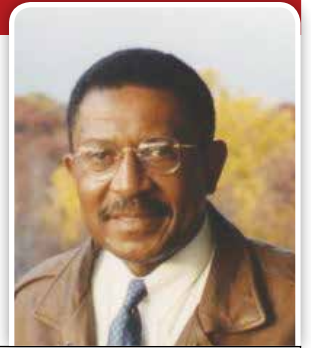


“A good leader takes a little more than his share of the blame, a little less than his share of the credit.” – Arnold H. Glasow

THE WASHINGTON Informer

*Askia Muhammad
Examines Race in
America
See Page 28*



• Celebrating 48 Years of Service •

Serving More Than 50,000 African American Readers Throughout The Metropolitan Area / Vol. 48, No. 39 July 11 - July 17 2013



The District will be awash in crimson and cream this week when more than 40,000 members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority converge upon the nation's capital. The organization will launch its 51st convention with a torch lighting ceremony at Howard University in Northwest. /Photo by Khalid Naji-Allah

Deltas Converge on Nation's Capital

By Stacy M. Brown
WI Contributing Writer

More than 40,000 members of Delta Sigma Theta, the largest African-American Greek-lettered sorority in the world, are expected to arrive in the District on Thursday, July 11, to help kick-off an eight-day conven-

tion celebrating the organization's 100th anniversary.

The predominately black sorority, whose more notable members included the late Shirley Chisholm, Ruby Dee Davis, and Dorothy I. Height, plan to hold various events in and around Washington, D.C., but the group's primary venue will

be the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Northwest.

“The women of Delta Sigma Theta have been and remain a vital contributor to the success of our communities and a defender of rights of all people for 100 years,” said Cynthia Butler-McIntyre, the Delta's national

president.

“This convention is not only a momentous occasion for our organization, but a testament to the power of all women determined to change the world for the better and be a voice for the underprivileged and underserved,” Butler-McIntyre said.

During the convention, mem-

bers plan to address issues related to the socioeconomic conditions impacting communities around the globe, particularly the African Diaspora, Delta officials said.

The organization will continue its legacy of promoting polit-

See CONVENTION on Page 8

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95 & 96



*Budding Designer
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**THIS WEEK
INSIDE**

Social Sightings

The Column

By "Mickey" Thompson



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DC Mayor Gray Declares June 26 Beverly Perry Day



(L-R) Beverly Perry with Congressman Steny Hoyer (D-MD)

After 22 years, Beverly Perry retired from Pepco. The District, Montgomery County and Prince Georges County officials all came out to bid her farewell for a job well done. The affair was held in the Kogod Gardens of the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery. Beverly (an avid golfer) can now spend more time on the links. We will miss you!



Beverly Perry (Far right) standing by her son and other family members at her recent retirement party in Washington, DC.



(L-R) Beverly Perry with Joseph Rigby (Chairman of the Bd., Pres. & CEO PEPCO Holdings, Inc.)



DC Mayor Gray with the honoree



Penrose Hollins (4th District, New Castle County Council, DE) presents proclamation to Beverly



Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett & his wife Catherine with Beverly



Beverly with Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker



Hon. Kenyan McDuffie (DC Council Member Ward 5), Hon. Jack Evans (DC Council Member Ward 2), Beverly & Hon. Yvette Alexander (DC Council Member Ward 7)



Beverly greets DC Congress Woman Hon. Eleanor Holmes Norton



Surrounded by Former DC Mayor Anthony Williams & his wife Diane



Co worker & (Retirement Mistress of Ceremonies) Debbie Jarvis with Beverly



Honoree Beverly with Congressman James E. Clyburn (D-SC)



Council Member At-Large Hon. Anita Bonds with honoree



DC Council Chairman & Council Members with Beverly (L-R) Hon. Kenyan McDuffie (Ward 5), Hon. Phil Mendelson (DC Council Chairman) & Hon. Muriel Bowser (Ward 4)



Former DC Mayor Sharon Pratt & David Shiffrin (Pres. of Bd. of Trustees Arena Stage) with Beverly

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Youth learn about canoeing and other sports during the "Let's Move Outside!" event in front of the Washington Monument on June 26. First lady Michelle Obama established the Let's Move Outside! initiative to encourage outdoor activity to help children maintain a healthy weight, boosts their immunity and bone health and lower stress. /Photo provided by Tami Heilemann, Department of Interior



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AROUND THE REGION



Nine-year-old Brett Burch who lives in Northwest, designs ties and other decorative accessories. The young designer established his online business, Brett's Trove two years ago. /Photo by Khalid Naji-Allah

Budding Designer Takes Online Boutique to New Heights

By Sam P.K. Collins
WI Contributing Writer

This summer, Brett Burch is setting the stage for his debut during Fashion Week sometime in the near future.

While other children frolic on playgrounds and play Marco Polo in swimming pools throughout the District, the Addison-Hyde Elementary School fourth grader is putting the finishing touches on "Super B," a green-winged superhero donning the letter "B" across the top of his red and orange costume. Brett's newest design will appear on his fourth original tie in Brett's Trove, an online boutique of garments and accessories that feature his original artwork.

"I make money when I sell my ties and lots of other stuff [to] people," said Brett, 9. "Being a businessman feels good because people will always try to buy my ties. I see it as something that will grow in the future," said the budding designer who lives in Northwest.

Since its inception two years ago, Brett's Trove has sold untold hundreds of dollars worth of merchandise. Brett's customer base has grown to include neighbors, classmates, and teachers. While many purchase his designer coffee mugs and T-shirts, Brett's ties, each of them named after common verbal expressions, have raised the profile of his flourishing business. The "Huh?" tie, Brett's most popular accessory, was featured in two of Addison-Hyde's charity auctions.

Joshua Faden, Brett's third grade teacher, counts among Brett's Trove biggest fans. Since Brett gave him one of his ties for Teacher Appreciation Day, he's worn it at least once a week.

"[Brett] is a unique kid. He has a lot of personality and it shows up in his designs," said Faden, 29. "Every time I wore his tie, he got super excited and paid even more attention in class," said Faden who lives in Northeast.

Brett's Trove has also caught the attention of the District's fashion community. The "Huh?" tie appeared on D.C. on Heels, a local fashion blog, and D.C. Spotlight, a local newspaper, featured Brett in its Cool Kids section. The young designer received high marks when he modeled the "Huh?" tie in the Totlers and Tiaras Pageant at the Tots 2 Teens Expo, an annual event that connects parents with providers of various services and activities for children. Last year, millions of Metro commuters caught a glimpse of Brett's artwork at Union Station in Northeast during the Cherry Blossom Festival.

Melody Burch, the young designer's mother, first noticed his affinity for art when he started drawing as a preschooler at the Fillmore Arts Center, located inside Hart Middle School in Northwest. His talents have caught the attention of Taylor Thomas of WHUR 96.3 FM and Katrell Mendenhall of Chicagolicious, the hit reality television show about a Chicago-based salon and its staff of high-profile hair stylists and make-up artists.

"It's very exciting for him to go to events and meet people," said Burch, 37. "This is almost like an adventure. I really hope that he can see an increase in sales. That will show him that hard work pays off."

Clyde Burch, Brett's great-grandfather and one of his most ardent supporters, wore a "Huh?" tie during a recent Sunday service at St. Stephen Baptist Church in Tem-

ple Hills, Md., where he serves as emeritus chairman of the Deacon Board. Members of the congregation inquired about the colorful and decorative tie. The elder Burch answered everyone's questions and boasted about his great-grandson's ability to capture the fashion industry's attention at such a young age.

"The way I see it, he is trying to do well for himself and that makes me feel good," said Brett's great-grandfather, who happens to be a spry 89 year old senior citizen. "When I was nine, the young men had to work and take care of business. We need to encourage children to do these things. That's the way it's supposed to be," the Southeast resident said.

Parents support their children in their endeavors, and Brett's mom is no different. She's there for him during this critical juncture in his life. During a time when boys of color often fall prey to negative influences, she wants to ensure that her son receives the support and encouragement that he needs.

"I'm not always going to be here and I want to prepare Brett for the future," said Brett's mother. "I want to set a foundation so he can have a strong, healthy life. If I can feed him with knowledge, there's no telling where he can take it," she said.

Perhaps on a runway among the likes of Alexander Wang, Jason Wu, and other internationally acclaimed fashion designers.

See Brett's collection of designer ties, T-shirts, coffee mugs and other accessories at www.zazzle.com/bretstrove. Prices vary. **WI**

D.C. Political Roundup

By James Wright
WI Staff Writer

Cheh Wants Ellerbe Out

D.C. Council member Mary Cheh (D-Ward 3) said Fire and Emergency Management Services Chief Kenneth Ellerbe should find another job – and do it with all deliberate speed.

“Under his tenure, the fire department has gone downhill,” said Cheh, 62. “I am appalled at the inability of the department’s equipment to function properly. I think he is running the department into the ground.”

On July 2, Cheh wrote a letter to D.C. Council member Tommy Wells (D-Ward 6), chair of the committee that oversees the fire department, concerning Ellerbe. Wells, 56, also happens to be a critic of Ellerbe’s but has stopped short of asking him to resign.

Ellerbe assumed the helm of the fire department in 2011. He has the support of D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray and Deputy Mayor of Public Safety and Justice Paul Quander but has faced his fair share of battles.

Problems such as equipment failure, employee morale and the poor response time of ambulance services are some of the issues that Ellerbe, 51, has had to deal with as the fire chief. Cheh said that a proactive chief would know how to deal with such matters.

“He has vacant positions in his department that he needs to fill,” she said. “[However], he does have the confidence of the rank-and-file members of the department. He must press for more resources in order to do his job in order to be successful.”

Cheh hasn’t hesitated to call for the dismissal of anyone who she perceives as either being incompetent or displaying ethical lapses of judgment. Last year, she joined D.C. Council members David Catania (I-At Large) and Muriel Bowser (D-Ward 4) in requesting that Gray resign because of the scandals surrounding his 2010 mayoral campaign.

Supporters of Ellerbe contend that the chief has had to deal with a sometimes hostile workforce that’s resistant to change.

Ellerbe, who attended the Palisades Citizens Association’s annual Fourth of July parade and picnic, chose not to comment on his position during the holiday festivities.

“I am doing fine,” he said. “I am doing just great.”

Batchelor Won’t Run for President

Markus Batchelor, the first vice

president of the Ward 8 Democrats, has opted not to run for the presidency of the organization in the upcoming fall election.

“I am in school and I will concentrate on my school work,” said Batchelor, 20.

Batchelor, who attends George Washington University in Northwest, is considered one of the District’s most astute young political minds. He was elected first vice president in September 2011 on a ticket with the Rev. Joyce Scott as president and former D.C. Council member Sandy Allen as second vice president.

Batchelor said that Scott has indicated that she will not seek re-election. When asked who might throw their hats into the race and run for the presidency, he said some names have been bandied about.

“I have heard that Natalie Williams may run for president or that Pho Palmer might be interested,” he said. “I’ve also heard that Derrick Colbert is thinking about it,” Batchelor said.

Palmer is a political activist whose passion is education. Williams is a former spokesperson for D.C. Council member Marion Barry (D-Ward 8), and a current advisory neighborhood commissioner who ran for the presidency in 2011 and lost. Colbert is also an advisory neighborhood commissioner in Ward 8.

Ward 7 Summit Piques Interest of Residents

Hundreds of Ward 7 residents participated in the Ward 7 Economic Development Summit on June 29 at H.D. Woodson High School in Northeast.

D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray convened the event and emphasized the importance of the meeting to the audience.

“This summit represents an important opportunity for District planners and Ward 7 residents alike,” said Gray, 70. “Convening here today allows us to engage in all aspects of the Ward 7 community.”

D.C. Council member Yvette Alexander (D-Ward 7) addressed residents and staffers from the Office of the Deputy Mayor for



D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray convened a recent Ward 7 Economic Development Summit at H.D. Woodson High School in Northeast. /Courtesy Photo



D.C. Council member Mary Cheh has represented Ward 3 since 2007. /Courtesy Photo

Planning and Economic Development made presentations to the estimated crowd of approximately 350. AmericaSpeaks representatives served as facilitators. The nonprofit based in Northwest assists citizens in more effectively engaging government.

Residents talked about issues affecting the ward, such as economic development, education and public safety. After the discussions ended, participants electronically submitted their concerns and recommendations via a board that tabulated residents’ positions on the issues.

Constance Woody, a longtime activist in the ward, said she enjoyed the summit.

“I came to hear what is going on in my neighborhood,” said Woody, 78. “I am very active in the community and I try to make all of the meetings. This was a very good session and the presentations were done very well.” **WI**

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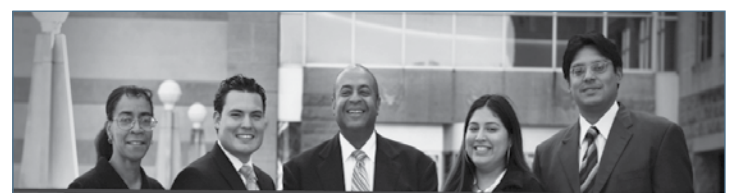
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WEEK OF JULY 11 TO JULY 17

Black Facts

July 11

1905 – The Niagara Movement (forerunner of the NAACP) is founded during a meeting near Niagara Falls, New York. Among the most prominent Blacks at the meeting were intellectual and activist W.E.B. DuBois and newspaper publishers William Monroe Trotter and Ida B. Wells Barnett.

1915 – Mifflin Wistar Gibbs dies. Gibbs had worked on the Underground Railroad helping Blacks escape from slavery along with Frederick Douglas. He would later become publisher of Mirror of the Times – the first Black newspaper in California. He was also the first African American elected to a municipal judgeship in the state.

July 12

1887 – The all-Black town Mound Bayou, Mississippi is founded by ex-slave Isaiah Montgomery and his cousin Benjamin T. Green. It was built as a sanctuary for former slaves during a period when Jim Crow racism and terrorism by groups such as the Ku Klux Klan were on the rise. It is considered the oldest surviving all-Black town in America. According to the 2000 Census, the town had 2,100 residents.

1937 – Actor, comedian and political activist William "Bill" Cosby is born on this day in Philadelphia. Cosby would rise from nightclub comedian to actor and star of the hit NBC television series The Cosby Show from 1984 to 1992.

June 13

1868 – Oscar J. Dunn, a former slave, is installed as Louisiana's lieutenant governor. At the time, it was the highest elective state position ever achieved by any African American. Another Black, Antoine Dubuclet, was installed as state treasurer. However, the Hayes-Tilden Compromise of 1872 and the subsequent Jim

Crow laws would wipe out virtually all Black political gains after the Civil War. It would take nearly 100 years (during the 1960s) before Blacks would once again begin to match the political gains they had made during the post-Civil War period.

July 14

1891 – Renowned Black inventor John Standard receives a patent for inventing what became the foundation for the modern refrigerator. Standards "improvements" are generally credited with laying the foundation for the modern or "standard" refrigerator.

July 15

1822 – Philadelphia becomes one of the first major cities to open its public schools to Blacks. The first school was a segregated one just for Black boys. One for girls was opened four years later in 1826. The city's public schools would remain segregated until the 1930s.

July 16

1862 – Crusading journalist and anti-lynching activist Ida B. Wells Barnett is born in Holly Springs, Mississippi. Wells-Barnett was a true militant activist. Her editorials so angered whites in the Memphis, Tennessee area that a mob burned down the building which housed her newspaper. She was also one of the original founders of the NAACP and in 1884 she committed a "Rosa Parks" type act when

she refused an order to give up her seat on a train to a white man. It took the conductor and two other men to remove her from the seat and throw her off the train.

1882 – Violette A. Johnson is born. She would become the first Black female attorney allowed to practice before the United States Supreme Court.

July 17

1911 – Frank M. Snowden is born in York County, Virginia. The Harvard educated Snowden would become a prominent professor at Washington, D.C.'s Howard University and a leading authority on **Blacks in ancient history**. His major works include "Blacks in Antiquity: Ethiopians in the Greco-Roman Experience" and "Before Color Prejudice: The Ancient View of Blacks." Snowden documented that "Ethiopians pioneered religion" and played a major role in the development of the greatness of ancient Egypt. Snowden also showed that Blacks influenced the development of both ancient Greek and Roman societies working in capacities ranging from musicians to scholars. Snowden died in February 2007 at the age of 95.

1935 – Actress Diahann Carroll is born in the Bronx, New York. She is known for her glamour and style.



Diahann Carroll



VIEWPOINT

INTEREST RATES ON NEW FEDERAL STUDENT LOANS HAVE DOUBLED FROM 3.4 PERCENT TO 6.8 PERCENT? WILL CONGRESS COME TOGETHER TO FIND A QUICK SOLUTION? WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS?



Ariel Rayman
Washington, D.C.

With tuition rates climbing, Congress should restore the interest rates on federal Stafford loans to 3.4 percent and cap variable student loan interest rates to a lower level. Congress has the responsibility to ensure that disadvantaged students can afford to go to school and upon graduation, afford to live a productive life while not being hampered by student loan debt. The objective of federal student loans is to financially aid students not to fill government coffers at the individual student's expense.



