

THE NORTHSTAR NEWS & ANALYSIS

The Voice of Today's Black Man

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February 4, 2014

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DNA evidence last year exonerated Andrew Johnson of rape and burglary in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

47 Percent of Wrongfully Convicted Exonerees Are African American

by **Frederick H. Lowe**

The National Registry of Exonerations, which reported that there were 87 recorded exonerations last year, said that black defendants are over-represented among the wrongfully convicted.

Of the 1,281 individual exonerations from January 1989 through December 2013, 47 percent or 598 were African American; 40 percent or 513 were white; 11 percent or 147 were Hispanic and 2 percent or 23 were Native American or Asian.

NorthStar's Days In Black History



February 4 1901
----- Jefferson Franklin Long, the first African American from Georgia elected to

the U.S.

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Orange Crush Gets Crushed By the Seattle Seahawks in the Super Bowl



Russell Wilson Becomes the Second Black Quarterback to Defeat the Denver Broncos in the Super Bowl by Frederick H.

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Museums



DuSable Museum of African American History The DuSable

Museum of African American History in Chicago will hold a lecture concerning Illinois' role in The Underground Railroad.

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Canada's Postal Service Issues 2 Stamps Celebrating Black History Month



by Frederick H. Lowe Canada Post, the equivalent of the United States Postal Service, has issued two stamps celebrating Black

History Month, including one with a photo of rock and roll legend Jimi Hendrix's paternal

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CAN YOUNG PEOPLE MENTOR ADULTS?

With modern day growth of technology and social media, many adults - even civil rights groups - are enjoying the tutelage of teenagers, college students, and young adults.

Click here to read more about this role reversal as AARP Celebrates Black History Month.

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Video of the Week

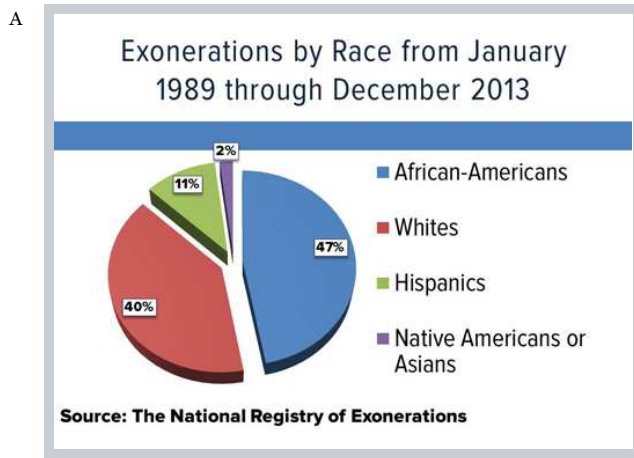
Meet The Murderers Jailed In Venezuela's Luxury Prison

“Black defendants continue to be over-represented among exonerees, particularly in sexual assault, robbery and drug cases. As we noted last year, the disparity is greatest in sexual assault cases. Black defendants constitute 25 percent of prisoners incarcerated for rape, but 61 percent of those exonerated for such crimes,” reported the National Registry of Exonerations, a joint project of the University of Michigan Law School and the Northwestern University Law School.

The Exoneration Project reported that 46 percent of African Americans were exonerated for homicide; 61 percent were exonerated for sexual assault; 25 percent were exonerated for child sex abuse; 69 percent were exonerated for attempted murder; 58 percent were exonerated for robbery; 38 percent were exonerated for other violent crimes; 55 percent were exonerated for drug crimes and 59 percent were exonerated for other non-violent crimes from January 1989 through December 2013.

The Registry now lists 1,304 exonerations from 1989 to February 3, 2014.

Andrew Johnson, a black man, was exonerated for rape and burglary by DNA evidence in 2013 after being wrongfully convicted of the crimes in 1989 in Cheyenne, Wyoming.



woman, who Johnson had been drinking and smoking marijuana with earlier, accused him of breaking into her house and raping her. He was convicted of the crime and sentenced to life in prison. Johnson denied that he broke into the woman’s home and raped her although she claimed he did.

The Rocky Mountain Innocence Project took on Johnson’s case. In 2013, DNA tests excluded Johnson as the perpetrator, as DNA evidence from the rape kit proved that the woman’s abusive boyfriend attacked her.

The Laramie County District Attorney’s Office later dismissed all of the charges Johnson, the first person acquitted by DNA evidence in Wyoming.

The National Registry of Exonerations noted that DNA exonerations dropped from 23 in 2005 to 18 in 2013. At the same time, the number of non-DNA exonerations rose from 34 in 2005 to 69 in 2013.

Texas, Illinois, New York, Washington and California were the leading states with exonerations in 2013. There were 13 exonerations in Texas, 9 in Illinois, 8 in New York, 7 in Washington and 6 in California.

grandmother, Nora Hendrix. The stamps, issued on January 30, feature a photograph of Nora Hendrix and Fielding William Spotts, Jr., both of whom lived in Hogan’s Alley, a four-block area that was located near modern-day Chinatown in Vancouver, British Columbia.

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Report: Black Men Are Very Involved with Their Children



by Frederick H. Lowe
A larger percentage of black

fathers help their children with their homework compared to white and Hispanic fathers, according to a study released by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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Chicago Police Woman Strip Searches Black Woman On the Street In Front of Five Male Cops



by Frederick H. Lowe
Three African Americans have sued the Chicago

police after the cops allegedly planted heroin on one of the suspects following a strip search in public, according to a federal lawsuit filed January 29, 2014, in the U.S.

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Report: Chicago Police 10 Times More Likely To Shoot African Americans

Chicago police are 10 times more likely to shoot African Americans compared to whites, according to an article published by the Chicago Reporter, a monthly investigative magazine that covers poverty and race issues.

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Wal-Mart Fiscal Fourth-Quarter 2014 Sales Hurt by Cuts to Food Stamps



Retailer expected to report lower fourth-quarter earnings per share by Frederick H. Lowe

Usually when television news shows a food stamp recipient, it’s a black woman with hungry children hanging on to her dress.



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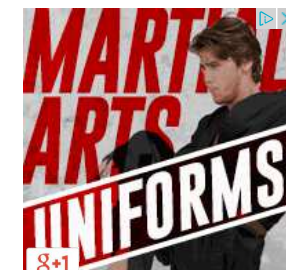


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N. J. Gov. Christie Signs Bill Increasing Compensation for Wrongfully Convicted

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie has had a lot of detractors lately. Football fans booed him at Sunday's Super Bowl at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

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