

Weekly News Recap



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Reuters: [Exclusive: NAACP pressing for 'equity-first' AI standards in medicine](#)

It is the latest step in the NAACP's year-long drive to embed equity within emerging health technologies, a campaign the group says is central to its civil rights mission and closing disparity gaps among Black Americans. The organization is convening briefings, mobilizing state-level efforts and strategizing a legislative push to help set ethical guardrails.

The New York Times: [Trump's Birthday Becomes Free National Park Day as MLK Day and Juneteenth Are Cut](#)

Derrick Johnson, the chief executive of the NAACP, said in a statement that removing dates recognizing Black history was part of an effort "to distract and divide us by undermining progress attributed to the Black community."

E&E News by Politico: [NAACP takes aim at Trump for ditching no fees on MLK Day at parks](#)

"Removing MLK Day and Juneteenth from the national parks calendar is more than petty politics — it's an attack on the truth of this nation's history," said Derrick Johnson, NAACP president and CEO, in a statement. "It's an attempt to erase the legacy of Dr. King, minimize the story of emancipation, and sideline the communities that have fought for generations to make America live up to its promise."

National Parks Traveler: [NAACP Condemns Removal Of MLK Day And Juneteenth From National Parks Free Days](#)

The group's statement notes that the removal of the two days follows repeated efforts by the Trump Administration to suppress the teaching of Black history in schools and reverse long-standing civil rights protections. "By eliminating the only free park days tied to Black history, the Administration is attempting to diminish the visibility of holidays honoring Black resilience — key moments of our nation's shared history — and turning public spaces into political tools."

Axios: [AI boom fuels "environmental justice" fears in communities of color](#)

A supercomputer data center built by Elon Musk's xAI in Southwest Memphis, a historically Black neighborhood, faces a legal challenge from the NAACP. The group says the site's gas generators are violating the Clean Air Act.

Black PR Wire: [NAACP & BET Announce Date of "57th NAACP Image Awards" Comedian, Actor, and Writer Deon Cole Returns as Host](#)

"As a comedian, actor, and cultural icon, Deon Cole has consistently

used his talent to entertain, uplift, and inspire. His humor, deep appreciation for the culture, and commitment to our community has cemented him as an entertainment legend," said Derrick Johnson, NAACP President and CEO

NBC News: [Trump administration announces deal to end key Biden-era student loan repayment program](#)

And Derrick Lewis, the national director working on youth and college at the NAACP, said, "Eliminating the SAVE Plan will increase the burden of debt for new graduates entering the workforce who are already struggling to build financial stability, while also discouraging future students from pursuing college at all."

Axios: [AI's energy gusher](#)

The NAACP is holding an event this week called "Stop Dirty Data" to highlight its concerns.

Shreveport Times: [Louisiana NAACP President sends letter opposing data center plans](#)

Louisiana NAACP President Michael McClanahan formally urged the Shreveport City Council to withhold its support for a proposed West Shreveport data center in a letter submitted ahead of the council's resolution vote Tuesday. "Our organization has been advocating against harmful data center projects across the state and in other parts of the nation, we vehemently oppose the placement of this facility in the West Shreveport community as well," the letter read.

CBS News: [NAACP Detroit Branch urges residents to shop local during the holidays](#)

The NAACP Detroit Branch partnered with 70 different Black-owned small businesses across Detroit in an effort to convince consumers to support local entrepreneurs during the holiday season.

WSPA: [Upstate voters, NAACP, challenge state limits on voter assistance](#)

On Friday the South Carolina NAACP and three disabled voters filed a federal lawsuit claiming South Carolina's restrictions on who can assist voters, how many people a person can help vote and which voters can receive assistance violate the federal Voting Rights Act and will harm the ability for some to vote in 2026 primary and general elections.

AP: [Bullet-pocked marker memorializing 1918 lynching goes on display in Atlanta](#)

Americans learned about these lynchings in 1918 because they were investigated in the immediate aftermath by Walter White, who founded the Georgia chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and would become an influential voice for civil rights nationwide.

Your Ohio News: [Wooster/Orrville NAACP opens 2026 scholarship applications Dec. 15](#)

Beginning Dec. 15, the Wooster/Orrville NAACP will accept applications for its 2026 scholarship program.