Brent Lawrence
Washington, D.C.

I feel the government is looking for an additional source of income. Unfortunately, those who will be hurt most by the new interest rates are the ones who most need the money. Attending an out-of-state, or private school, will become nearly impossible due to the high interest rates. Unfortunately, not all schools are equal and we will soon see a rise in inequities, the marginalization of groups of people and the rise of elitist cities and states.



Sean Hoggard
Washington, D.C.

This is ridiculous. At this rate, college graduates will be paying off their student loan debts until the day they die. It's as if the Republicans in office want to keep the poor poor, and that's such a shame. College graduates work extremely hard to [earn] their degrees, but yet it feels as if politicians make it difficult for us to find a job so that we can pay off our student loans.



Tommy Taylor
Washington, D.C.

I think Congress should actually put the needs of the people first for once. It's about time they serve the best interest of American citizens instead of [their own] interest. Education should be a priority, especially as we fall behind other countries in math and science. If anything we should be making education more affordable and keep our citizens out of long-term debt.



Verris H. Turpin
Washington, D.C.

Both parties in Congress need to come together and find a long-term solution regarding the issue of raising interest rates on new student loans. Those most affected by the student loan interest rates are those of us who are least likely to be able to pay the extra money. Not only does Congress need to resolve this issue, it also must find a way to make college more affordable, so that anyone who wants to pursue a higher education can, without fear of being weighed down by crushing debt.

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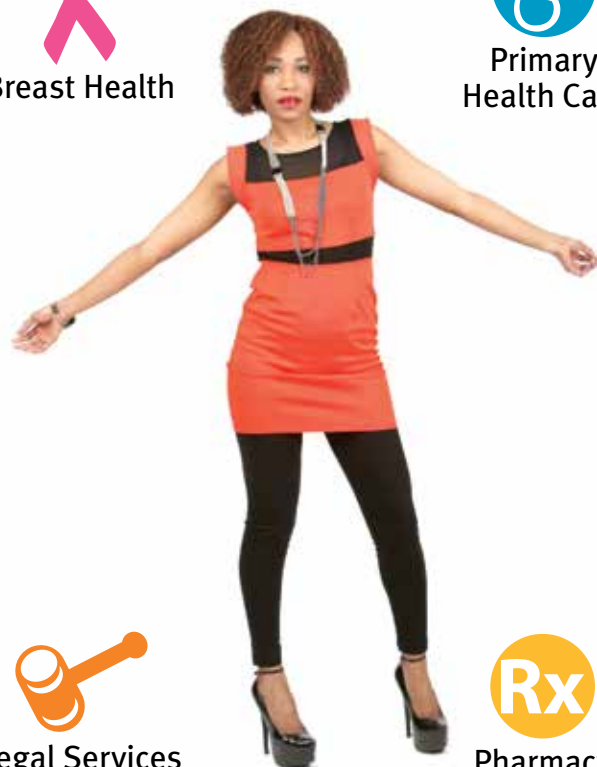

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CONVENTION

continued from Page 1

ical awareness and involvement in voter education, advocacy for health care reform and equal educational opportunities. Delegates will also address physical and mental health challenges that continue to plague children and adults worldwide, Butler-McIntyre said.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority boasts a sisterhood of more than 200,000 college-educated women. The sorority currently has 900 chapters around the world, including the United States, England, Panama, Japan, Germany, and the Republic of China.

In January, thousands of sorority members and their guests celebrated the 100th anniversary of its founding with a weekend event in the District.

Members participated in 22 community service projects in an effort to help honor the 22 black women who founded the organization.

During that celebration, sorority members also participated in traditional song near Fortitude statue, assisted in art exhibits and worked and helped vendors and others around the District.

The sorority's community service projects included helping workers at Food & Friends in Northeast, putting together Black History Month pamphlets and archiving audio files at the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House in Northwest, and giving career motivation tips to those seeking to obtain or maintain employment at a women's Dress For Success event at the Salvation Army in Southeast.

"This is very special," said Keisha Nelson, a University of Maryland at Baltimore graduate who pledged in 2008. Nelson joined about a dozen other Deltas who helped prepare meals at Food & Friends, a nonprofit that cares for men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS, cancer and other life-challenging illnesses by preparing and delivering specialized meals and groceries.

"Community service is doing the work that our founders did and it is what we are all about," said Nelson, 37.

"Public service is near and dear to me and has been since I was a child," said Donna Springs, 62, who pledged 42 years ago while attending D.C. Teachers College. Springs, Nelson, Elshanda Chap-

man, 39, D'Angela Pitts, 25, and Brea Onokpise, 31, were among the Deltas at Food & Friends.

Serving is what the sorority was built on and what it has enjoyed a stellar reputation of doing, said Allora Cyrus, a Virginia State University graduate.

"We have big shoes to fill," Cyrus, 51, said of the 22 Delta founders and the community service work they were known for. "The one thing I focus on is social action and we work on African-American issues that affect us daily," said Cyrus, who helped put together illustrated books at the historic Mary McLeod Bethune Council House.

In March, the trademark crimson and cream colors of the group again dominated the area as the Deltas paid homage to their 22 founders with a re-enactment of the Women's Suffrage March of 1913.

During the march, the Deltas retraced the steps of its 22 founders on March 3, as they marked the centennial of the Women's Suffrage March.

"Two months after our founders received their papers to be-

See CONVENTION on Page 9



/Photo by Khalid Naji-Allah



/Photo by Khalid Naji-Allah

CONVENTION
continued from Page 8

come a chartered organization at Howard University, they participated in the suffrage for women's right to vote even before African Americans had the right to vote," said Gwendolyn Boyd, one of the sorority's past presidents.

"It was part of the vision of the organization itself. They were about change and they wanted to make a difference in their lifetime because they knew the march was something they had to be a part of. They didn't know where it would lead, but they were hoping women would get the right to vote and eventually African Americans would get the right to vote," Boyd said.

Joined during the march by several other groups and organizations, including members of

the National Congress of Black Women, the National Women's History Museum, the National Organization for Women, and the League of Women Voters, the Deltas filled the West lawn of the U.S. Capitol with an estimated 20,000.

The organization will launch its 51st convention with a torch lighting ceremony at Howard University in Northwest on Thursday.

"The accomplishments of Delta Sigma Theta over the past 100 years gives us many reasons to be thankful and requires us to pause to pay tribute to our founders, past leadership, and all those who have helped us along our journey," Butler-McIntyre said. "It will take a lifetime to truly give them and our founders the honor they deserve." **WI**

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You can help by sending a tax-deductible contribution to your nearest area agency on aging. Make the check payable to Fan Care.

When Summertime Turns Deadly for Infants and Children

Although summer is not officially here, Virginians recently saw temperatures climb into the 90s. With more sweltering hot days on the horizon, the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) reminds parents and caregivers that hot vehicles and children can be a deadly combination.

On average, 38 children die in hot cars each year from heat-related deaths after being trapped inside motor vehicles according to Kids and Cars, a non-profit organization that tracks national statistics on child injuries and deaths. Experts say that car temperatures can rise as much as 19 degrees in an enclosed car within 10 short minutes. Over time, and even when the outside air temperature is only 70 degrees, the interior of a car can reach 125 degrees. Infants and young children are 3-5 times more susceptible than adults to this "greenhouse effect", which can cause serious injury to the brain, liver and kidneys, and re-



/Courtesy Photo

sult in death.

"Our children are absolutely dependent on us for protection while transporting them in vehicles. Young children are secured in car seats without the ability to escape, they typically can't talk yet, and they frequently fall asleep during car rides," explained Kathy Gillikin, Quality Child Care Program Manager with VDSS. "It is the adult's responsibility to plan in advance what steps to take to remind themselves that there is a child in the car and then implement those safety prevention steps."

This year already, there have been at least seven infants and children who have died nationwide as

a result of being left inside a hot vehicle. Last year, there were at least 32 such fatalities in the United States.

VDSS officials recommend these tips to protect your children this summer:

Never leave a child alone in a vehicle, NOT even for a minute or with the windows down.

Engage your child or baby by singing songs or talking to her/him while driving—this will help you remember to focus on your child.

Do not be distracted by using your cell phone while your child is in the car.

When parking your vehicle at home, always lock car doors and

trunks, and keep keys out of children's reach; teach children that cars are not places to play.

Watch children closely around cars, particularly when loading and unloading.

Make sure that all children leave the vehicle with you when you reach your destination - don't forget sleeping infants (parents and caregivers should always count heads twice to make sure all children have exited the vehicle before leaving.)

Busy parents have a lot on their minds, so give yourself a reminder: get in the habit of placing your purse, briefcase or other important items in the back seat next to your child's car seat to help you remember to check the back before leaving the car.

Purchase new technological devices that can signal when your child has been left in the vehicle.

If you see a child or pet left unattended in a vehicle, call 911 immediately.

Have a plan for your child care provider to call you if your child does not show up for school or child care site within 10-15 minutes of your usual arrival time. **WI**



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Baker Names New Schools Chief

By Gale Horton Gay
WI Staff Writer

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) system has a new leader.

Kevin Maxwell, Ph.D., superintendent of Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS), was chosen by Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker III to fill the chief executive officer spot.

Maxwell was introduced to the community on June 28 at Northwestern High School in Hyattsville, a school where he previously served as principal.

"This is a special day for me,"

said Maxwell, 61. "It is not often that you have an incredible opportunity like this, and I am very excited about returning to Prince George's County. I am ready to make an impact on the county that I love, have deep roots in, and care so deeply about."

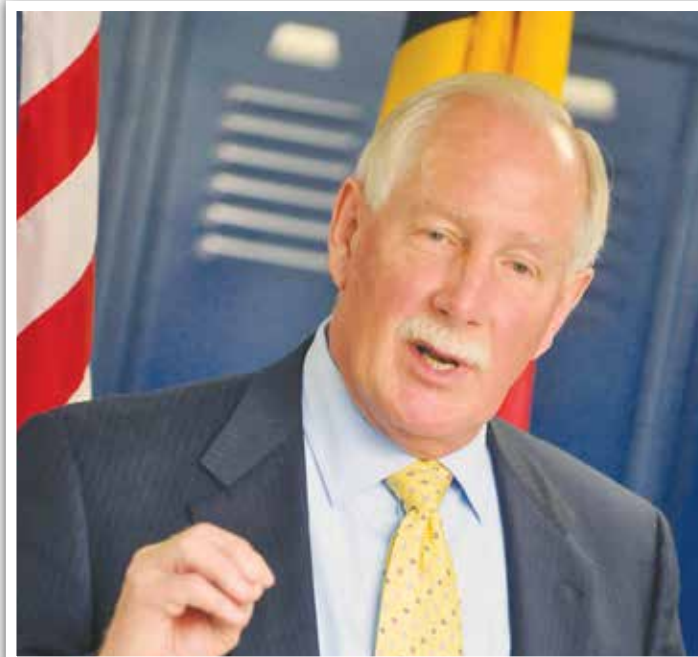
Maxwell, a resident of Bowie whose children graduated from PGCPS, was raised in Prince George's County and graduated from Bladensburg High School. He began his career in the county and spent 22 years as a teacher, principal, and administrator in PGCPS until 2000. He has been superintendent in Anne Arundel County since 2006. He

also worked for the Montgomery County Public Schools for six years as an administrator.

Maxwell will replace former Superintendent William R. Hite Jr., who left the county last September to lead Philadelphia public schools. Since Hite's departure, Alvin Crawley, Ph.D., has served as interim superintendent and will serve in that capacity until the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year.

Baker also thanked Crawley for providing leadership.

"I want to thank Dr. Crawley for his outstanding leadership during this transitional period for PGCPS," said Baker. "His



Kevin Maxwell, Prince George's County Public Schools new chief executive officer, addresses an audience at Northwestern High School in Hyattsville, Md. /Photo courtesy of the Prince George's County government

stewardship of the school system, care for the students, and dedication to the faculty and staff has been critical."

Maxwell will be leaving a school system with 77,770 students, 5,662 teachers, 125 schools and a \$982 million budget. PGCPS, one of the nation's 25 largest school districts, has approximately 125,000 students, nearly 18,000 employees, 204 schools and an annual budget of \$1.6 billion.

In a letter to Anne Arundel County employees, students and parents, Maxwell noted that the move would bring his career full circle.

"I view this new position as a chance to give back to the county that started me on the pathway of what has been an incredibly rewarding career," Maxwell wrote.

In his letter of resignation to the AACPS Board, Maxwell conveyed his pride in the progress made.

"I want this board to know clearly and unequivocally that I am incredibly proud of the work we have done together in Anne Arundel County," Maxwell expressed in the letter. "We have vastly increased access to courses of rigor and relevance for all of our children, and have seen huge gains in the number of

students from traditionally underrepresented groups who are taking advanced level courses."

Maxwell was also welcomed by the school board's new chair Segun Eubanks, Ed.D., who said Maxwell brings with him a wealth of experience and a history of success.

Prince George's County Council Chair Andrea C. Harrison called Maxwell a "home-grown talent."

"We fully expect he will be a key partner with a long-term commitment to our unified goal to enhance our educational system and meet the needs of our entire school community," said Harrison.

Maxwell was chosen from three finalists provided to Baker from a three-member search committee appointed by Gov. Martin O'Malley and State Superintendent Dr. Lillian Lowery.

Maxwell said he has high hopes for PGCPS.

"There is so much potential here and I am looking forward to tapping into our potential to move this school system forward," said Maxwell. "I believe the skill and the will exists here to make this one of the best school systems in the state. Our children deserve it, and I am committed to making it happen." WI

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Wal-Mart Turns Up the Heat

Gray under Pressures to Veto Bill

By James Wright
WI Staff Writer

In a move that can only be characterized as a power play, the nation's largest retailer has made it clear to the mayor of the District of Columbia that it's not happy with a pending bill that would substantially raise the minimum wage. The titan of all retailers fully expects him to veto the legislation.

The D.C. Council passed the "Large Retailer Accountability Act" – which would require big-box retailers to pay their employees a minimum of \$12.50 an hour – by a vote of 8-5 on June 26. Steven Restivo, a spokesman for Wal-Mart, objects to the council's action and said it's detrimental to the District.

"We ultimately think it will lead to higher prices, less jobs and fewer stores from some of the country's largest brands like Wal-Mart, Lowe's, Home Depot, Macy's and Target," Restivo said during a recent interview on WMAL radio. "If you look at two of the largest grocery chains in the country – Safeway and Giant – they both remain exempt from this legislation for some reason, and I think that fact tells you everything you need to know about who is driving this."

For decades, employees of both Safeway and Giant have been represented by unions. Small retail stores would not be affected by the bill.

The D.C. Council is scheduled to vote on the "Large Retailer Accountability Act" during its second and final reading on Wednesday, July 10. However, on Tuesday, July 9, Restivo confirmed that if the D.C. Council approves the legislation, Wal-Mart will deep six plans to build the New York Avenue and Bladensburg Road store in Northeast along with the Skyland Town Center and East Capitol Street stores in Southeast. Ultimately, the fate of the bill will rest in the hands of D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray. Restivo hopes Gray gives the pending legislation the thumbs-down.

"We think it makes sense for Mayor Gray to veto this discriminatory legislation, because it runs counter to every economic development platform this ad-

ministration has identified as a priority for D.C.," he said.

Wal-Mart had originally planned to build six stores in the District. Construction continues at the three other store sites which will be located in Fort Totten in Northeast; Georgia and Missouri Avenues in Northwest; and First and H Streets in Northwest. Business leaders are ecstatic about the stores generating thousands of jobs for District residents and tens of millions in revenue for the District. However, union leaders and progressive activists are concerned about Wal-Mart's reputation for decimating small businesses, its history of racial and sexual discrimination and the fact that some of its goods are produced in China under slave labor conditions.

Restivo speculates that if Gray signs the bill, other big-box retailers will summarily dismiss the District as a prime locale.

However, Gray said he's waiting to see what bill arrives on his desk.

"I have not seen the bill," said Gray, 70. "I have not talked to anyone about the bill."

If Gray vetoes the bill, it would take nine votes to override him.

Barbara Lang, president and chief executive officer of the D.C. Chamber of Commerce, agrees with Restivo.

"Wal-Mart has been a member of the D.C. Chamber for almost six years," Lang said. "I hope the mayor vetoes the bill as it is now. You cannot pit one business against the other," referring to Safeway and Giant, companies that have union representation.

Others disagree.

Joslyn Williams, the president of the Metropolitan Washington Council of the AFL-CIO, said that the "Large Retailer Accountability Act" is a good bill that would translate into a great law.

"The AFL-CIO supports this very much," Williams said. "The bill will help create a Washington working middle class."

There's been talk that if the bill passes, the Walmart at Skyland Town Center might be in jeopardy.

Gray said that he's heard rumblings but there's been no defin-



Wal-Mart had planned to build six stores in the District. /Courtesy Photo

itive word from the multi-billion corporation regarding Skyland Town Center, until Tuesday.

"No one from Wal-Mart has said anything like that to me," the mayor said.

Williams said the speculation is baseless.

