserve - not put the brakes on the recovery prematurely."

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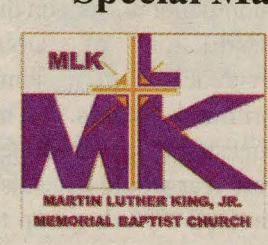
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