Action News JAX: [City of Jacksonville, NAACP, Urban League, and JAX Chamber to host 39th Annual MLK Jr. Breakfast](#)

The City of Jacksonville, along with the Jacksonville Branch NAACP, Jacksonville Urban League, and JAX Chamber, will host the 39th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast on January 16, 2026, at the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center.

NAACP NEWS AND UPDATES

- [NAACP, Climate Justice Alliance Condemn Trump Administration's Move to Block State Authority on AI Regulation](#)
- [NAACP Calls for Equity-First Approach to AI in Healthcare, Issues Governance Framework to Build Healthier Futures](#)
- [NAACP Condemns Trump Administration's Removal of MLK Day and Juneteenth From National Parks Free Days](#)
- [South Carolina NAACP and Disabled Voters Challenge Restrictions on Voter Assistance](#)

111TH SPINGARN MEDAL



The NAACP is now accepting nominations for the 111th Spingarn Medal, our highest honor, which recognizes the distinguished merit and achievements of Americans of African descent.

Since 1914, the Spingarn Medal has celebrated excellence in fields ranging from the arts to public service, with past recipients including Vice President Kamala Harris, Hazel N. Dukes, Henry Louis Gates, and The Honorable James E. Clyburn.

Interested? You can send nominations:

By Mail: The Spingarn Medal Award Committee

Attn: Mrs. Mildred B. Roxborough, NAACP

4805 Mt. Hope Drive, Baltimore, MD 21215

By Email: India Artis, iartis@naacpnet.org

Submissions must include a detailed biographical profile and supporting documents, such as news clippings, honors received, etc. This information should be clearly typewritten or printed, as it must be reproduced, and must be postmarked or emailed by December 31, 2025.

BUILDING A HEALTHIER FUTURE



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Building a Healthier Future: Designing AI for Health Equity



S. CRAIG WATKINS, PHD,
ACE YOUR HEALTH AI TASK FORCE CHAIR

MATT KAMMER-KERWICK, PHD
NICOL TURNER LEE, PHD
RUBEN RATHNASINGHAM, PHD
TAYLOR WILDS, PHD CANDIDATE
CRIS WOOLSTON, PHD
ACE YOUR HEALTH AI TASK FORCE MEMBERS

NOVEMBER 2025

AI is transforming healthcare, and the NAACP, in collaboration with Sanofi, brought together leading experts to examine how these tools can improve care, from predicting illness to supporting faster diagnoses and expanding access in historically under-resourced communities.

Through our [ACE Your Health initiative and a new first-of-its-kind white paper](#), we're outlining how to ensure AI in healthcare is fair, transparent, and accountable. Explore the findings and join us in shaping a future where innovation strengthens health equity for all.

[Learn More](#)

NAACP BUY BLACK GIFT GUIDE



This holiday season, shop with intention!

Whether you're treating yourself or shopping for a loved one, NAACP staff members have shared some of their favorite Black-owned businesses that you can support this year and beyond.

Explore

STOP DIRTY DATA



The [Stop Dirty Data: NAACP National Strategy Summit](#) kicked off in Washington, D.C. today, bringing together national and branch leaders, advocates, researchers, and environmental justice partners to address the rapid growth of AI data centers and their impact on frontline communities.

Over two days, participants are aligning on national strategy, digging

into policy pathways, narrative framing, regional case studies, and the environmental and economic burdens facing Black, Brown, and low-income communities.

The convening continues through tomorrow, and early discussions are already shaping a stronger, more coordinated movement to demand transparency, accountability, and community protection in the development of AI infrastructure.

[Learn More](#)

WEBBY AWARDS



For 30 years, [The Webby Awards](#) has celebrated the best of the Internet, spotlighting groundbreaking talent and organizations. By entering, you can potentially join the ranks of past winners, including Keke Palmer, Questlove, Kamie Crawford, GLAAD, Fenty Beauty, NASA, and others.

What's new this year?

- A new suite of recognitions honoring artificial intelligence
- A new suite for Creator Business
- And new honors in Video & Film, including Best Use of Immersive, Best Documentary Storytelling, and Documentary: Midform

Interested? [Submit your work](#) by the final entry deadline NEXT FRIDAY, December 19, 2025!

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