"Wal-Mart leaving D.C. is an empty threat," he said. "Their strategy is to be in the cities. They are already in the rural and suburban areas of the country

and now they are focusing on building in the urban areas."

New York City and Chicago are dealing with the exact same issues that the District currently faces regarding wages and benefits, he said.

The union president isn't worried about Wal-Mart pulling out.

"The cities are where the money is," he said.

But on Tuesday, Alex Barron, regional general manager

for Wal-Mart, threw down the gauntlet.

"What's more, passage of the [Large Retailer Accountability Act] will also jeopardize the three stores under construction as we will thoroughly review the financial and legal implications of the bill on those projects," Barron recently wrote in an online opinion piece for The Washington Post. **WI**

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Zimmerman Attorney's 'Literacy Test' for Rachel Jeantel

By Yohuru Williams
Special to the Informer from
New American Media



Rachel Jeantel. /Courtesy Photo

Watching the testimony of Rachel “Dee Dee” Jeantel last week and the strong reaction her testimony elicited in the press and on social media provides a fertile opportunity for us to examine if we are—as Justice Roberts and the Supreme Court argued in *Shelby County v. Holder*—truly post racial.

In 1865, the state of Mississippi sought to disqualify blacks from participating in legal proceedings as witnesses by subjecting them to “rules and tests of the common law as to competency and credibility.” At a time when very few African Americans had the benefit of an education, literacy was the most common device used to exclude the testimony of black witnesses and relatedly through the denial of the right to vote, black jurors (selected through rolls of eligible voters). The inability to read and write was often used to challenge a potential witness’s competence, while the inability to articulate oneself clearly was used to establish a lack of credibility.

Although clearly not barred from providing testimony in the Trayvon Martin case, it seems that many in the public sought to hold Rachel Jeantel to the same “racialized” standard. While the ridicule and mockery cut across racial lines, it is hard to believe that critics would shower such harsh treatment on a white witness of similar speech and disposition. While her language and demeanor may not have been palatable to some, neither should impugn either her credibility or integrity as a witness. The intense focus on her conduct alone, and not in conjunction with the actions of George Zimmerman’s defense attorney, is equally problematic. The failure of Zimmerman’s lawyer to show compassion for a young woman who was the last person to speak with Martin and “felt guilty” over his death was hardly the most egregious example. Mr. Don West’s highly objectionable attempt to stand during the beginning portion of Ms. Jeantel’s testimony looked very much like a form of witness intimidation.

While one might expect such outrageous antics from a defense attorney, whose primary job is to challenge the evidence against

his client, the public reaction to Ms. Jeantel’s testimony was even more troubling.

Despite Americans’ fascination with the law in the form of television programs like *Law and Order*, the inner workings of the court can be scary and intimidating for young people, especially for many people of color whose primary experience with the judicial system is adversarial. I am not suggesting that this was the case with Ms. Jeantel before the trial, but the presumption that she should have conducted herself like a seasoned witness is out of bounds. She is a 19-year-old from the city of Miami who suddenly found herself thrust into the epicenter of, for what was for most of us, a national news story, but for her the intensely personal murder of a childhood friend.

While disgusted by the treatment she received, I am equally frustrated by the failure of most to appreciate this as a litmus test on so many other issues of import that still plague our nation’s schools and inner cities, not to mention our young people’s perception of themselves and the world around them.

It would have been refreshing indeed, for instance, if Ms. Jeantel’s testimony elicited public outcry about the sad state of public education, even as we are in the midst of major budget cuts that have led to a significant reduction in teachers and services in large urban school districts from Hartford, Connecticut, to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Los Angeles, California.

It would have been equally refreshing if concerns about Ms. Jeantel did not so transpar-

ently coincide with her critics’ observations about her failure to approximate Eurocentric standards of beauty. References to her weight and color, not to mention comparisons with the main characters in the movie “Precious” and Tyler Perry’s Media series underscore the narrative of “Black Pathology” that continues to be employed as a measuring stick against African Americans — a measuring stick where one unfortunately is guilty until proven innocent by performing respectability. This, of course, is the same measuring stick that cost Trayvon Martin his life, at the hands of self-appointed neighborhood watch captain, George Zimmerman. In a world where young people like Ms. Jeantel are afforded very little respect, whether they are just returning from the corner store or shouldering the difficult task of testifying about the murder of a close friend, their frustration should not be surprising. However, Ms. Jeantel’s impatience with Zimmerman’s counsel has somehow confirmed her status as part of the angry, violent, belligerent, and illiterate Black underclass. By extension, Trayvon Martin, her friend, was also a member of that group, and in the words of one tweeter “got what he deserved.” What we all deserve is a system free from the taint of racial prejudice and those with the courage to speak out against the larger societal injustices that have helped to make the system what it is. **WI**

Yohuru Williams, Ph.D. chairs the Department of History and directs the Black Studies at Fairfield University.

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Nelson Mandela's Long Goodbye Has Lessons for All of Us

By Sandip Roy
Special to the Informer

Hard as it is to accept the fact, the world has to come to terms with it.

It's not surprising that South Africans are praying for his recovery. But perhaps a final gesture of gratitude to the man who is indisputably the Father of the Nation is to pray for his peaceful death. Or passing. Or transition. If those euphemisms offer some solace and sound less final than death.

Nelson Mandela is almost 95. He has been in and out of hospital three times this year. Newsrooms around the world have probably gotten his obituary ready more than once. His health has gone up and down, each "recovery" a little slower than the previous one. The man's body is tired. Reports say he has not opened his eyes in days and is largely unresponsive.

But as a society, we now have the medical capability to prolong life to a degree our grandparents could never imagine. Every day in hospitals all over, elderly patients, entirely non-functional, unable to register anything, are hooked up to ventilators offering some semblance of life and hope to the family around them. And it's a lucrative source of revenue for hospitals which always seem very eager to strap on the ventilator and charge a hefty fee. A doctor friend once told me that the ventilator was meant as a temporary breathing assistance for a young person who might have had some traumatic injury or illness but who hopefully would fully bounce back to life afterwards. It was never meant to be a semi-permanent breathing solution for a person already dying.

I am not implying at all the hospital in Pretoria has ulterior motives in prolonging Mandela's life. It's just that determining what is the natural end of a life has become increasingly more complicated and fraught for all of us.

Now the advancement of medical technology has meant a longer life, as well as the hope of recovery from illnesses that felled our grandparents. But it has also meant we can cling on to life with greater tenaciousness and artificiality. Visiting a great-aunt at a hospital not so long ago, I tried




Nelson Mandela. /Courtesy Photo

to reconcile the jolly beaming woman I knew with the shapeless lump under a hospital sheet, tethered to tubes and a ventilator, reduced to a line on a monitor, silent except for the shuddering intake of breath. Once she looked at me, and her eyes were so full of pain and questions, I had to drop my gaze.

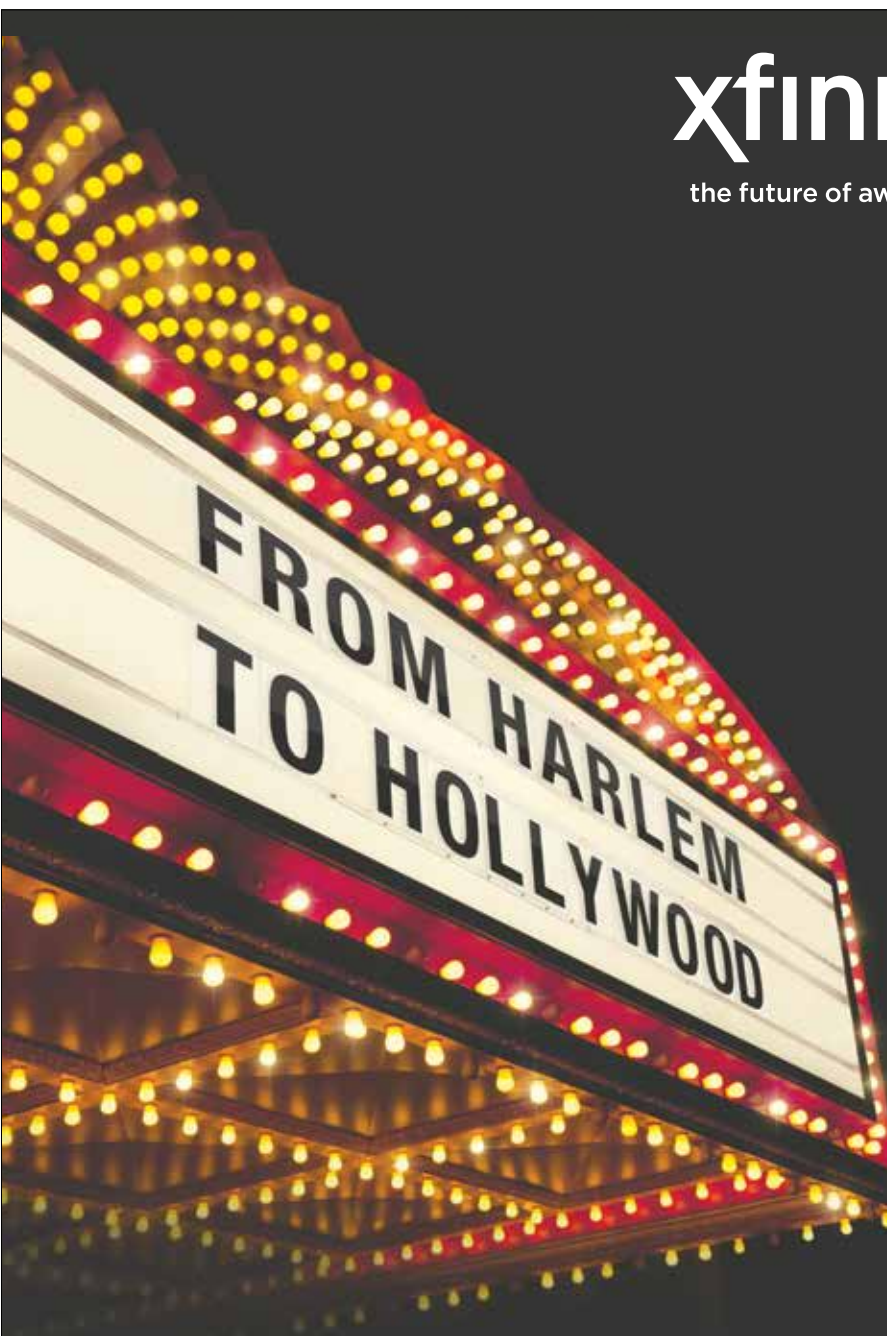
It is hard to let loved ones go. Sometimes it's because the children scattered around the world need to come. But mostly it's because we keep hoping for miracles, that she will get better. At 95 Nelson Mandela, even if he comes out of hospital one more time, is not likely to get better. But we still hope. "Nelson Mandela, for me, is like my father," Alex Siake, a South African, said in Pretoria. "Every day, I just pray that he can recover quickly and be among us again."

Mandela's daughter Makizwe is quoted as saying she is praying his "transition is smooth". But Daliwe Bida, a resident of Mandela's native village told the media, "We are praying non-stop because we don't know what can happen if he leaves us." One can understand the stakes are that much higher when it's a person of the stature of Nelson Mandela. The pressure to keep the man alive almost reaches the point of wanting to keep him immortal.

Yet in his long goodbye, Nelson Mandela is also teaching us something. That no matter how much we want to hold on to something or someone, sometimes we have to let them go. Nelson Mandela has given a lot the world. To let go of Nelson Mandela is perhaps the greatest gift of gratitude the world can offer him at this point. **WI**



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BUSINESS



/Courtesy Photo

Estate Planning 101: Living With Mama

By Marlene S. Cooper, Esq
Special to the Informer from NNPA

Many parents have an adult child living with them. Sometimes it is for the benefit of the parents — a child can be a wonderful caregiver and provide much needed financial assistance. Oftentimes, however, the adult child is living with the parent because either he or she never left home in the first place or because he or she is unable or unwilling to establish a household of his or her own.

When parents pass away and leave adult children living in the residence, unfortunate events can occur. If the residence is inherited by siblings, those living outside the residence may want the property sold in order to receive their share of the parent's estate.

This can create tension and conflict with those living in the house — they may be motivated to do almost anything to continue to live there. Under the law, without an agreement between the siblings or an estate plan which provides otherwise, persons living in the house have to either buy out the other siblings or move out so that the house can be sold.

Also, during the period between the death of the parent and the sale of the house, the persons living in the house can be held liable for rent. I have seen families struggling and fighting with the issue of putting a brother or sister "on the street" so they can sell the house and split the inheritance. At best, it leads to hard feelings between the siblings. At worst, it leads to costly and time consuming lawsuits.

Here are some suggestions for parents who want to address this situation in advance:

Don't make the child living at home the Successor Trustee or Executor of your estate just because they are living with you. Choose someone because he or she has good business sense and follow through.

Make plans with your children ahead of time concerning what you want to happen to your home when you pass away. I recommend that families have open dialogue about the issue so that there are no surprises.

If the parents want the adult child living in the house to be able to remain there until the adult child passes away (essentially a "life estate"), then they need to figure out how the property will be maintained and how

taxes and insurance will be paid. I have seen houses lost simply because the adult child living there fails to pay the mortgage or taxes and by the time the other siblings find out about the default, it is too late to save the property.

A revocable living trust can be used to address the issues raised above. A little planning now can save many headaches and heartaches in the future. © 2013 by Marlene S. Cooper. All rights reserved. (Marlene S. Cooper, a graduate of UCLA, has been an attorney for over 30 years. Her practice is focused entirely on estate planning, estate administration and probate. You may obtain further information at www.marlenecooperlaw.com, by e-mail at MarleneCooperLaw@aol.com, by phone at (626) 791-7530 or toll free at (866) 702-7600. The information in this article is of a general nature and not intended as legal advice. Seek the advice of an attorney before acting or relying upon any information in this article).WI

BUSINESS EXCHANGE

Do Two Moms Make a Right?



By William Reed

Due to Supreme Court rulings that were occurring in the United States, President Barack Obama's advocacy for gay rights took place in Africa within 24 hours of arriving in Senegal. "I want the African people just to hear what I believe, and that is that every country, every group of people, every religion have different customs, different traditions," Obama proffered during a joint press conference with Senegal's president Macky Sall. In response, Sall sternly rebuffed Obama's defense of America's current laws. Senegal is a 95-percent Muslim, sexually conservative and patriarchal nation. Homosexual activity is illegal and punishable for up to five years in prison. Senegalese citizens consider homosexuality taboo.

When will Black Americans join the Senegalese president in telling Obama "where to take" his gay advocacy agenda? A 2009 USA Today/Gallup Poll found 48 percent of Americans felt "society would change for the worse" if same-sex marriage were legalized.

"Gay marriage" and its ethos have been fervently opposed by Blacks and their pastors over the years. Surely, we should look toward that type leadership again. Black religious conservatives are "outraged" over the high court's ruling. Bishop Aubrey Shines, senior pastor of Glory to Glory Ministries in Tampa, Fla., and spokesperson for a number of African-American churches vocal on issues pertaining to biblical justice, poverty, and civil rights, said "the court's decisions fly in the face of common sense; tradition and morality ... The vast majority of Americans do not support the homosexual agenda." Shines urged Blacks to ignore "aggressive multi-billion dollar media campaigns promoting homosexuality." In matters of marriage and family, Shines said: "the truth is a healthy union between one man and one woman is unique and special and the best way to raise a family."

Black Americans should show some backbone. Black family life is now being defined primarily as "single female-headed households." Seventy percent of Black

children are raised by single parents. Black family life is part and parcel of politics based on welfare-state materialistic mentalities bestowed by elitist Whites. The court's ruling is the latest in that population segments' processes defying God's authority.

God created marriage and defined its parameters for us. But, too many of us are allowing politics and politicians to lead us astray. The laws of the land are being swayed by politics. And politics are leading us down a path of destruction as illustrated by the biblical story of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. In Abrahamic traditions, including Senegalese President Sall's Quran, Sodom and Gomorrah are synonymous with impenitent sin, and their fall with a proverbial manifestation of God's wrath. Sodom and Gomorrah have been used as metaphors for homosexuality and vice viewed as a deviation. The story has therefore given rise to words in several languages, including the English word sodomy, used to describe a sexual "crime against nature."

Isn't it time men and women step forward to place a priority on God's law over and above man's law? It's time Black church leadership step forward. Evil is all around us, from lying and stealing to pornography, drugs, illicit sex, and violence. God has given us Ten Commandments to order our steps. God calls us to be "not influenced by the world's wicked culture." Do Blacks living in America take sin and God's wrath seriously, or plan to continue as wards of American paternal politics?

Bishop Harry Jackson of the International Communion of Evangelical Churches declared "Gay marriage is not of God," and asked "Why would Blacks accept same-sex orientation?" Be it bible or Quran, God is very clear: "If a man also lie with

mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination."

