

JUNETEENTH MYTHS Continued from Front Page

Emancipation Proclamation Freed All Enslaved Black People: FALSE

Many people believe that the Emancipation Proclamation freed the enslaved Black people in the Southern states.

IT DID NOT!

The Emancipation Proclamation did not apply to all states in this country when it was issued as an executive order by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863.

Specifically, the Emancipation Proclamation only applied to Confederate states that were in rebellion against the Union. It did not apply to the border states that remained loyal to the Union. In addition, it did not apply to areas of the Confederacy already under Union control, and did not apply to every state in the country.

The Emancipation Proclamation was not actual legislation. It was only a war time executive order that President Lincoln issued to solidify the Union states in the North, and to appease the border states, who through the executive order, were still allowed to keep their slaves if they agreed not to secede from the Union.

The Southern states seceded from the Union, which led to the Civil War and the eventual issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation. Those Southern states seceded and no longer claimed to be a part of the United States of America, forming the Confederate States of America, which was under the leadership of their president, Jefferson Davis.

The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which was ratified on December 6, 1865, officially abolished slavery in the country, becoming a part of national public policy versus an executive order that could be overturned.

This is why the passage of the 13th Amendment was critical in 1865, because there were no assurances that the Emancipation Proclamation would be able to maintain authority, even if the Union army would have won the Civil War.

Blacks Did Not Fight for Their Freedom: FALSE

This is one of the biggest myths ever told!

Over 200,000 Black soldiers enlisted in the Union Army and fought to liberate themselves out of enslavement and into freedom. Prior to that, the country paid no attention to them.

When the Civil War began, Black people had no pathway to citizenship and were defined in the U.S. Constitution as property—chattel slaves.

On top of that, every single court decision that was made leading up to the Civil War kept Black people relegated to an inferior status until President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation and gave Black people the opportunity to fight for their liberation.

These Black Union Army soldiers were instrumental in taking over and occupying Confederate territories to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation, and helped assert federal authority in Texas.

After General Granger read General Order No. 3 on the Galveston, TX shores, Black soldiers remained there for two years to ensure Black people received their just freedom and were not re-enslaved on the same plantations they had been forced to work on before they arrived.

These Black Union Army soldiers laid the foundation for the inclusion of Black soldiers in the regular U.S. Army, which we now know as the Buffalo Soldiers.

These Black Union Army soldiers are owed a great deal of historical praise for risking their lives to end the enslavement of Black people and for fighting to keep the United States of America united under one flag.

Black People Chose to Remain Slaves in Texas: FALSE

In order to obtain protection as a freedman or freedwoman, enslaved Black people who were close to the northern borders would have had to escape to the Union Army camps, which was extremely dangerous and difficult to do.

Another important thing to know is that Black people in the state of Texas rarely ran to the North to seek out freedom, primarily because Texas was too far from the Union Army lines and too far from the free states.

However, enslaved Blacks in Texas who sought to be free, escaped South across the border to Mexico, and were accepted. That is why many cities in the northern part of Mexico also celebrate Juneteenth as a commemorative holiday.

Juneteenth Celebration Started with President Joe Biden: FALSE

This is NOT true!

Juneteenth originated in the state of Texas well before President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law in 2021.

It was through the efforts of the late U.S. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (TX-18) that the National Federal Holiday of Juneteenth was established. She was the first Congressional leader to introduce the Federal legislation, known as H.R. 1320.

Prior to the federal holiday being signed into law, Texas was the first state in the country to make Juneteenth an official paid holiday in 1980, thanks to the efforts of the late State Representative Al Edwards, and his H.B. 1016 legislation.

Juneteenth...Moving Forward

The Juneteenth holiday should always be embraced, as it a commemoration to the countless enslaved people of African descent and the thousands of Black soldiers who fought to become citizens under the protection of the U.S. Constitution.

These were formerly enslaved Black people who aggressively fought for their liberation, their legalized freedom, and for their dignity as human beings, through sacrifice and self-determination to obtain full rights as American citizens.

Juneteenth should NEVER be forgotten or ignored.

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

CellCo Partnership and its Controlled Affiliates Doing Business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 43.9-foot Communications Tower at the approx. vicinity of 9929 2/3 Westgreen Boulevard, Cypress, Montgomery Co., TX 77433 [Lat: 29-55-56.3730 N, Long: 95-43-58.5870 W]. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: [Trileaf Corp, Arjun Pai, a.pai@trileaf.com](mailto:Trileaf Corp, Arjun Pai, a.pai@trileaf.com), 7700 West Highway 71, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78735 – 512.519.9388

PUBLIC NOTICE

CellCo Partnership and its Controlled Affiliates Doing Business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 47.20-foot Public Lighting Structure Communications Tower at the approx. vicinity of 18629 2/3 Josey Ranch Road, Cypress, Montgomery Co., TX 77433 [Lat: 29-56-46.8708 N, Long: 95-43-48.5544 W]. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: [Trileaf Corp, Arjun Pai, a.pai@trileaf.com](mailto:Trileaf Corp, Arjun Pai, a.pai@trileaf.com), 7700 West Highway 71, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78735 – 512.519.9388

PUBLIC NOTICE

Cellco Partnership and Its Controlled Affiliates Doing Business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 47.2-foot telecommunications pole at the approx. vicinity of 11639 2/3 Saddle Springs Ln, Cypress, Harris County, TX 77433 [Lat: 29-56-43.8324, Long: -95-41-1.014]. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: [Trileaf Corp, Mitra Rahimi, m.rahimi@trileaf.com](mailto:Trileaf Corp, Mitra Rahimi, m.rahimi@trileaf.com), 7700 W. Hwy 71, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78735, 512-519-9388.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

**Request for Proposal – Houston-Galveston Area Council – Public Services – Public Works Equipment – PW10-25**

H-GAC is soliciting responses for selecting qualified manufacturers, distributors, installers and service providers of Public Works Equipment to make these types of products and services available to Customers of the HGACBuy Cooperative Purchasing Program under blanket type contracts.

