

NAACP

"Of all of the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane." Martin Luther King Jr.

Flu Season is Here

If you have not received your yearly flu shot, now is the time. Positive cases of Influenza A and B are occurring in Greene County.

"Big Pharma: Market Failure "

The Moxie Cinema will hold a free public screening of the movie exposing the outrageous prices that Americans pay for drugs compared to other advanced economies. We often pay 200-300% more than other countries. It is estimated that 20 million Americans do not fill their prescriptions because of the cost leading to more serious health problems and hospital stays.

The screening will be held Wednesday, October 18, 7:30 pm at the Moxie Cinema, 305 S. Campbell Ave.

Meet Leslie Botchway, MPT



Leslie Botchway is a physical therapist that works at the West Kearney Mercy clinic. He recently sat down with us to tell us about his journey. Leslie was born in London, England to parents from Ghana, West Africa. He graduated high school in Nigeria, he attended college in London for two years and later got his masters in physical therapy from the University of Nebraska in Omaha. Prior to becoming interested in physical therapy, he was studying aeronautics in Tulsa when he met his wife who is from Nebraska. They have two children, a 24 year old son and a 22 year old daughter.

Leslie's work with developmentally disabled adults in Tulsa spurred him to become a physical therapist. When he finished his degree in 1999, he and his family moved to the Springfield area .

Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon



The women of the NAACP held a luncheon at the Doling Center to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Around 100 women and men were present. There were contests for best hat, best cake, best table decoration and for most money raised. Cheryl Clay was able to send proceeds of \$1,650 to the American Cancer Society from this event.



Leslie has worked in the hospital, managed a private clinic and worked in Mt. Vernon and Ash Grove. Leslie believes race still plays a role in his interactions with white America. He says, "It is especially hard when your kids go through tough times because of their mixed race." On handling racism he states his faith sustains him and gives him courage. His pastor tells him, "racism is a sin problem, not a skin problem".

Leslie experiences a covert type of racism here in the Ozarks. He can always feel the tension in the room when he walks in for the first time. Sometimes he wonders if it is his name or his race that throws people off because they may be expecting to work with a female and end up with a black man. Leslie feels like he has to prove himself and earn the trust of his patients due to his color but says, "I like the challenge of representing the black race in a field that has relatively few professionals of color." Being a physical therapist and sensing the subtle tension of racism can be challenging. Rather than a 10-15 minute office visit, physical therapists walk with their patients for weeks if not months of the recovery process. He does get close to many of these patients and earns their trust as they come to see him as a competent and caring professional.

Leslie's advice for our readers:

1. Refuse to see yourself as a victim.
2. Make your presence known by being your best.
3. Have a voice in the community and make it count.

Voter registration

"The power of the vote is the ONLY place where the power of the poor man is equal to that of the rich man." Denise Lieberman

Voter registration in Greene county is handled by the county clerk. The office number is (417)868-4060, they are in the historic courthouse, room 114. Applications can be found on the website greencountymo.gov and remember you now have to have a current picture ID in order to vote.