Their numbers are growing. Directly counter to God's teachings, more Americans are

"coming out." Polls show each generation less opposed to homosexual behaviors than the previous generation. But, to save ourselves, Blacks need to turn to people like Bishops Jackson and

Shines to help us keep traditional families and values intact. **W**

William Reed is publisher of "Who's Who in Black Corporate America" and available for projects via the BaileyGroup.org



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African Americans and Pancreatic Cancer: Things to Know

WI Staff Report

When NFL Hall of Famer Gene Upshaw died of pancreatic cancer in 2008, it was the first time that many Americans had heard of the disease. Like many patients with this deadly cancer, the 63-year-old Upshaw died a short period after his diagnosis, shocking many football fans. The news of his death also shone a spotlight on a disease that, although rare, disproportionately affects African Americans.

Pancreatic cancer is diagnosed in African Americans more often than in other racial/ethnic groups in the United States. And African Americans are more likely than other groups to die from the disease. The reasons for these disparities are not clear. Some re-

searchers have noted, however, that certain risk factors are more common among African Americans than among other groups. Known risk factors for pancreatic cancer include tobacco use, long-standing diabetes, obesity, inflammation of the pancreas, a family history of pancreatic cancer, and certain hereditary conditions.

Since Upshaw's death, other celebrities have been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, including actor Patrick Swayze, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and astronaut Sally Ride. The media coverage of these cases has likely raised public awareness of pancreatic cancer in the United States, where it is the fourth most deadly cancer among both men and women, although it is only the ninth most common cancer in women and the tenth most common in men.

One reason for this lethality is that early pancreatic cancer often causes no symptoms. By the time doctors detect the disease, it has usually spread beyond the pancreas. Once that happens, it is rarely curable. As a result, most patients with pancreatic cancer die within a year of diagnosis and less than 6 percent of patients survive 5 years after diagnosis.

Current treatments for patients with pancreatic cancer include surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, chemoradiation therapy, and targeted therapy. Many patients receive a combination of treatments. These treatments can help patients with advanced disease feel better, but they do not cure their disease. To develop new and more effective therapies,

researchers have been trying to identify the biological changes underlying pancreatic cancer, a strategy that has been effective for other cancers.

Researchers have also been investigating new ways to detect the cancer at earlier stages. The need for earlier detection is underscored by statistics: In the United States this year, it is estimated that more than 45,000 people will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and more than 38,000 people will die from the disease.

At a minimum, it is important to understand what pancreatic cancer is and how you can find more information if you or someone you know needs it, now or in the future.

Pancreatic cancer occurs when malignant (cancer) cells develop in the tissues of the pancreas (pronounced PAN-kree-us). Located inside the abdomen, the pancreas produces juices that aid in digestion as well as several hormones, including insulin. The pancreas is surrounded by the stomach, intestines, and other organs.

There are two main types of pancreatic cancer. The most common type by far, called exocrine pancreatic cancer, starts in the ducts that carry pancreatic juices. The other type, known as endocrine pancreatic cancer or islet cell cancer, starts in the pancreatic cells that make hormones.

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) offers several kinds of information resources to help you understand more about pancreatic cancer diagnosis, treatment, supportive care, and research studies. These include: **WI**



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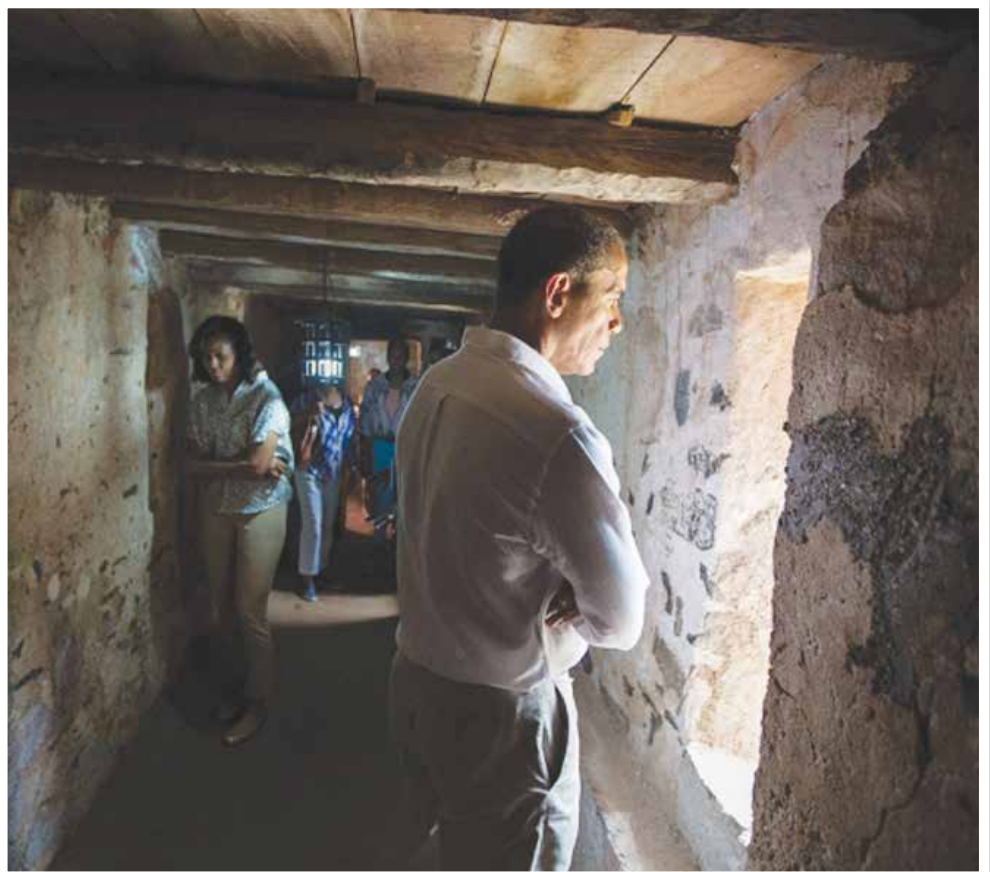
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President Barack Obama greets residents of Gorée Island, Senegal. / Photo courtesy of The White House



Students listen as First Lady Michelle Obama delivers remarks during her visit to Martin Luther King Middle School, an all-girls school in Dakar, Senegal. / Photo courtesy of The White House



President Barack Obama looks out a cell window as he and First Lady Michelle Obama tour the Maison des Esclaves Museum on Gorée Island, Senegal. / Photo courtesy of The White House

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Concerns Voiced over Ninth-Grade Academies

By Dorothy Rowley
WI Staff Writer

A new initiative that will separate incoming freshmen from repeat ninth-graders at District high schools this fall, has raised eyebrows while being given a thumbs-up by a school administrator who says a similar project he developed at his school works.

The program which ensures the smooth transition of new ninth-graders into high school offers the newcomers the support to succeed with the creation of small ninth-grade academies at schools across the District. They include Ballou, Anacostia and Dunbar high schools, where both truancy and dropout rates have remained problematic over the years.

"They're actually using Dunbar's example, which has been a model with its successful academy," said principal Steven Jackson, whose students attend

classes on an extended-day learning schedule – or 90 minutes longer than students at other city high schools.

"Our first ninth-grade academy did extremely well, and the program we administered [in 2012-13] had a 97 percent passing rate. So it looks like everybody's trying to follow what we've been doing," he said.

"I told the chancellor that I had done the same thing a few years ago, and she gave me the approval to move forward with the project at Dunbar," Jackson said.

Other high schools involved in the effort to remove over-aged ninth-graders from regular classrooms include Coolidge, Eastern, Roosevelt, Wilson and Woodson.

As part of an ongoing effort to overhaul the entire District of Columbia Public School (DCPS) system, Chancellor Kaya Henderson said the plan ensures that this year's incoming crop of freshman success-



New freshmen at nine District high schools will be enrolled in programs designed to bolster their academic, social and emotional needs. /Courtesy Photo

fully transition and succeed in high school.

"We know that ninth grade is a critical transition year and data show us that without the right supports, our students are at a high risk of truancy," Henderson said in a release from her office regarding the initiative, which is an extension of Jackson's program. "It's clear that we need to do something differently, [and] I'm excited about the opportunities that the ninth-grade academies will provide our students, [as well

as] the impact this initiative will have [reducing] truancy and [helping] us meet our strategic goals of raising proficiency and graduation rates."

Many DCPS students must repeat their freshman year, and the chancellor stated during a recent D.C. Council meeting that the odds of succeeding once students become a third-time ninth-grader are relatively low.

"The same old, same old is not going to get these young people to where they need to

be," Henderson, 43, said.

Administrators contend that the strategy behind the academies is to separate repeat ninth-graders from incoming freshmen so that they're not unduly influenced by older students, this innovative program is designed to meet the academic, social and emotional needs of the new students.

According to a statement issued on June 29 by Hender-

See **SCHOOLS** on Page 21

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SCHOOLS

continued from Page 20

son's office, research regarding the ninth grade describes that period as a critical time for students when it comes to their success in higher education and the workforce.

Meanwhile, discussions are still being held among school officials on addressing the academic needs of DCPS repeat ninth-graders — many of whom are poised for enrollment at alternative learning facilities.

In Dunbar's case — and others following its lead — students who lag behind, have the opportunity to enroll in the "Twilight Academy," which caters to over-aged students who've failed ninth grade more than once.



/Courtesy Photo

"I don't have failing students in my school," said Jackson. "Either they attend the Twilight Academy or they go to summer school — in any case,

they're not going to [repeat grades] at my school."

Ward 8 School Board member Trayon White, said both he and parents are concerned that

the students who've been held back will be ostracized.

"It's my hope that DCPS will offer wrap-around services to get to the core of why

fore retiring after 33 years in the classroom.

"The problem is the way the DCPS system is set up. And, it's set up for failure," she said. **WI**

these students haven't progressed," White, 29, said. "Something definitely needs to be done and I'd want to see school officials offer a holistic approach [to] helping failing students get back on track."

But a veteran DCPS educator said that overall, school officials are missing the point with the academies.

"The repeat students aren't learning because their teachers are not being allowed to teach," said Paulette Tilghman, 65, who also taught in Prince George's County Public Schools be-

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D.C. Summer Youth Curfew Hours in Effect

By Margaret Summers
WI Contributing Writer

It's summer. Daylight hours are longer, and the weather is warmer. Teens in the District, as elsewhere, are outdoors at night, enjoying vacation from school.

But the District, and more than 500 cities nationally, enforces a curfew law for young teens in the summer, and during the rest of the year. The District's curfew is administered by the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), Patrol Services and School Security Bureau, School Safety Division.

"The summer curfew hours are in effect for July and August only," said MPD Police Officer Araz Alali of the Executive Office of the Chief of Police's Office of Communication. "Summer hours are 12:01 a.m. to 6 a.m. daily."

From September through June, curfew hours are 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 12:01 a.m. to 6 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. The Saturday curfew starts at 12:01 a.m. Friday.

Passed in 1995 by the D.C. Council, The Juvenile Curfew Act was devised to protect District residents, and nonresidents, from juvenile crime. The ACLU of the National Capitol Area challenged the law as unfairly focusing on minors, and violat-

ing their due process and equal protection rights. Striking down the curfew law 15 months after its implementation, U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan ruled that the District failed to prove that communities would be safer because of the curfew. The curfew law was reinstated in 1999 after a federal appeals court review.

Alali said the law applies to District youth 17 and under, even those who visit the city from somewhere else. Parents or legal guardians are subject to a \$500 fine or community service if they allow a youth to violate the curfew. Youth caught in the streets after curfew can be ordered to perform up to 25 hours of community service.

Youth violate the curfew law if they are in or on a street, park, or other outdoor public venue, in a vehicle, or on the premises of any District establishment during curfew hours, Alali said. They are exempted from the law if they are accompanied by a parent or guardian; if they are on an errand given to them by a parent or guardian and they don't detour or stop; if they are working or returning home from a job without detouring or stopping; if they are involved in an emergency; or if they are riding in a vehicle involved in interstate travel.

They are also exempted if they



The District, and more than 500 cities nationally, enforces a curfew law for young teens in the summer, and during the rest of the year. The District's curfew is administered by the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), Patrol Services and School Security Bureau, School Safety Division. /Courtesy Photo

are standing on a sidewalk linking their residence to that of a next door neighbor if the neighbor doesn't complain to the police. They are exempted when attending, and traveling to or from, a District of Columbia-sponsored activity, a religious or school activity, or any activity sponsored by a similar group that takes responsibility for minors. Youth exercising their constitutionally protected First Amendment rights, including free speech, religion and right of assembly, are likewise exempt.

They are not exempted if they are accompanied by a slightly older teen, or someone who is 20. "The 'magic' age is 21," said

Alali. "If they are not with a parent or guardian, they have to be with an adult 21 or older."

ACLU legal director Arthur B. Spitzer still believes the law is a bad idea.

"I think it's enforced stringently in some places more than others," said Spitzer. "It has unfair consequences, but we (ACLU) went as far as we could go with it (to the federal appeals court)."

"Some kids have (homes with) backyards and air conditioned recreation rooms, while others have nowhere to go but the streets," he added.

One parent likes the curfew as long as it's fair.

"I think the curfew is effective if it is enforced by the police," said parent Verna Clayborne, 65, of Northeast. Her grandsons, ages 15 and 10, are covered by the curfew. "It should not be selectively enforced against just African-American kids," she said.

"It keeps young people from just hanging around the streets at night, increasing the possibility that they will get into trouble or get shot," said Clayborne.

Studies concerning the effectiveness of youth curfews in curbing juvenile crime are mixed. Some indicate that crimes by minors occur more often during the hours immediately after school than during the curfew hours. Others claim that curfews decrease juvenile crimes.

The City Mayors Foundation, an international urban affairs think tank, documented about 100 cities with school hour curfews. The District, Prince George's County and Baltimore, Md., Virginia Beach, and Richmond, Va., enforce youth curfew laws.

Alali said the District curfew law educates parents about youth activities and resources here. A complete list of agencies and organizations providing activities and resources, and their contact information, is available online at answersplease@dc.gov, and by phone at the District's Answers Please! Helpline, (202) INFO-211 (463-6211). **WI**

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Safeway Receives Department of Defense Freedom Award

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WI Staff Report

Safeway Inc. has been selected to receive the 2013 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, the nation's highest honor given to employers for exceptional support of National Guard and Reserve employees. Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), an office of the Department of Defense, announced the award recipients recently.

Safeway is one of six large companies to be honored with the prestigious Freedom Award. Nine other award recipients are small- to mid-sized businesses or public-sector employers. The recipients, who were chosen from a pool of nearly 3,000 nominated private and public sector employers, were selected for their demonstrated programs, policies and achievements in support

and hiring members of the National Guard and Reserve.

"I commend and thank the 15 recipients of the 2013 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award for providing exceptional support to our Citizen Warriors," said Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel. "So many of our Nation's employers are finding ways to contribute to our Nation's security, but these employers stand out for their commitment to our Guardsmen and Reservists. They have the gratitude and thanks of the entire Department of Defense."

"Providing employment opportunities and training to our men and women in uniform and veterans are among the most important public services we perform," said Safeway's President and Chief Executive Officer, Robert Edwards. "We are honored to be among a

select group of private and public sector organizations who can now call themselves Freedom Award recipients."

Safeway has a long history of commitment to men and women in the military. The company was among the first employers to commit (more than 10 years ago) to cover the pay differential and extend full benefits to employees in the Reserve and National Guard called to active duty. Safeway continues to provide this benefit. The company has aggressively responded to the need for employment with returning veterans through its Junior Military Officer and Non-Commissioned Officer (JMO/NCO) Program. In 2012, Safeway hired nearly 1,500 veterans with over 1,300 of them hired into the company's retail stores. Safeway has also committed to hiring at least another 1,500 veterans by the end of 2013. While the majority of Safeway's Store Managers and Assistant Managers are promoted from its internal ranks, the company's Human Resources team recognized the untapped talent pool in the military.

"We saw an opportunity to re-

cruit new kinds of leaders who will become an important and critical part of our future," said Larree Renda, Safeway Executive Vice President. "Our JMO and NCO recruiting program officially launched in 2010. We accept applicants who have been officers or non-commissioned officers in the military and place them in an accelerated leadership program."

Graduates qualify for Store Manager and Assistant Manager jobs and a range of other manager-level positions in the distribution and backstage departments at Safeway. The 41-week intensive training program includes a combination of on-the-job training, mentoring, classroom seminars, job shadowing and independent study, as well as participating in numerous department and key leadership strategy sessions. At the end of the program, participants are qualified to hold a number of leadership positions, including Store Manager and Warehouse Superintendent.

In addition to Safeway's JMO/NCO program, Safeway's Retail Military Recruiting efforts were launched in 2012 to increase efforts in hiring veterans of all back-

grounds into our retail store environment.

In 2011, the company launched an annual Veterans Day weekend fundraiser. To date, Safeway has collected and donated more than \$2 million to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project and other organizations that help veterans recover from service-related injuries and/or return to the civilian workforce. Our various divisions also participate in local fundraisers and community service initiatives to support our country's heroes. These programs are in addition to ongoing commitments to continue full benefits for Safeway employees who are called to active duty, and to ship care packages — more than 2,000 to date — to soldiers overseas.

The 2013 Freedom Award recipients will be honored at the 18th annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award ceremony in Washington, D.C. on September 26, 2013.

