African American Affairs

July 27, 2021



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Dr. John Baxter Taylor Jr.

Dr. John Baxter Taylor Jr. would be the first African-American to represent the United States in an international competition. He won an Olympic gold medal at the 1908 games in London, England five years before the birth of Jesse Owens.

Running track in high school, he set the record for the fastest time in the country for a prep or high-schooler. By the summer of 1904, Taylor was competing in Europe - entering competitons in both France and England, and winning a majority of the matches in which he would run.

While still an undergraduate at the University of Pennsylvania, Taylor was invited to become a member of the highly exclusive and prestigeous Sigma Pi Phi Boule fraternity. To this day, the organization selects outstanding men with a record of demonstrable commitment to the enhancement of black communities - one of its notable members being Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Taylor graduated with a degree from the university's School of Veterinary Medicine.

Taylor's strategy in most all of his races was to allow his opponents to run ahead of him, then chase them down from behind in the homestretch. It was this strategy that made him such an effective anchor on the relay teams.

After the games, he returned to the U.S. with plans to open a veterinary practice. Sadly, Taylor contracted typhoid fever while in England and died within a few months. During his brief track career, Taylor earned forty-five cups and seventy medals.

Sources:

Blackpast.org; Olympics.com; Wikipedia.org;

Office of Public Defense Advisory Committee Chair Recruitment

The 13-member Office of Public Defense (OPD) Advisory Committee seeks a committee chair.

OPD administers legal services for low-income people who have a right to counsel in certain specialized areas of law. The committee makes policy recommendations to the Legislature, the Supreme Court, advises the OPD director regarding administration and oversight of the office's program areas and other duties as authorized or required by law.

Women, people of color, persons over 40 years of age, persons of disability, military veterans, and persons with lived experience in the justice system are encouraged to apply.

Submit application materials by email to: OPD Director Larry Jefferson larry.jefferson@opd.wa.gov;

OPD Executive Assistant Tracy Sims tracy.sims@opd.wa.gov by 5 p.m., Monday, August 9, 2021.

New Environmental Justice Council Needs Members

Applications are being accepted for appointment to serve on the new Environmental Justice Council.

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income and with the recent Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) act signed by Goveror Inslee, state agencies must consider environmental justice in their strategic plans.

The council will consist of community members, environmental justice practitioners, tribes, and others of all geographic areas of Washington state. Applications are being accepted until August 20, 2021 online at www.governor.wa.gov/boards-commissions

Please direct any inquiries to GovernorBoardsandCommissions@gov.wa.gov or call 360-902-4111.



JUNE 28TH - AUGUST 26TH

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Executive Director. Open continuous

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Warehouse Supervisor (Warehouse Operator 4), Support Services Division. Closing August 4, 2021

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL & HEALTH SERVICES openings

DDA Emergency Management Program Specialist. Closing August 1, 2021

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION openings

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Compliance Lead (3 openings). Closing August 12, 2021 Information Technology Division (ITD), Enterprise Implementation Services. Closing August 12, 2021

CITY OF SEATTLE openings

Regional Early Learning Coach Manager. Closing August 9, 2021

CITY OF BELLEVUE openings CITY OF TACOMA openings CITY OF OLYMPIA openings KING COUNTY openings
PIERCE COUNTY openings SPOKANE COUNTY openings CLARK COUNTY openings

SOUTH PUGET SOUND COMMUNITY COLLEGE openings COMMUNITY COLLEGES OF SPOKANE openings OLYMPIC COLLEGE openings

TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT openings KITSAP MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES openings

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION openings