To view the solicitation documents, visit <https://www.hgacbuy.org/bid-notice> or [ESBD \(txsmartbuy.com\)](mailto:ESBD@txsmartbuy.com).

**Response Deadline: July 17, 2025 @ 12:00 P.M. CST**

HELP WANTED

Cost Analyst @Houston, TX Req'd: Bach's Deg. in Mathematics, Statistics, or Economics. Mail Resume to HD Hyundai Marine Solution Americas Co., Ltd. 16610 Barker Springs Rd. Houston, TX 77084

LEGAL NOTICE

Choice Partners (CP), a division of the Harris County Department of Education (HCDE), is accepting proposals in response to the following Requests for Proposals (RFP). Interested proposers may go to [www.choicepartners.org](http://www.choicepartners.org) to register to download the solicitation or call 877-696-2122.

- RFP #25/040AK Hydroponic Farms, due by Thursday, July 3rd, 2025 @ 2:00 PM CT**

**All proposals must be submitted via the HCDE online eBid System at the following link: <https://hcdeebid.ionwave.net>.** Proposals will be opened via Zoom; Information regarding dates, times, and a link to join the meeting is (located within) the eBid System under the "Activities" tab specific to the solicitation.

PROPOSAL NOTICE

The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD will be accepting proposals for the following:  
**PHARMACY REMOTE AFTER HOUR SERVICES**

Specifications may be secured from The Harris Center website [www.theharriscenter.org](http://www.theharriscenter.org) beginning Monday, June 23, 2025. The Harris Center utilizes Bonfire for their solicitations <https://theharriscenter.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities>. Deadline for prospective vendors to submit questions to this RFP is Monday, July 7, 2025. Proposals must be submitted by 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, July 15, 2025. Historically Underutilized Businesses, including Minority-Owned Businesses and Women-Owned Businesses are encouraged to participate. The Harris Center reserves all rights to reject any and/or all proposals, to waive formalities and reasonable irregularities in submitted documents as it deems to be in its best interests and is not obligated to accept the lowest proposal.

PROPOSAL NOTICE

The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD will be accepting proposals for the following:  
**Community Psychiatric Hospital Beds for Individuals with IDD and Co-Occurring Mental Illness**

Specifications may be secured from The Harris Center website [www.theharriscenter.org](http://www.theharriscenter.org) beginning Tuesday, June 24, 2025. The Harris Center utilizes Bonfire for their solicitations <https://theharriscenter.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities>. Deadline for prospective vendors to submit questions to this RFP is Tuesday, July 1, 2025. Proposals must be submitted by 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, July 16, 2025. Historically Underutilized Businesses, including Minority-Owned Businesses and Women-Owned Businesses are encouraged to participate. The Harris Center reserves all rights to reject any and/or all proposals, to waive formalities and reasonable irregularities in submitted documents as it deems to be in its best interests and is not obligated to accept the lowest proposal.

Nourishing Our Roots: Black Girl Vitamins Ties Wellness to Cultural Legacy This Juneteenth



By: Forward Times Staff

Juneteenth has always been about more than freedom—it’s about legacy, preservation, and healing. This year, Black Girl Vitamins (BGV), a health and wellness brand founded by and for Black women, is using the holiday to start a deeper conversation: What does it mean to care for ourselves while honoring where we come from?

Their new campaign, “**Nourishing Our Roots**,” aims to hold space for both. The campaign invites Black women to reflect on their heritage and prioritize their well-being—not as separate acts, but as two parts of the same journey. From health disparities to the erasure of history, the dual fight for bodily and cultural preservation continues. BGV is simply offering tools to support that fight.

Wellness as Preservation

In a time when Black women face ongoing systemic challenges to their health, “wellness” has often become a buzzword. But BGV’s approach is personal. The brand was created in response to real health gaps—like widespread vitamin D deficiency, anemia, and PCOS—and its products were formulated with Black women’s needs at the center.

For Juneteenth, BGV is highlighting two of its most popular supplements: a once-daily multivitamin and a collagen powder that easily blends into traditional meals. While the campaign includes limited-edition packaging and online promotions, the larger message is clear: health shouldn’t feel like a luxury. It should feel like a birthright.

A Celebration Rooted in Community

“Nourishing Our Roots” also goes beyond the digital shelf. BGV has organized a nationwide tour to be physically present at Juneteenth events across the country—from Houston and Atlanta to New York and Chicago. At these events, they’re not just handing out samples. They’re showing up to listen, celebrate, and connect.

In Chicago, the brand is supporting the 5th Annual Juneteenth Freedom Market, expected to draw thousands for a day of music, food, and community. On the corporate side, BGV will also appear at Amazon HQ2’s Juneteenth celebration in Virginia, one of the few small businesses represented at the event.

Reclaiming Joy, One Image at a Time

One of the standout moments of the campaign is a throwback-inspired photoshoot meant to capture the spirit of Black family gatherings. Think ‘90s cookout energy—laughter, music, full plates, and fuller hearts. It’s a visual love letter to the spaces where we’ve always been free.

Centering Black Women’s Health, Year-Round

While this campaign may be timed with Juneteenth, BGV’s mission is year-round. Their work includes partnering with Black physicians, offering scholarships for women entering healthcare, and making space for joy and health to coexist.

“Nourishing Our Roots” is less about product and more about practice—a reminder that caring for ourselves is one way to honor the people who came before us.

To learn more or find an event stop near you, visit [blackgirlvitamins.co](http://blackgirlvitamins.co) or follow @blackgirlvitamins.