The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 under the auspices of ESGR to recognize exceptional support from the employer community. **WI**

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Egypt: Change is the Only Constant

Last week's coup d'état in Egypt is a not-too-subtle reminder that the revolution which led to the ouster of former President Hosni Mubarak a year ago is far from over.

Almost a year to the day that a majority of the populace elected President Mohamad Morsi, he was swept from office by a popular uprising of disaffected Egyptians who chafed under what they said were his dictatorial tendencies and disdain for the secular segment of the populace.

The military has Morsi under house arrest, rounded up Muslim Brotherhood leadership, and they shut down television stations with close ties to Morsi. And what began months ago as relatively peaceful protests is now turning deadly.

On Monday, the political wing of the Brotherhood, an Islamic-based movement, called for a popular uprising by pro-Morsi supporters against the military after soldiers are said to have opened fire on Morsi supporters who had gathered outside the building where they believe Morsi is being held.

According to state TV, soldiers killed 51 and wounded 435. It is not far-fetched that the conflicts could slide the country into civil war.

Morsi's sudden and stunning fall from grace came as the country's powerful military leaders made good on their veiled threats to Morsi that they would intervene if he didn't respond to the people's demands. And we saw compelling images of millions of anti-Morsi crowds crammed into Tahrir Square celebrating his departure with cheers and fireworks.

Yet it's becoming clear that the coup is likely just the latest salvo in what will probably be a protracted battle for the soul of the country.

As the Arab Spring broke out first in Tunisia and other parts of the Arab world, the hope was that people who yearned for greater political, social and economic freedoms would gain these ideals and practical desires. But the Egyptian political, religious and social landscape is quite complex.

Egyptian journalist Wael Gamal notes that the January 30, 2012 revolution that ousted Mubarak "has not yet realized a single success, with the exception of the removal of Mubarak, a few of his men, and the dismantling of his ruling party."

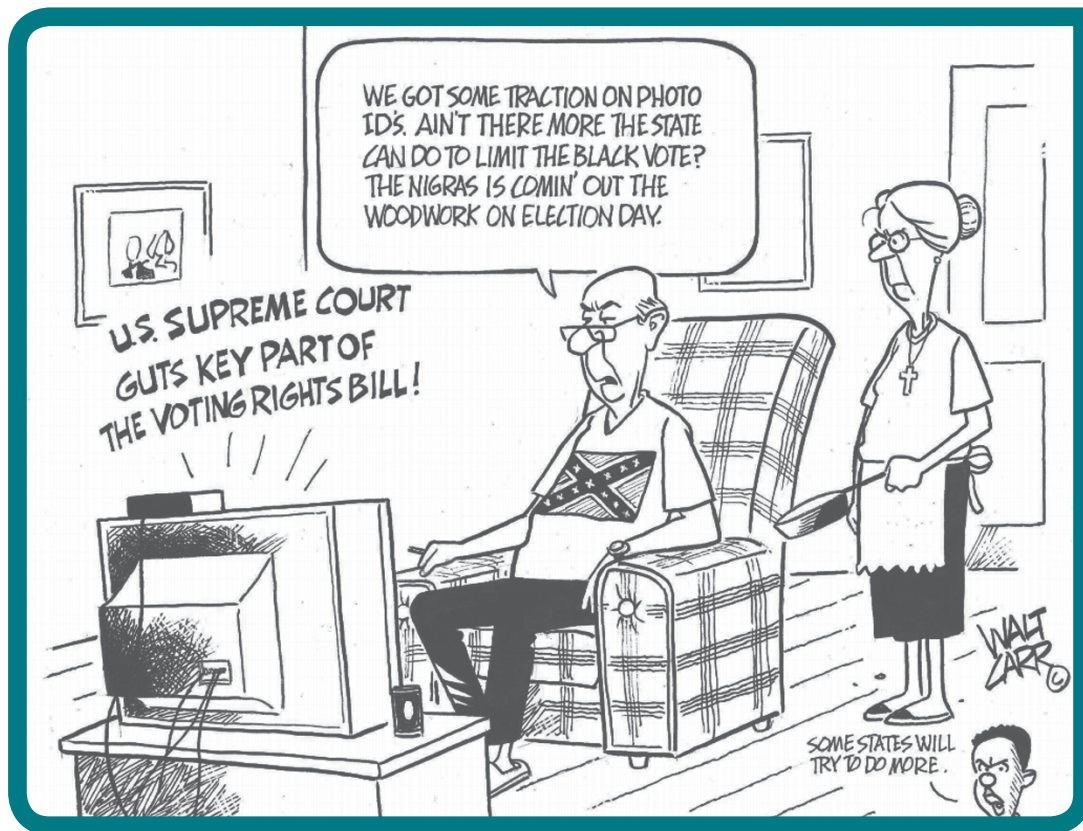
In the meantime, he said, the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces and the Brotherhood, "took care to reproduce the old regime, politically, economically, and in the security services." These reproductions, Gamal added, were carefully tailored to prevent the translation of changes in the balance of social and political forces (millions of ordinary people breaking into the world of politics) into actual authority.

"Not even one basic reform of the wage system, the redistribution of wealth, or corruption has been realized. The police have undergone no reforms whatsoever, and the security's grip on society is as tight as ever," he said.

Which is why, according to Professor Khaled Shaalan, we might be witnessing "the emergence of a true grassroots democratic alternative in the Arab world's largest country."

In order to protect their interests in the country, he said, the U.S., Britain and their allies have invested heavily in a tamer version of Islamist rule as practiced by the Muslim Brotherhood "as they seek to take over the Middle East from post-colonial populist regimes living long past their expiration dates."

So the millions who took to the streets on June 30 have thrown a monkey wrench into Western plans and as the country moves forward may take Egypt in another direction, "even if only by beginning to address different possibilities regarding the future of Egypt, its people and its regional state of affairs," Shaalan said.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Must See Exhibit at Folger!

Reading Margaret Summers' article, "Shakespeare Writings Inspired South African Prisoners," July 4, 2013 brought tears of joy to my eyes. It is just so powerful to think of how a book can be so inspirational to individuals facing such brutality and despair.

I have read Shakespeare's writings on different occasions, but never in my wildest imagination could I have read and appreciated those verses like the individuals incarcerated at Robben Island prison must have. It's so inspiring. This is one exhibit I will not miss. Nelson Mandela is the greatest person ever and my prayers go out to him and his family.

Betty Jean Cable
Washington, D.C.

The Right to Vote

The article "Voting Rights Act: Supreme Court Decision Shifts Focus to Congress," in the July 4, 2013 edition of the Informer

got me to thinking about some American History. After the Civil War, America needed to add amendments to the Constitution in order for African Americans to have the right to vote. There were more black elected officials in the southern states, both local and congressional, than ever. When the Union troops left the south and those states got their so-called "sovereignty" back, a reign of terror was unleashed on the black residents of those states like never seen before in American history.

So, 100 years later Congress passed another law, The Voting Rights Act, to ensure that the right to vote was upheld, another law so we could vote. Chief Justice Roberts and his crew, including Justice Thomas, call themselves Constitutionalists, or trying to adhere to the original framing of our Constitution as closely as possible. Remember what we had to do in order to get the right to vote; it wasn't in the original one. So Roberts says in his argument "that there are more Black elected officials in the south," (does that sound

familiar?) and "we even elected a Black President."

Once again the courts are handing back to those states their so-called "sovereignty" and we have a Congress willing to keep its eyes closed, probably for another 100 years.

John C. Miles
Washington, D.C.

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Guest Columnist

Rep. Eddie Berniece Johnson

'I Recall Having to Pay a Poll Tax'

With its ruling on the Voting Rights Act, the Supreme Court has taken the country back to a time when racial minorities were not able to participate equitably in the voting process. The court's decision is disgraceful to civil rights leaders and legislators who have fought to preserve equal voting rights in this country.

It reminds me of a time in our history when minorities were

prevented from voting because they had to pay a "poll tax" before they could vote. The tax represented a mean-spirited and vicious way of keeping hundreds of thousands of people from voting. The objection to eliminating the poll tax was that it would allow people of color to "flood the polls."

I recall having to pay a poll tax to vote in Texas. The practice began in my state in 1902. It did not end until 1966. During those 64 years, hundreds of thousands of our citizens were denied the

right to vote, an opportunity to participate in American democracy. The federal government prohibited the use of a poll tax in national elections in 1964 with the passage of the 24th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The court's current assault on the Voting Rights Act prevents the federal government from ensuring that states with a history of racial discrimination will not enact voting methods and procedures that will deny a very significant right and duty.

Prior to that time nine states,

mostly located in the southern United States, had to receive clearance or prior approval from the Justice Department or a federal court before they could institute changes in voting methods or engage in redistricting.

In its ruling, the court did not alter Section 5. Instead, it ruled that the formula, detailed in Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act, used to determine which states should be covered by Section 5, went beyond constitutional limits and used data that was outdated. The effect of that ruling is to

mute Section 5, and allow states to amend voting procedures and practices as they see fit without fear of federal intervention.

Those who advocated for radical changes in the Voting Rights Act said that increasing numbers of racial minorities participated in state and national elections. They even pointed to the election of President Barack Obama as a reason for the elimination of federal oversight and intervention.

See **JOHNSON** on Page 45



Guest Columnist

By George E. Curry

Race and the Supreme Court

In their fondest dreams conservative policymakers and believers in the United States insist that times have changed so much in this country since the days of chattel slavery that race-centered solutions to that unholy crime against humanity now unjustly discriminate on the beneficiaries of America's "peculiar institution." Those beneficiaries are the sons and daughters of the slave owners, and everyone else in this

society.

The belief that we are now living in "post racial" America is as flawed as the decision by the country's Founding Fathers to ignore the contradictions caused by the several slave-holding states who, nevertheless, were needed to sign on to Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence which declared, hypocritically: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with

certain unalienable rights..."

That was as big a lie in 1776 as the insistence today that American society has moved beyond the place where race must be considered in employment affirmative action plans in order to "level the playing field" for those who were robbed of their labor for 310 years and never compensated; and for educational affirmative action programs for those who were once prohibited by law to even be taught to read the Bible.

In his typically Orwellian manner, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas likens affirmative action programs which admit Black students into elite academic colleges, and into law and medical schools, with slavery itself. He said the University of Texas at Austin's admissions policy – recently sent by the Supreme Court to a lower court for reconsideration – itself amounted to discrimination and compared the school's affirmative action program to slavery and

segregation.

"Slaveholders argued that slavery was a 'positive good' that civilized blacks and elevated them in every dimension of life," Thomas wrote in his separate opinion on Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin. "A century later, segregationists similarly asserted that segregation was not only benign, but good for black students.

"Following in these inauspicious

See **CURRY** on Page 45



Guest Columnist

By Bill Fletcher, Jr.

Accepting Racist Insults without Reservation

I was struck when I opened the Washington Post the other day and saw the headline on a front-page story: "Poll: Area residents want Redskins to keep name." Approximately 61 percent of area sports fans feel that the Washington Redskins should keep their name despite the fact that large numbers of Native Americans and their supporters recognize it to be a racist insult.

I am not sure why I was sur-

prised. The Washington, D.C. area has a love affair with the Washington football team, and this includes large numbers of African Americans. There have been many groups and individuals who, over the years, have requested that the name of the team be changed. There have been conferences concerning this and testimonies offered to the effect that the name is a racist insult to Native Americans, the equivalent of calling them the "Washington Ni---rs." Despite these pleas, the owners of

the team and their allies have refused to relent. I am sure that after reading the results of the poll they feel vindicated.

Within the story there was an interesting parenthetical point: "There weren't enough Native Americans among the poll's 1,106 respondents for meaningful comparison; Native Americans make up less than 1 percent of the population in the region, according to Census data."

Would this debate look somewhat different if we were discussing an issue affecting a

larger percentage of the population? One of the hypocrisies of U.S. society is that there are names of rivers, bridges, roads, parks, cars, trucks, sports teams and other items derived from the names of populations that have ceased to exist as a result of one of the world's most horrendous cases of genocide. We encounter these names every day and never stop to think about the significance of this fact. We then create bizarre representations of these populations as if it is all in good humor, e.g., the

Atlanta Braves 'tomahawk chop'; entitling a team the "Washington Redskins." We rarely stop to think that those who are directly insulted by such representations are the descendants of those who faced a genocide which many people in the U.S.A. continue to glorify.

To sit back and find justification for the ongoing usage of such racist imagery is, in fact, to not only turn a blind eye to a racist insult, but it is to be com-

See **FLETCHER** on Page 45



Guest Columnist

By Lee A. Daniels

The Supreme Court's True Colors

Last week, the Supreme Court's conservative faction revealed more clearly than ever before its true colors. It showed that in the political war over America's future it supports those who want to return to the exclusionary policies and practices of the past.

That this is guiding principle of Chief Justice John Roberts and Associate Justices Antonin

Scalia, Clarence Thomas, and Samuel Alito is no surprise. But their contempt for using the law to right injustice and expand the franchise of democracy has never before been so nakedly displayed

The conservative justices' posture was apparent not just in the decisions narrowing affirmative action and eviscerating the key "pre-clearance" provision of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. It showed itself as well in the court's decision properly striking down the federal Defense of

Marriage Act and in upholding a lower court's ruling invalidating California's anti-gay marriage Proposition 8. And finally, these justices' callous conservatism was at the heart of the court's limiting workers' protections against harassment in the workplace. That latter decision, *Vance v. Ball State University*, received far less media attention than the other cases.

But, like them, it underscores the fact that, albeit the progress forged in protecting individuals' rights, discrimination – especial-

ly against people of color, White women, and gays and lesbians – remains a constant in large and small ways.

The conservatives' opinions of last week have as much to do with establishing "fairness" as the court's infamous *Citizens United* decision of 2010 had to do with "free speech" for multi-billion-dollar corporations. On the contrary, it was merely the smokescreen for freeing the conservative elite to spend billions of dollars to defeat President Obama in the 2012 presi-

dential election.

Similarly, an oily pretense saturates the conservatives' positions in the *Vance*, Voting Rights, and affirmative action cases. They have nothing to do with racial fairness. Instead, like the notorious 1896 Supreme Court decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, they hide their intent to shore up White privilege behind sham notions of "color-blindness."

It's worth remembering that in the *Plessy* era, a rhetorical al-

See DANIELS on Page 46



Guest Columnist

By James Clingman

Black Sports Agents Strike Out with Black Athletes

Let me make a "pitch" (pun intended) for Black sports agents. Watching the NBA playoffs and finals was more than an exercise in pulling for my favorite teams; it was also a very frustrating experience for me because I tend to look at most things from an economic perspective.

While Black athletes dominate football and basketball, and have a major presence in baseball, relatively few of them hire Black attorneys, accountants,

and agents, thereby, putting as much as 5 percent of their contract amount into someone else's economy. For years now, we have seen this intriguing phenomenon. In 1995, *Black Enterprise* magazine ran an article titled "MVPs," that shed light on this subject. R. David Ware, noted for negotiating the largest non-quarterback (Barry Sanders) contract in the NFL, voiced his frustration about the situation this way: "It is so disheartening that so few African Americans are given the opportunity to represent

African American players... they wear Kente cloth and talk about pride in their heritage, but when it comes to business affairs, they don't use African American lawyers, agents, or accountants."

You would think African American college graduates would know better. But, in my opinion, they lack a consciousness that would have them act otherwise, and many have virtually no knowledge, or interest for that matter, in Black business history and the role they play in this nation's economic system.

They are noted more for their shoe, soft drink, and fast food commercials, rather than their commitments to conscious capitalism. They have become fashion icons instead of paragons of Black empowerment. My suggestion to one of my students who played basketball at the University of Cincinnati was to develop a relationship with a fellow student who was majoring in finance, law, or business, and hire that person as an agent when he turned professional.

Let me pause here and say, I

am not using a broad brush to paint all Black athletes (and entertainers). I know many of them are doing very positive things when it comes to supporting African American business persons and causes. In addition, far be it from me to dictate to anyone how to spend their money. So, please, as you read this, just take it as a recommendation for economic empowerment for Black people.

As our young boys and girls are

See CLINGMAN on Page 46



ASKIA-AT-LARGE

By Askia Muhammad

It's All, All about Race

In their fondest dreams conservative policymakers and believers in the United States insist that times have changed so much in this country since the days of chattel slavery that race-centered solutions to that unholy crime against humanity now unjustly discriminate on the beneficiaries of America's "peculiar institution." Those beneficiaries are the sons and daughters of the slave owners, and everyone

else in this society.

The belief that we are now living in "post racial" America is as flawed as the decision by the country's Founding Fathers to ignore the contradictions caused by the several slave-holding states who, nevertheless, were needed to sign on to Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence which declared, hypocritically: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights..."

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the insistence today that American society has moved beyond the place where race must be considered in employment affirmative action plans in order to "level the playing field" for those who were robbed of their labor for 310 years and never compensated; and for educational affirmative action programs for those who were once prohibited by law to even be taught to read the Bible.

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Black students into elite academic colleges, and into law and medical schools, with slavery itself. He said the University of Texas at Austin's admissions policy – recently sent by the Supreme Court to a lower court for reconsideration – itself amounted to discrimination and compared the school's affirmative action program to slavery and segregation.

