



Celebrating Fourth of July and Juneteenth

By Jeff Thomas

Editor's note: We are publishing this although Juneteenth has passed. Jeff Thomas enlightens by disclosing the unity in both celebrations, a unity that is beyond the months of June and July.

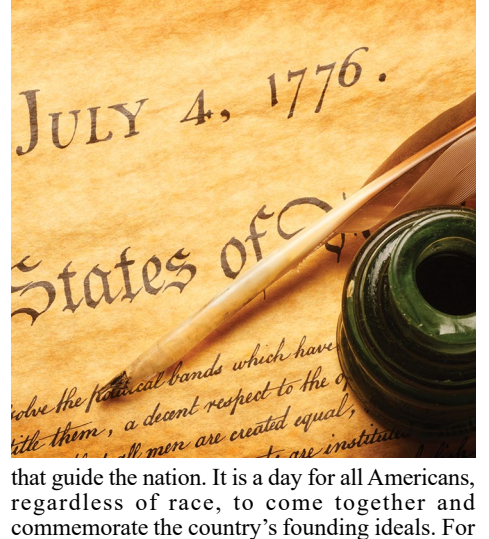
In the United States, two significant holidays reflect the nation's complex and diverse history: Juneteenth and the Fourth of July. While the Fourth of July has been celebrated by many Americans since the country's founding, Juneteenth has only recently gained recognition as a national holiday. Both days are deeply intertwined with the American values of freedom and liberty, and it is important for all Americans, including white Americans, to celebrate and understand the significance of both.

Juneteenth
Juneteenth, observed on June Nineteenth, commemorates the day in 1865 when Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, to announce the end of the Civil War and the abolition of slavery, as decreed by the Emancipation Proclamation two

and a half years earlier. This day marks a pivotal moment in American history when the nation took a significant step toward fulfilling its foundational promise of liberty for all.

Fourth of July
The Fourth of July, or Independence Day, is celebrated on July Fourth and marks the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. It is a day that symbolizes the birth of the United States as an independent nation and the beginning of its journey toward democracy and freedom.

For white Americans, celebrating Juneteenth is an opportunity to acknowledge and honor the contributions and sacrifices of African Americans in the pursuit of equality and justice. It is a time to reflect on the ongoing struggle against racial injustice and to commit to the ideals of liberty and equality that benefit all citizens. By recognizing the significance of Juneteenth, white Americans can show solidarity with their fellow citizens and help foster a more inclusive and understanding society. Similarly, the Fourth of July is a celebration of independence and the democratic principles



that guide the nation. It is a day for all Americans, regardless of race, to come together and commemorate the country's founding ideals. For white Americans, it is also a chance to appreciate the diverse contributions that have shaped the nation

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PROJECT OVERVIEW
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The building will include a 2-story high Technology arena, second story observation space, offices, meetings and training rooms, break rooms with pantries, a wellness room, restrooms with showers and lockers, and an open work area for workstations or touchdowns. The facility will also contain various meeting spaces that are flexible, and capable of being subdivided into three or more rooms that may be utilized as bunk areas to house storm riders. All necessary and required mechanical, electrical, emergency back-up equipment, and systems with also be constructed.

The project construction duration is from Q1 2026 through Q4 2027.

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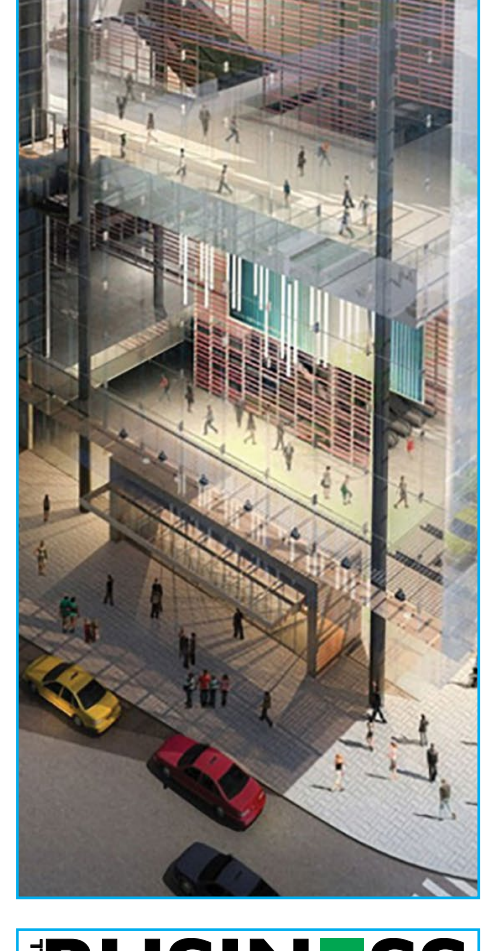
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VIRTUAL EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS 2026

Federal Contracting for Small Businesses Webinar
Tuesday, July 14, 2026, 12:00 pm–1:30 pm Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: irene.gonzalez@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
Learn the essentials of federal contracting for small businesses. This event will cover the basics of navigating the federal contracting process, as well as the various certifications available to help your small business succeed in the government marketplace. Certifications include: 8(a) Business Development Program, HUBZone Certification, Woman Owned Small Business (WOSB/EDWOSB), and Veteran Owned Small Business (VOSB). Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights and resources to help your small business. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/federal-contracting-basics-and-certifications-for-small-businesses-tickets-1977729664666>

SBA 101: Introduction to SBA Programs Webinar
Wednesday, July 15, 2026, 10:00 am–11:00 am Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration, Rhode Island District Office
Contact: brian.hopkins@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
This free workshop, presented by the Rhode Island

District Office, is designed to help entrepreneurs understand the various SBA programs and services available to help them as they start, expand, grow, and recover their businesses. This overview presentation covers: Introduction to the SBA; SBA Resource Partner Network—Business Training and One-on-One Counseling; Selling to the Federal Government—SBA Contracting Certification Programs; Access to Capital—Loan and Surety Bond Programs; International Trade Assistance; Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Assistance Loans. Register online for the free workshop webinar at <https://www.sba.gov/event/80672>

Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Certification Webinar
Tuesday, July 21, 2026, 2:00 pm–4:00 pm Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: patrice.dozier@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
SBA is creating a space for Woman-Owned Small Businesses, via WOSB certification! Are you a woman owner of a small business? The federal government's goal is to award at least five percent of all federal contracting dollars to woman-owned small businesses each year. Join us for training on how to register for SBA's Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) program, which helps eligible small businesses to qualify for federal contracting opportunities. The monthly sessions include an overview of the self-certification process, and a discussion of the NAICS codes that qualify as WOSB or EDWOSB. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/woman-owned-small-business-wosb-certification-program-tickets-1986914400458>

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