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Staff photo by Graham Cullen

Protesters observe a minute of silence Friday afternoon following a march to demand justice for George Floyd at the Baker Park bandshell.

## MARCHING FOR JUSTICE

### Thousands brave thunderstorm, heavy rain for downtown protest

By JEREMY ARIAS  
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Even as heavy rain covered the streets and thunder crashed overhead Friday afternoon, protesters holding signs and shouting chants of justice for George Floyd remained unmoved at Patrick and Market streets.

Resolute in their cause, shouts of "Black Lives Matter!" mingled with honks from passing cars, as protesters headed north up Market Street. More people holding signs poured out of garages all over the city, all headed toward Mullinix Park.

Estimates of several thousand protesters showed up to peacefully fill the small park behind the Frederick County Courthouse for the planned March for Justice, a show of support for the black men and women who have died at the hands of law enforcement personnel over the years and whose deaths have contributed to a lasting rift between the African American community and police.

The peaceful protest was organized



Staff photo by Bill Green

Frederick March for Justice protest organizer Gabrael Moore can't hold back the tears on stage at the bandshell as he and others begin the rally.

by a group of mostly youthful activists in response to the death of George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man who lost consciousness and died in Minneapolis, Minnesota on May 25 while being knelt on by a group of three police officers during an arrest. One of the officers has since been charged with second-degree murder, while the others have been charged as accessories to murder.

Theresa Thomas, 58, of Frederick, said she was happy to stand and march in the rain with her two grand-

kids, 15-year-old Reginald Jr. and 12-year-old Rekhai, both of whom Thomas hopes will have brighter futures than their father.

"I'm here for them. Because their father is now incarcerated and I don't want them to have to go through what he went through," Thomas said, explaining that she believes her son and her grandkids' father lost his case because the family wasn't wealthy enough to afford quality legal representation.

(See MARCH A8)

### Activists descend on Baker Park bandshell in fight for racial equality

By RYAN MARSHALL  
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The shouts echoed off the front of the Baker Park bandshell, calling out a grim roll call of victims or police and racial violence.

George Floyd. Breonna Taylor. Ahmaud Arbery. Trayvon Martin.

There were shouts of "No justice, no peace," "Black Lives Matter," and "Hands up, don't shoot."

The overflowing crowd at the wet, muddy bandshell echoed back the names from a speaker on the stage, part of an emotional final stage of a protest and march that had moved from Mullinix Park through downtown Frederick.

The Frederick March for Justice Friday was a movement against police brutality, inspired by the death of Floyd while in the custody of police in Minneapolis on May 25. Minneapolis officer Derek Chauvin has been charged with second degree murder.

"We are not here today to reciprocate violence that has been put against my people for 400, 500 years," said Dajah Gee, one of the speakers. "We're not here to be violent. We're here to demand. We're not asking no more. I am not asking for you to respect the life of black men no more. I'm telling you you're going to."

Frederick Mayor Michael O'Connor, who spoke in support of the Black Lives Matter movement this

(See BANDSHELL A6)

## Cancer survivor looks for ways 'to live well and thrive'

### Kim Truesdell among those to be honored on National Cancer Survivors Day

By GREG SWATEK  
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Even with the people who are most down on their luck, Kim Truesdell might elicit some sympathy.

The 62-year-old Frederick woman was diagnosed twice with breast cancer and is the only member of her large family to face the formidable disease.

In 2017, while crossing Georgia Avenue on a jog near her former home in Silver Spring, Truesdell was struck by a car that had unexpectedly moved into the crosswalk. She suffered numerous bone fractures, including three in her face.

As tempted as she might be to curse her own luck, Truesdell re-

fuses to do it.

"I grew up in a house where you were not allowed to feel sorry for yourself," she said. "My dad would not allow it."

So, Truesdell squeezes the most she can out of every single day.

She's completed an Ironman triathlon and ran a marathon against the advice of her heart doctor. She makes treats and goes on adventures with her eight grandchildren, who live with her daughter and son-in-law in Silver Spring. And she still teaches re-

motely for Buffalo State College, where she retired as a professor of literacy.

Truesdell's strength will be celebrated Sunday as part of National Cancer Survivors Day, which will be marked on the first Sunday of June for the 33rd consecutive year.

It seeks to recognize the 32 million cancer survivors worldwide, including 17 million in the U.S., by celebrating their lives and raising awareness for the ongoing challenges they face.

"Life after cancer is more than

just surviving. It's about finding ways to live well and thrive," said Janet Rhoderick, the oncology operations manager at Frederick Health Hospital.

Truesdell thought she had beaten breast cancer when it returned seven years later in 2009, this time in a different location.

"It didn't rattle me as much the second time because I knew I could handle the chemo," she said.

(See CANCER A4)

Good morning! All lives matter once our lives matter. — Gabrael Moore

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