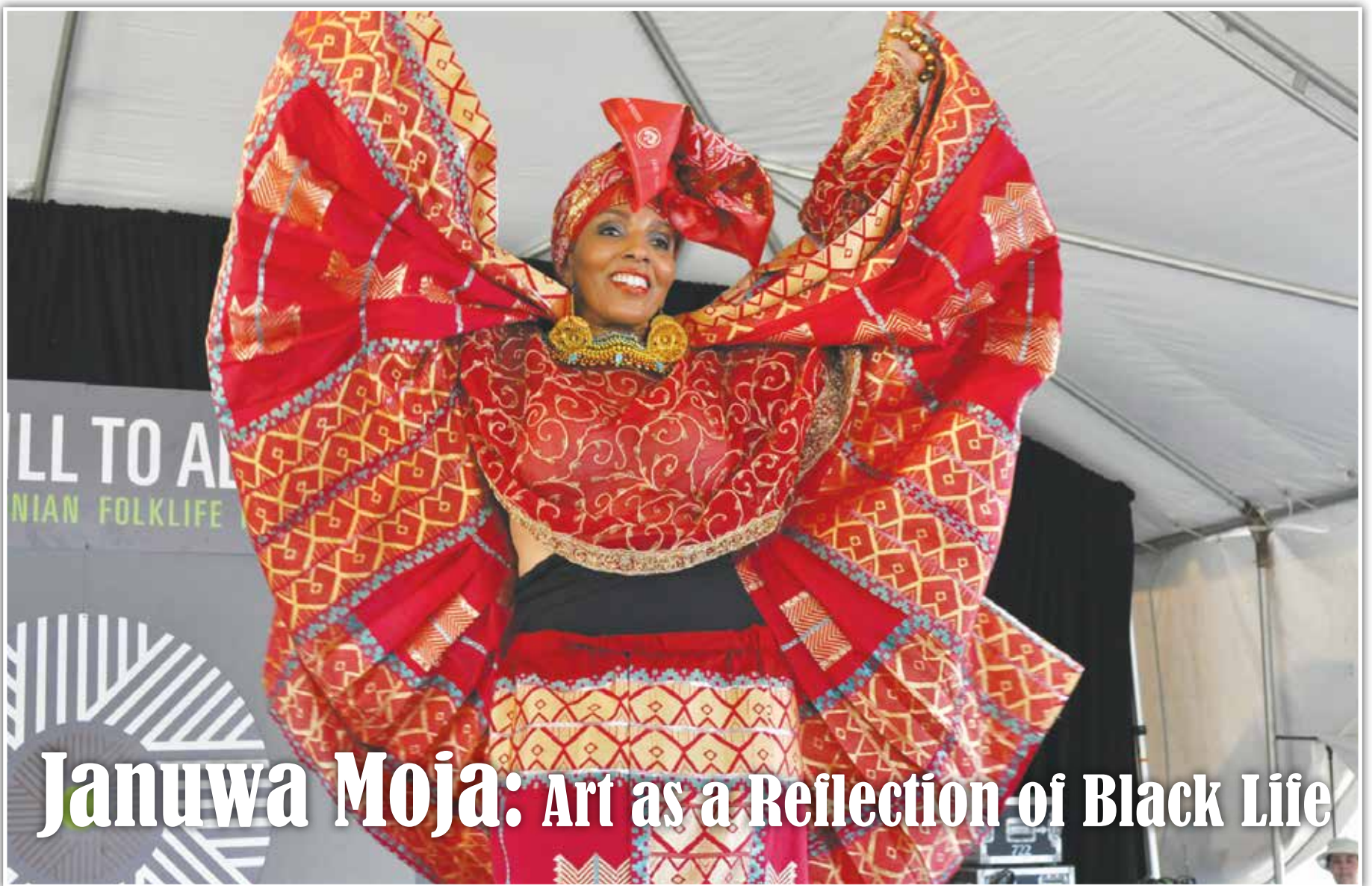
"Slaveholders argued that slavery was a 'positive good' that civilized blacks and elevated them in every dimension of life," Thomas wrote in his separate opinion on *Fisher v.*

University of Texas at Austin. "A century later, segregationists similarly asserted that segregation was not only benign, but good for black students.

"Following in these inauspicious footsteps, the University would have us believe that its discrimination is likewise benign. I think the lesson of history is clear enough: Racial discrimination is never benign," he wrote in his 20-page opinion.

What remains unclear to me, however is how being admitted into

See MUHAMMAD on Page 46



Januwa Moja: Art as a Reflection of Black Life

By Barrington M. Salmon
WI Staff Writer

For more than 40 years, Januwa Moja has designed exquisite African-inspired outfits far from the runways of London, Paris and Milan.

Her passion is fueled by the desire to present the art, crafts and motifs of the African Diasporic experience in the purest, most positive terms.

During the Smithsonian Institution's 47th Annual Folklife Festival, Moja presented a contemporary wearable art fashion show titled, "The Will to Adorn: African American Diversity, Style and Identity." The phrase, "the will to adorn," was made popular by novelist Zora Neale Hurston, Moja said, and captured a unique artistic form not often seen by large numbers of mainstream Americans. The show explored the style, artistry, traditions and social histories that have shaped these sartorial expressions.

"It's my first time doing the festival," Moja exulted. "It's exciting and I take it to be historical because we haven't had a presence — designers, hatmakers and what we wear has never been a focus. As an African-American

artist in this field for many years, it's fantastic being here and getting recognized for this body of work."

"It's major being here because about two million people pass through over the course of two weeks. There are people from everywhere. It looks good to say you did the Folklife Festival." The festival ran from June 26 to June 30 and July 3 through July 7.

And it's just as satisfying to represent, Moja added with a hearty laugh.

"Black people have always been a people of adornment," she said. "We've always celebrated nature in our environment, in our adornment. It's important for the next generation to see us as designers, shoe crafters and textile designers."

The festival is held on the National Mall and visitors sample a smorgasbord of cultural customs, beliefs, rituals and practices presented through traditional music, dance, art and food.

Moja, a noted designer, artist and Baltimore native laughed as she reflected on how far she's come.

"In the '60s, when I was coming up I was just working out of a passion. I didn't have great

designers to look to," she said. "Eventually, I did find a few, kept going. It made me feel really good that I traveled as much as I did. I did what was culturally relative — using Africa and the Diaspora as my springboard. I

don't and didn't look to Europe for theory or style. I'm always trying to relate back to Africa for my work."

"I felt like I was on an island, but it was refreshing. In the early '70s I began to want to display

but the only example I had was the European runway show."

Moja said she creates mosaics out of glass and adorns furniture "but my first love is fashion."

"It takes time to become a designer and it takes a while to gain notoriety," she said with a chuckle. "In terms of runway shows or where other fashion designers are, that's not my domain. I love what I do and I'm not going to compromise."

Moja said she loves finding ways to celebrate Africa, adding that she draws on fashion styles, trends and materials from far-flung communities in Mali, Ghana, Cuba and Brazil.

"I've been doing fashion shows for about 20 years and they've gotten me a lot of [attention] and coverage from all over," she said. "I've had fashion shows in Europe and Brazil and studied textile arts in Ghana, and then I came back [to the U.S.] and [presented my work]. I've had fashion shows at various museums. I always saw my garments as more on the level of classics."

"Whenever someone comes to a fashion show and tells you that the beauty brought tears to their eyes, made them cry, and



Fashion designer and artist Januwa Moja rocked the runway on Sunday, July 7, with her African-inspired designs during the Smithsonian's 47th Annual Folklife Festival on the National Mall. As always, the Northwest designer's intent is to present the arts, crafts and motifs of the African Diasporic experience. /Photos by Roy Lewis

See **MOJA** on Page 30

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MOJA

continued from Page 29

then I knew I was on the mark, that I was doing more than a fashion show.”

Moja also works in mosaics and textiles and builds ancestral altars. Recently, she built a shrine for deceased members of the Belmont Arts Collective which was displayed at the Belmont Arts Reunion in Mount Rainier, Md., in May.

As a visitor climbs the stairs to the spacious living room of Moja’s Northwest home, notes from John Coltrane’s saxophone gently waft throughout the space decorated from floor to ceiling with African masks, carvings, statues, crafted objects and paintings amassed over the past 20 years. The collection hails from countries including Benin, Mali and Burkina Faso. A number of the pieces were created by Moja and her husband, fellow artist and sculptor Uzikee Nelson.

A video of Moja’s 2012 trip to Cuba captures her fashion show titled, Visual Praise Song, with models from the United States and Cuba styling in stunning air-brushed, beaded, hand-stitched, embroidered and quilted African clothing Moja designed. The show honored the Yoruba Deity Oshun, patron saint of Cuba. The river goddess is often associated with mirrors which is why many of the models carried fans with mirrors attached.

The female models sashayed down the catwalk in flowing dresses, gowns, skirts, and tops of tie-dyed fabric, Walafa fabric, netting and other textured materials in vibrant reds, blues, ochres, yellows and browns. And the men epitomized cool.

Gratified to be a designer and artist for four decades, Moja said her eyes are on the next generation.

“Anyone who is 50 or older is in the legacy stage of their lives. The question is what you leave for others, what will others see of what you’ve done?” she said. “I use my art as much as I can to make people feel good about who we are and our place in the world. It’s spiritual upliftment. As long as I’m here, I’ll be doing upliftment through the arts” she said with a smile. **WI**



Fashion designer Januwa Moja, far right, beams during the fashion show’s finale as models strut down the catwalk in her African-inspired designs. The fashion show, “The Will to Adorn,” was part of the Smithsonian’s 47th Annual Folklife Festival on the National Mall. /Photos by Roy Lewis



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/Courtesy Photo

Jill Scott Brings Soul to Wolf Trap

By Stacy M. Brown
WI Contributing Writer

Fresh off her triumphant homecoming concert in Philadelphia on the Fourth of July and a stirring performance at the Essence Music Festival in New Orleans on July 6, Jill Scott brings her super-sized afro, megawatt smile and, most importantly, her soulful voice to the Filene Center at Wolf Trap in Vienna, Va., on Monday, July 15.

The three-time Grammy award-winning singer, actress and poet, takes center stage at the majestic outdoor venue and will be joined by neo-soul and Marvin Gaye inspired artist, Raheem DeVaughn, during the 8 p.m. concert.

The Philadelphia born Scott, 41, began her career collaborating with such musical stars as, The Roots, Will Smith and Common.

In 1998, Scott released her double platinum debut CD, "Who is Jill Scott?"

Since then, Scott has released several other critically-acclaimed CDs, including "The Light of the Sun," which debuted in 2011 at No. 1 on the Billboard Album Chart. The album featured the hit single, "So in Love."

Scott, who blends spoken word with R&B and soul to create her

unique sound, is known for such hits as, "God Bless the Child," "Hate on Me," "Gettin' in the Way," and "A Long Walk."

She has received rave reviews on cable TV and the Silver Screen. She won the prestigious Peabody Award for the lead character, Mma Ramotswe in HBO's, "The No. 1 Ladies Detective Series," and she earned stellar reviews for her role in Tyler Perry's 2007 film, "Why Did I Get Married?"

Scott wowed her hometown with a performance on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia on July 4 to celebrate the holiday. She then boarded a flight to New Orleans where she joined LL Cool J, Maxwell, Brandy and others at the annual Essence Music Festival.

Scott belted out such hits as, "Cross My Mind," "A Long Walk," and "Hate on Me," in Philly and New Orleans to capacity crowds.

The singer's all-male back-up group, The Pipes, also proved to be crowd pleasers at both shows, as they performed H-Town's, "Knockin' Da Boots."

The songstress choked up during an emotional performance of "Quick," and finished off her sets with a rendition of, "He Loves Me," in both English and Spanish — a song that highlighted her operatic range.

Scott, who recently gave birth to a son and now calls Los Angeles home, told Billboard Magazine in 2012 that she now has a renewed sense of self.

"I'm sassy again, stronger," she said.

"Having my son ... I need him to see me be as amazing as I can. I haven't arrived at amazing yet. I'm in the process. But, I want him to see me grow and I want to get another 30 years out of this amazing life of being an artist."

Her opening act, promises to get the crowd in the mood.

DeVaughn, 38, hails from Newark, N.J., however, the Coppin State graduate, who has lived in Prince George's County for many years is a local favorite. DeVaughn has earned three Grammy Award nominations and has two top 10 albums.

DeVaughn's debut album, "The Love Experience," in 2005 featured the hit singles, "Guess Who Loves You More," and "You."

His 2008 follow-up CD, "Love Behind the Melody," featured the singles, "Woman," and "Customer." **WI**

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Griot

"Queen of the Air"

by Dean Jensen
c.2013, Crown\$26.00 / \$31.00 Canada
336 pagesBy Terri Schlichenmeyer
WI Contributing Writer

The bar was all of an inch in diameter, but it was perfect.

You only needed to grab it and hang on, so it didn't have to be very big. It just had to hold your weight as you swung hand-over-hand, hung upside down, and performed monkeyshines on the monkey bars when you were a kid.

It was so easy then. Those same moves look easy now, especially when done by a professional. But as you'll see in the new book "Queen of the Air" by Dean Jensen, what's on the trapeze isn't what'll keep you hanging.

Alfredo Codona didn't believe in love at first sight – until he saw Leitzel.

He was just 16 years old, a relatively minor trapeze artist and soon-to-be heartthrob. She was 18, stunningly beautiful, a "darling with circus audiences everywhere..." Smitten, he pursued her with single-mindedness – but the Queen of the Air had her career to think about, and she ended the short romance.

Born to an unwed teenager in 1891, Leitzel definitely had circus blood in her veins: her father had owned a traveling troupe; her grandmother and aunts were all performers and her mother was a trapeze sensation.

It didn't take long for Leitzel to upstage her.



Alfredo was the long-awaited son of Edward Codona, owner of a traveling circus. Born in Mexico, Alfredo spent most of his youth watching his sister, Victoria, receive tutoring on the high wire. It was her prowess that got him to Chicago. It was she who saw his heart break when Leitzel said their romance was over.

And so, in 1909, Leitzel went her way and Alfredo went his.

She married, divorced, and married again but always had lovers on the side, powerful men who visited her tent after her performances. Her fame grew, and she made "Mister John" Ringling a lot of money.

On the trapeze, the grown-up Alfredo "had no peers." His fame, too, was growing and he had his sights set on a feat that everyone said was impossible. He married a fellow troupe member, but he never forgot his first love.

And then, 18 years after their last kiss, Alfred Codona found

himself working beneath the same roof as his beloved Leitzel...

So you say you love a good romance filled with drama. Add 1920s intrigue, period settings, elephants, and a dash of OMG, and you've got "Queen of the Air."

Author Dean Jensen, in fact, makes Leitzel and Alfredo's story seem more like a novel, with rich settings and good character shaping. But it's no novel, and in his afterword, Jensen explains how he researched this "epic" story.

Long before you get that far, though, you'll be treated to a few hours of stupendous feats under the Big Top, and back to an innocent time that wasn't so innocent after all.

I could barely tear myself away from this book, and I think you'll love it, too. For anyone who knows that stardust can be tarnished and magic is an illusion, "Queen of the Air" absolutely soars. **WI**

Horo
scopes

JULY 11 - JULY 17, 2013



ARIES Mail, e-mail, or telephone brings news of a matter that demands more attention than you might think. Opportunity knocks at work this week. Tonight spend some quality time with your family. *Soul Affirmation: I keep in mind the practical side of life this week. Lucky Numbers: 7, 10, 30*



TAURUS Listen well for the indications that money can be found in an unusual place. Social and romantic interest should be your focus this evening. Love comes from what you do not say. *Soul Affirmation: I let my mind go slack and tighten up my body. Lucky Numbers: 20, 37, 38*



GEMINI Some people may not "get" where you're coming from, but ask your family and significant other to give you time to explain your way of looking at life this week. Do it calmly and confidentially. *Soul Affirmation: I let go and let the spirit take control. Lucky Numbers: 45, 49, 54*



CANCER Now's a better than usual time for self-reflection and meditation. Share your ideas. They're more valuable than you think. Appreciation comes from someone far away. You make the call. *Soul Affirmation: I admit what I really want out of life this week. Lucky Numbers: 27, 48, 52*



LEO Listen carefully and follow good advice that will come from someone you've often regarded as foolish. You run into difficulties with one of your projects; don't worry, it's only temporary. How you manage your mind will affect the eventual outcome. *Soul Affirmation: The deed is done. I must wait for the results to unfold. Lucky Numbers: 8, 10, 32*



VIRGO If there is someone or something that you're avoiding don't panic if you find you must confront what you've been hiding from. Wait for things to work themselves out. Don't force the issue. Time solves more problems than you ever can. *Soul Affirmation: I seek connection with the best that is in me. Lucky Numbers: 6, 15, 17*



LIBRA Be flexible. Yes, you. There are many ways to be right and your lover or friend will have come up with one that is different from yours. You'll be asked to compromise this week or you just have to give in. Remember you sometimes have to give a little to get a little. *Soul Affirmation: I see myself as a finisher rather than a starter this week. Lucky Numbers: 23, 28, 36*



SCORPIO Use your natural magnetism to get to someone who might be hard to reach. If you have a problem that you need to get off your chest tell a relative or friend, don't hold it inside. Where's the party? Find it. You need a social setting to make the magnetism work best. *Soul Affirmation: I give thanks for the chance to give. Lucky Numbers: 41, 47, 52*



SAGITTARIUS Even if you can't be with someone you care for, call that person or send a Soul Vibration to let them know you care. You'll feel better and so will the person. Take time to meditate on the good things life has in stored for you. *Soul Affirmation: The success of others is the investment I make in myself. Lucky Numbers: 35, 41, 50*



CAPRICORN A person is only as good as their word. If you have made any promises recently remember to follow through. People will be counting on you. Any dissatisfaction you feel might come from not doing what you told someone that you would do. *Soul Affirmation: Superficiality is often the best route to clarity. Lucky Numbers: 12, 18, 36*



AQUARIUS If you're not sure about a business deal ask someone who knows. Asking questions now can help avoid mistakes in the future. The love that you have been looking for is right in front of you. Your ability to see it improves this week. *Soul Affirmation: When I am clear about who I am, the world becomes clearer. Lucky Numbers: 9, 14, 22*



PISCES Your ability to display enormous grace under enormous pressure will be tested this week. Use your gifts this week to transcend petty criticism. Consider the source and know that you are doing just fine. *Soul Affirmation: I enjoy the love that others have for me. Lucky Numbers: 8, 19, 41*

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VW Jetta Hybrid's a Blow-out Success

By Njuguna Kabugi
WI Contributing Writer

Volkswagen has made a bold declaration. Executives at the Germany-based carmaker have announced that they plan to steer VW into the world's No. 1 carmaker position by 2018. While many in the industry doubt that Volkswagen, currently ranked as the No. 3 highest vehicle volume seller in the world has enough acumen to leave Toyota, General Motors, and the rest of the industry's big dogs in the dust in just five years, there are indications it is retooling in the right places.

VW's world domination goals could be realized if drivers in the U.S. and elsewhere take favorably to recent changes its made to its best seller in the North American market – the Jetta. Redesigned just two years ago, the vehicle is in its sixth generation, and is expected to account for close to half of VW's total U.S. sales this year.

It is bigger than the last generation, is more affordable and has one of the most spacious rear seats in the class. It also offers buyers a choice of everyday gasoline power, hot-rod gasoline power, diesel power or gas-electric

hybrid power. Nobody else offers that array.

The Jetta Hybrid retains the styling present in the rest of the model line. While the most obvious differences are the blue-highlighted VW emblem, keen observers will also notice the unique wheels only available for the hybrid. Less visible are a number of features designed to help maximize aerodynamic efficiency and minimize road resistance. These include a Hybrid-specific air intake which provides a flush seal and controls the flow of cooling air passing through the engine compartment.

We drove the new Jetta Hybrid for a week and I am pleased to say it proved itself to be a fairly fun-to-drive, yet frugal car. With fuel economy in the mid-40s, the 2013 Volkswagen Jetta Hybrid stands among the top fuel sippers. The vehicle is the only turbo hybrid in the compact class and features the only dual-clutch automatic transmission.

The Jetta Hybrid is much more fun to drive compared to competitors in the hybrid small passenger car market. Below 30 mph, drivers should expect the middling acceleration other cars in this class dish out at



The Jetta Hybrid offers the only turbocharged engine and dual-clutch transmission in the compact hybrid class. /Photo courtesy of Volkswagen of America, Inc.

low speeds. But when you push past 40, the Jetta comes alive and you're at go-to-jail velocity much quicker than you expect.

Thanks to the eager and useful 170 horsepower and 184 pounds-feet of torque that the four cylinder turbo engine provides, the Jetta provides eager and rapid pickup, sparing drivers the annoyance of the CVTs (continuously variable automatic transmissions) used in most hybrids.

Braking, however, is a bit disappointing: it is just not as well calibrated as in the competing Honda Civic Hybrid, Honda Insight or Toyota Prius models. Whenever I released the brakes at a stop, sometimes the car would surge forward at other times it would shudder.

Pricing for the special order base Jetta Hybrid begins at \$24,995. Our test vehicle was the high-end version, a Jetta SEL Premium hybrid, which starts at

\$31,975.

While some car buyers will hesitate to pay this much for a car without a premium reputation, the Jetta is well-furnished with rarities in this class that include leather seats, Bi-Xenon headlamps with LED DRLs and the Active Front-Lighting System (AFS), fog lights with cornering lights, 17-inch aluminum-alloy wheels, a rearview camera, and the Fender Premium Audio System. **WI**

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ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

Rapper Force-fed to Bring Attention to Gitmo Detainee Treatment

Rapper Mos Def, now known as Yasiin Bey, has subjected himself to force-feeding to highlight the treatment of Guantanamo bay inmates.

The four-minute video, made in conjunction with human rights group Reprieve and directed by Bafta award-winning film-maker Asif Kapadia, shows the former rapper visibly upset and pleading for the doctors to stop.

The issue of force-feeding has resurfaced in the days leading up to Ramadan, when the inmates will continue to be fed during the hours of darkness, in-keeping with the rules of the month-long religious fast.

According to official documents, there are currently 166 Guantanamo detainees. Some 106 are on hunger strike and, of those, 45 are being force-fed through tubes directly into the stomach.

Four of the hunger-striking detainees, who are protesting against their ongoing detention without charge or trial, are legally challenging the continuation of force-feeding during Ramadan.

Lawyers for the four inmates have warned the prison may become "a veritable force-feeding factory" during the religious fast, explaining there will only be 10 hours and 44 minutes of darkness for 45 people to be force fed. Each painful procedure takes around an hour, and following that, the prisoner must be observed for around four hours



Mos Def. /Courtesy Photo

to ensure he does not induce vomiting.

Lt. Col Todd Breasseale, a Pentagon spokesman, said allowing the prisoners to be force fed at night "is an accommodation, not a right."

Guantanamo Bay has also recently been accused of violent

procedures known as 'forcible cell extractions' (FCEs) and depriving the prisoners of sleep in the days leading up to Ramadan.

President Barack Obama has repeatedly pledged to close down the camp but measures to do so have become stuck in the US congress.

are expected to work jobs such as maintenance, food service or landscaping.

Hill, who started singing with the Fugees as a teenager in the 1990s before releasing her multi-platinum 1998 album The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill, pleaded guilty last year in New Jersey to failing to pay taxes on more than \$1.8 million earned from 2005 to 2007. Her sentencing also took into account unpaid state and federal taxes in 2008 and 2009 that brought the total earnings to about \$2.3 million.

Her attorney had sought probation, arguing that Hill's charitable works, her family circumstances and the fact she paid back the taxes she owed should merit consideration. **WI**

Lauryn Hill Begins Prison Sentence For Taxes

Grammy-winning singer Lauryn Hill began serving a three-month prison sentence earlier this week for failing to pay roughly \$1 million in taxes over the last decade. Hill reported to federal prison in Danbury, said Ed Ross, a spokesman for the federal Bureau of Prisons. Inmates at the minimum security prison live in open dormitory-style living quarters and



Lauryn Hill. /Courtesy Photo

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/PHOTOS BY KHALID NAJI-ALLAH



Washington Nationals Defeat San Diego Padres 5-4



Washington Nationals left fielder Bryce Harper faces San Diego Padres pitcher Jason Marquis in the first inning of National League action in the second game of the weekend series on Saturday, July 6 at Nationals Park in Southeast. The Nationals defeated the Padres 5-4 before 33,314 fans. Harper was informed of his selection to the 2013 All-Star game when he entered the dugout. "I'm very blessed to be part of [it]," Harper said. "I'm very excited. I have to thank the fans in D.C. and Las Vegas and everywhere else that voted for me. I'm very excited to do this. It's just another All-Star game for me. I'm just excited. I'm looking forward to it, just being around the top guys in baseball." /Photo by John E. De Freitas



Washington Nationals pitcher Jordan Zimmermann prepares to pitch on Saturday, July 6 at Nationals Park in Southeast. The Nationals defeated the San Diego Padres 5-4 in the second game of the weekend series. Zimmermann was selected to the 2013 All-Star roster. Zimmermann found out he was going to the All-Star game after he was taken out of Saturday's game. Once he entered the locker room, teammate Dan Haren gave him the news. The Nationals will be well represented in the 2013 All-Star game as outfielder Bryce Harper and right-hand pitcher Jordan Zimmermann will also be going to New York to play for the National League squad at Citi Field. Harper was voted in as a starter by the fans, while Zimmermann was voted in by the players. /Photo by John E. De Freitas



Washington Nationals second baseman Anthony Rendon looks to umpire David Rackley for a decision after San Diego Padres second baseman Logan Forsythe slides into base during the second game of the weekend series on Saturday, July 6 at Nationals Park in Southeast. The Nationals defeated the San Diego Padres 5-4. /Photo by John E. De Freitas

Washington Mystics Defeat Seattle Storm 62-59



Former Mystics forward Temeka Johnson returned to the District in a Seattle Storm uniform, and drives past Washington Mystics Nadirab McKenith in the second half of WNBA action on Saturday, July 6 at the Verizon Center in Northwest. The Mystics defeated Seattle 62-59. The Storm, which had beaten Washington in five straight contests, had just one lead in Saturday's game. Washington's victory made Mike Thibault the winningest coach in WNBA history with 212 wins. /Photo by John E. De Freitas

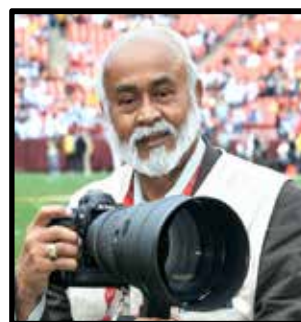


Washington Mystics forward Crystal Langborne is blocked by Seattle Storm guard Tina Thompson in the first half of WNBA action on Saturday, July 6 at the Verizon Center in Northwest. The Mystics defeated the Storm 62-59 as Langborne led the way for Washington with 12 points and five rebounds. /Photo by John E. De Freitas



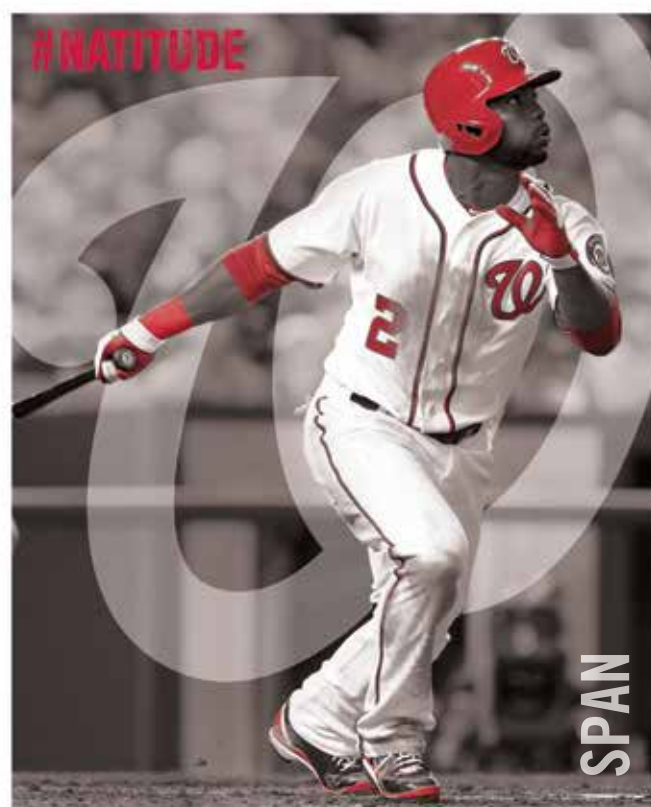
Washington Mystics center Michelle Snow drives past Seattle Storm forward Shekinna Stricklen in the second half of WNBA action on Saturday, July 6 at the Verizon Center in Northwest. The Mystics defeated the Storm 62-59. Snow proved to be a monster on the boards as she grabbed 13 rebounds, to go along with eight points. /Photo by John E. De Freitas

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Baseball Academy Set To Launch

Nationals Hope To Teach Love of the Game

By Stacy M. Brown
WI Contributing Writer

The power of using baseball as a means to teach sportsmanship, teamwork and professionalism to young people, especially those in underserved communities, has never been lost on Ian Desmond.

The Washington Nationals standout shortstop said he has long recognized the value of helping to instill such qualities in youth today. Desmond and the team plan to launch a youth baseball academy in the District later this fall.

"I've known a lot of young people in my life who would have benefited from a program like this," said Desmond, who will serve on the Board of Directors of the newly established Washington Nationals Youth Baseball Academy.

Created in partnership with the District of Columbia, the Youth Baseball Academy is scheduled to operate as a year-round development program that's committed to teaching the fundamentals of baseball and softball.

The program will also provide after school and summer educational opportunities for youth who live in neighborhoods east of the Anacostia River, team officials said.

"I look forward to contributing to the Youth Baseball Academy and doing my part to make sure children around D.C., have the opportunities to succeed, on and off of the baseball diamond," said Desmond, 27, a native of Sarasota, Fla. Drafted in 2004 by the then-Montreal Expos, Desmond earned the distinction of being named the 19th best prospect and the top



Washington Nationals shortstop Ian Desmond teaches area children the fundamentals of baseball. /Photo courtesy of the Washington Nationals Dream Foundation

defensive shortstop by Baseball America in 2005.

The baseball academy, which will be located at 3675 Ely Place in Southeast, will include a 21,000-square-foot training facility with classrooms and numerous break-out spaces to help instructors teach the fundamentals of baseball in smaller group settings. It will also include a 2,000-square-foot maintenance building, three baseball fields and bleacher seating.

The District has agreed to pick up \$10 million of the \$15 million tab and the Nationals will kick in \$5 million, including \$250,000 a year over the next 10 years for operations. Major League Baseball will also provide a one-time contribution of \$1 million and the Marriott Foundation in Bethesda, Md., has agreed to pay \$250,000 for naming rights to one of the three fields.

The academy, which is a partnership between the Washington

Nationals Dream Foundation and the District government, expects to open on or before Nov. 1, and officials are hoping the academy will generate a greater interest in America's pastime, especially for youngsters.

"This opportunity is both exciting and humbling," said Tal Alter, the executive director of the academy.

Under Alter's guidance, Higher Achievement Program, a nonprofit in Northeast, has signed on as the academic programming consultant. And, key relationships have already been established with an assortment of nonprofits and individuals who have a reputation for doing great work in Wards 7 and 8, team officials said.

"The academy has been entrusted with a great responsibility," said Alter, a native Washingtonian and Harvard graduate who worked for five years as director of operations for PeacePlayers International in Northwest, a nonprofit that uses basketball as a vehicle to bridge divides, change stereotypical perceptions, and teaches conflict resolution.

Alter, 37, also worked for six years with the Positive Coaching Alliance, a Stanford University-based organization focused on transforming the culture of youth sports.

"Our responsibility is to provide D.C. youth with a home away from home and a place where they can develop through constructive, nurturing and fun experiences with baseball and academics," Alter said. "The athletes who come through our doors deserve the very best, and they will get nothing less." WI

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with Lyndia Grant

There are people we meet in life who enhance our lives, and we're devastated when they leave us. One of my many mentors died Friday June 28, and it seems unreal. I met this dynamic woman when I lived in the San Francisco/Oakland Bay area. We met under the umbrella of my sorority, Gamma Phi Delta. Dr. Willie B. Kennedy was a phenomenal woman who served as the sorority director for the Far Western Region. She installed me when I joined the organization in 1981.

This week's column is in memory of my friend, sorority sister, and mentor. She was married to Superior Court Judge Joseph G. Kennedy who predeceased her. I met Willie Kennedy 34 years ago. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), the 38th mayor of San Francisco, appointed Willie Kennedy in 1981 to serve as a member of the Board of Supervisors for the City and County of San Francisco after the death of Ella Hill Hutch, the first African-American woman to hold the position.

Kennedy served with distinction and honor until 1996 when she was appointed by the dapper and always succinct Mayor Willie Brown to head up the Southeast Community Facility Commission.

In a statement issued by current Mayor Edwin M. Lee on June 28, he commended Kennedy, 89, for her many years of outstanding service.

"She served as the president of the Southeast Community Facility Commission ... Willie B. Ken-

edy was a leader in our city who was committed to improving the community and creating opportunities for our city's children, youth and families. Appointed by Mayor Dianne Feinstein, Supervisor Kennedy cared tremendously for our residents and her impact continues to be felt to this day."

He said that she remains one of the most powerful advocates for women and minority-owned businesses. Her determination inspired him to go the extra mile, he said.

"Her courageous leadership helped San Francisco realize the Hunters Point Shipyard-Candlestick Point development, one of San Francisco's most important development projects in a generation with incredible benefits to the Bayview community and the rest of San Francisco. I was glad she was able to help turn the first shovel of dirt on the project [that represented] the beginning of the first phase of home construction at The Shipyard earlier this week," Lee said.

"We have lost a true friend and champion of our city. Her fortitude and her resolve changed San Francisco for the better. Our thoughts and prayers remain with her family and friends at this time of sorrow."

Let me share a bit of how special she was to me. Kennedy taught me sorority politics; I became a key figure in her quest to become national president of our sorority, and she won. Once elected, her role required her to travel

to Washington, D.C., often; and each time she came, she would call on me. From the airport; she would take me to dinner, I would invite other sorors; and we would gather at her hotel and stay until the early morning hours – just catching up.

Then, she met my family. My mother would get very excited every time I would tell her that Willie Kennedy was coming. Mother would say, "Willie B. is coming!" She'd prepare her best soul food meal. The entire family enjoyed her presence.

My life has been elevated to another level because of her. My first ticket to attend the Congressional Black Caucus Dinner came from her and annual tickets to Dorothy Height's dinners, as well. She gave me love, clothing, gifts, and most of all, friendship. I will miss my friend's presence. Last July she invited me to spend three days at her home. That was our last visit together. But what a blessing! **WI**

Lyndia Grant hosts a radio talk show, *Think on These Things*, on WYCB 1340 AM, Radio One, Fridays at 6 p.m. She speaks all across the country, visit her website at www.lyndiagrants.com, send comments to lyndiagrants@gmail.com, or call 202-518-3192.

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Saturday 5:30am-6:30am
on Praise 104.1
For more info visit
www.praise1041.com

BAPTIST

Historic St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Rev. James Manion
Supply Priest

Foggy Bottom • Founded in 1867
728 23rd Street, NW • Washington, DC 20037
Church office: 202-333-3985 • Fax : 202-338-4958

Worship Services
Sundays: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Music and Hymns
Wednesdays: 12:10 p.m. - Holy Eucharist

www.stmarysfoggybottom.org
Email: stmarysoffice@stmarysfoggybottom.org

All are welcome to St. Mary's to Learn, Worship, and Grow.

Pilgrim Baptist Church

700 I. Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

Pastor Louis B. Jones, II and Pilgrim invite you to join us during our July and August Summer schedule! Attire is Christian casual.

Worship: Sundays@ 7:30 A.M. & 10:00 A.M.
3rd Sunday Holy Communion/Baptism/Consecration
Prayer & Praise: Wednesdays @ 12:00 Noon
@ 6:30 P.M. - One Hour of Power!
(202) 547-8849 www.pilgrim baptistdc.org

Church of Living Waters

Rev. Paul Carrette Senior Pastor
Harold Andrew, Assistant Pastor

4915 Wheeler Road
Oxon Hill, MD 20745

301-894-6464

Schedule of Service
Sunday Service: 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM
Bible Study: Wednesday 7:30 PM
Communion Service: First Sunday

www.livingwatersmd.org

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL

Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church

Rev. Dr. Michael E. Bell, Sr., • Pastor

2498 Alabama Ave., SE • Washington D.C. 20020
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Sunday Worship Services: 8:00a.m. and 11:00a.m.
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2nd & 4th Monday Women's Bible Study - 6:30p.m.
Tuesday Jr./Sr. Bible Study - 10:00a.m.
Tuesday Topical Bible Study - 6:30p.m.
Tuesday New Beginnings Bible Study - 6:30p.m.
Wednesday Pastoral Bible Study - 6:30p.m.
Wednesday Children's Bible Study - 6:30p.m.
Thursday Men's Bible Study - 6:30p.m.
Friday before 1st Sunday Praise & Worship Service - 6:30p.m.
Saturday Adult Bible Study - 10:00a.m.

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Crusader Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Alton W. Jordan, Pastor
800 I Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002
202-548-0707
Fax No. 202-548-0703

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00am
Holy Communion - 1st Sunday
Sunday School-9:45am
Men's Monday Bible Study - 7:00pm
Wednesday Night Bible Study - 7:00pm
Women's Ministry Bible Study 3rd Friday -7:00pm
Computer Classes- Announced
Family and Marital Counseling by appointment
E-mail: Crusadersbaptistchurch@verizon.net
www.CrusadersBaptistChurch.org

"God is Love"

Isle of Patmos Baptist Church

Reverend Dr. Calvin L. Matthews • Senior Pastor
1200 Isle of Patmos Plaza, Northeast
Washington, DC 20018
Office: (202) 529-6767
Fax: (202) 526-1661

Sunday Worship Services: 7:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Holy Communion: 2nd Sunday at 7:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Church School: 9:20 a.m.
Seniors Bible Study: Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.
Noon Day Prayer Service: Tuesdays at Noon
Bible Study: Tuesdays at 7 p.m.
Motto: "A Ministry of Reconciliation Where Everybody is Somebody!"
Website: <http://isleofpatmosbc.org>
Church Email: ipbsecretary@verizon.net

Blessed Word of Life Church

Dr. Dekontee L. & Dr. Ayele A. Johnson
Pastors

4001 14th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011
(202) 265-6147 Office
1-800 576-1047 Voicemail/Fax

Schedule of Services:
Sunday School - 9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship Service - 11:00 AM
Communion Service - First Sunday
Prayer Service/Bible Study - Tuesday, 6:30 PM

www.blessedwordoflifechurch.org
e-mail: church@blessedwordoflifechurch.org

Covenant Baptist United Church of Christ

Drs. Dennis W. and Christine Y. Wiley, Pastors

3845 South Capital Street
Washington, DC 20032
(202) 562-5576 (Office)
(202) 562-4219 (Fax)

SERVICES AND TIMES:
SUNDAYS:
10:00 am AM Worship Services
BIBLE STUDY: Wonderful Wednesdays in Worship and the Word Bible Study Wednesdays 12:00 Noon; 6:30 PM (dinner @ 5:30 PM)
SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM - Hour of Power
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www.covenantbaptistdc.org

St. Stephen Baptist Church

Lanier C. Twyman, Sr.
State Overseer

5757 Temple Hill Road, Temple Hills, MD 20748
Office 301-899-8885 - fax 301-899-2555

Sunday Early Morning Worship - 7:45 a.m.
Church School - 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.
Tuesday - Thursday - Kingdom Building Bible Institute - 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday - Prayer/Praise/Bible Study - 7:30 p.m.
Baptism & Communion Service - 4th Sunday - 10:30am
Radio Broadcast WYCB - 1340 AM-Sunday - 6:00pm
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Rev. Cheryl J. Sanders, Th.D.
Senior Pastor

1204 Third Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
202.347.5889 office
202.638.1803 fax

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Prayer Meeting and Bible Study: Wed. 7:30 p.m.

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Susie C. Owens - Co-Pastor

610 Rhode Island Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 529-4547 office • (202) 529-4495 fax

Sunday Worship Service: 8 AM and 10:45 AM
Sunday Youth Worship Services:
1st & 4th 10:45 AM; 804 R.I. Ave., NE
5th 8 AM & 10:45 AM; Main Church
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Washington, dc 20011

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Pastor and First Lady Marcia Matthews

Sunday School 9:am
Worship Service 10:am
Wed. Noon Day prayer service
Thur. Prayer service 6:45 pm
Thur. Bible Study 7:15 pm

Campbell AME Church

Reverend Daryl K. Kearney, Pastor

2562 MLK Jr. Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20020
Adm. Office 202-678-2263
Email: Campbell@mycame.org
Sunday Worship Service 10: am
Sunday Church School 8: 45 am
Bible Study
Wednesday 12:00 Noon
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Thursday 7: pm
"Reaching Up To Reach Out"

Mailing Address
Campbell AME Church
2502 Stanton Road SE
Washington, DC 20020

Twelfth Street Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)
1812 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
Phone: 202-265-4494
Fax: 202 265 4340

Reverend Dr. Paul H. Saddler
Senior Pastor

Service and Times
Sunday Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Communion every Sunday 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Bible Study Tuesday 12Noon
Pastor's Bible Study Tuesday 6:30 p.m.
Motto: "Discover Something Wonderful."
Website: 12thsc.org
Email: Twelfthstcc@aol.com

Mt. Zion Baptist Church

Rev. John W. Davis, Pastor

5101 14th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20011
202-726-2220/ 202-726-9089

Sunday Worship Service
8:00am and 11:00am
Sunday School 9:15am

Holy Communion 4th Sunday 10:00am
Prayer and Bible Study
Wednesday 7:00pm

TV Ministry -Channel 6
Wednesday 10:00pm
gscm.administration@verizon.net

Mount Carmel Baptist Church

Joseph N. Evans, Ph.D
Senior Pastor

901 Third Street N.W.
Washington, DC. 20001
Phone (202) 842-3411
Fax (202) 682-9423

Sunday Church School : 9: 30am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10: 45am
Bible Study Tuesday: 6: 00pm
Prayer Service Tuesday: 7:00pm
Holy Communion: 3rd Sunday 10: 45am
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 2001 North Capitol St, N.E. • Washington, DC 20002
 Phone (202) 832-9591
 Sunday Church School – 9:30 AM
 Sunday Worship Service – 11:00 AM
 Holy Communion – 1st Sunday at 11:00 AM
 Prayer – Wednesdays, 6:00 PM
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 Saturdays, 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM,
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 Rev. Daryl F. Bell
 Pastor
 2324 Ontario Road, NW
 Washington, DC 20009
 (202) 232-1730
 Sunday School – 9:30 am
 Sunday Worship Service – 11:00 am
 Baptismal Service – 1st Sunday – 9:30 am
 Holy Communion – 1st Sunday – 11:00 am
 Prayer Meeting & Bible Study – Wednesday -7:30 pm
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 Pastor
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 (202) 678-0884 – Office
 (202) 678-0885 – Fax
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 7:30am & 10:45am
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 Prayer Service
 Tuesdays – 8:00pm
 www.emmanuelbaptistchurchdc.org



Florida Avenue Baptist Church
 Dr. Earl D. Trent
 Senior Pastor
 623 Florida Ave., NW • WDC. 20001
 Church (202) 667-3409 • Study (202) 265-0836
 Home Study (301) 464-8211 • Fax (202) 483-4009
 Sunday Worship Services: 10:00 a.m.
 Sunday Church School: 8:45 – 9:45 a.m.
 Holy Communion: Every First Sunday
 Intercessory Prayer:
 Monday – 7:00-8:00 p.m.
 Pastor's Bible Study:
 Wednesday – 7:45 p.m.
 Midweek Prayer:
 Wednesday – 7:00 p.m.
 Noonday Prayer Every Thursday




Holy Trinity United Baptist Church
 Rev. Dr. George C. Gilbert
 SR. Pastor
 4504 Gault Place, N.E.
 Washington, D.C 20019
 202-397-7775 – 7184
 9:30AM. Sunday Church School
 11:00 Am. Sunday Worship Service
 The Lord's Supper 1st Sunday
 Wednesday 7:00pm Prayer & Praise Services
 7:30pm. Bible Study
 Saturday before 4th Sunday Men, Women,
 Youth Discipleship Ministries 10:30am
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Zion Baptist Church
 Rev. Keith W. Byrd, Sr.
 Pastor
 4850 Blagdon Ave, NW • Washington D.C 20011
 Phone (202) 722-4940 • Fax (202) 291-3773
 Sunday Worship Service
 10:15AM- Praise and Worship Services
 Sunday School 9:00am
 Monday: Noon Bible School
 Wednesday: Noon & 7PM:
 Pastor's Bible Study Ordinance of Baptism 2nd
 Holy Communion 4th Sunday
 Mission Zion Baptist Church Shall;
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 Suffering, Encourage the Saints,
 and Exalt Our Savior. (Acts 2:41-47)
 www.zionbaptistchurchdc.org




Israel Baptist Church
 Rev. Dr. Morris L. Shearin, Sr.
 Pastor
 1251 Saratoga Ave., NE
 Washington, DC 20018
 (202) 269-0288
 Sunday Worship Service:
 10:00 A.M.
 Sunday School: 8:30 A.M.
 Holy Communion 1st Sunday:
 10:00 A.M.
 Prayer Service:
 Wednesday at 6:30 P.M.
 Bible Study:
 Wednesday at 7:00 P.M.



Full Gospel Baptist Church
 Rev. Charles Y. Davis, Jr.
 Sr. Pastor
 14350 Frederick Rd.
 Cooksville, MD 21723
 (410) 489-5069
 Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 am
 Sunday School: 9:30 am
 Wed. Bible Study/Prayer: 6:30-8:00 pm
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 Dr. C. Matthew Hudson, Jr.
 Pastor
 2616 MLK Ave., SE • Washington, DC 20020
 Office 202-889-3709 • Fax 202-678-3304
 Early Worship Service 7:30a.m
 Worship Service 10:45a.m.
 New Members Class 9:30a.m.
 Holy Communion : 1st Sunday -10:45a.m
 Church School 9:30a.m.
 Prayer, Praise and Bible Study:
 Wednesday 7p.m
 Bible Study : Saturday: 11a.m.
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 Washington, DC 20011-3851
 P: (202) 726-5940
 Sunday Worship:
 11:00 a.m.
 Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
 Holy Communion: 11:00 a.m., 3rd Sun.
 Bible Study:
 Monday - 7:00 p.m.
 Prayer Meeting:
 Thursday - 7:00 p.m.



Mount Moriah Baptist Church
 Dr. Lucius M. Dalton, Senior Pastor
 1636 East Capitol Street, NE
 Washington, DC 20003
 Telephone: 202-544-5588 Fax: 202-544-2964
 Sunday Worship Services: 7:45 am and 10:45 am
 Holy Communion: 1st Sundays at 7:45 am and 10:45 am
 Sunday School: 9:30 am
 Prayer & Praise Service: Tuesdays at 12 noon and 6:30 pm
 Bible Study: Tuesdays at 1 pm and 7 pm
 Youth Bible Study: Fridays at 7 pm
 Web: www.mountmoriahchurch.org
 Email: mtmoriah@mountmoriahchurch.org


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New Commandment Baptist Church
 Rev. Stephen E. Tucker
 Pastor and Overseer
 13701 Old Jericha Park Road
 Bowie, MD 20720
 P: 202 291-5711 • F: 202 291-5666
 Sunday Worship Service - 11 am
 Sunday School - 9:45 am
 Bible Study & Prayer Wed. - 7 pm
 Substance Abuse Counseling - 7 pm (Mon & Fri)
 Jobs Partnership - 7 pm (Mon & Wed)
 Sat. Enrichment Experience - 9:30 am
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 Washington, DC 20002
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 Sunday Morning Worship Service
 7:15 am & 10:50 am
 Sunday School 9:30am
 Sunday Morning Worship Service 10:50am
 Wednesday Prayer & Testimonies Service 7:30pm
 Wednesday School of the Bible 8:00pm
 Wednesday - Midweek Prayer Service - 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
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Pennsylvania Ave. Baptist Church
 Rev. Dr. Kendrick E. Curry
 Pastor
 3000 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E
 Washington, DC 20020
 202 581-1500
 Sunday Church School: 9:30 A.M.
 Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 A.M.
 Monday Adult Bible Study: 7:00 P.M.
 Wednesday Youth & Adult Activities:
 6:30 P.M.
 Prayer Service Bible Study




St. Matthews Baptist Church
 Rev. Dr. Maxwell M. Washington
 Pastor
 1105 New Jersey Ave, S.E • Washington, DC 20003
 202 488-7298
 Order of Services
 Sunday Worship Services: 9:05 A.M.
 Sunday School: 8:00 A.M.
 Holy Communion 3rd Sunday Morning
 Prayer Meeting: 7:00 P.M. (Tuesday)
 Bible Study: 7:30 P.M. (Tuesday)
 Theme: “Striving to be more like Jesus - “Stewardship”.
 Philippians 3:12-14; Malachi 3:8-10
 and 2 Corinthians 9:7
 Email: stmatthewbaptist@msn.com
 Website: www.stmatthewsbaptist.com



Rehoboth Baptist Church
 Rev. R. Vincent Palmer
 Pastor
 621 Alabama Avenue, S.E. • Washington, D.C. 20032
 P: (202) 561-1111
 F: (202) 561-1112
 Sunday Service: 10 am
 Sunday School for all ages: 8:30 am
 1st Sunday Baptism: 10: am
 2nd Sunday Holy Communion: 10 am
 Tuesday:
 Bible Study: 6:30 pm
 Prayer Meeting: 7:45 pm
 Motto: God First




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 Rev. Alonzo Hart
 Pastor
 917 N St. NW • Washington, DC 20001
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 And We Are Working With GOD
 Sunday Morning Prayer Service: 8:00 a.m.
 Sunday Church School: 9:15 a.m.
 Sunday Morning Worship: 10:40 a.m.
 Third Sunday -
 Baptismal & Holy Communion: 10:30 a.m.
 Tuesday -
 Church At Study Prayer & Praise: 6:30 p.m.



Shiloh Baptist Church
 Rev. Dr. Wallace Charles Smith
 Pastor
 9th & P Street, N.W. • W. D.C. 20001
 (202) 232-4200
 Sunrise Prayer Services
 - Sunday 7:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 8:00 a.m
 Church School : 9:30 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 10:55 a.m.
 Bible Study, Thursday: 6:30 p.m.
 Prayer Meeting, Thursday : 7:30 p.m.



First Rising Mt. Zion Baptist Church
 Rev. Reginald M. Green, Sr., Interim Pastor
 602 N Street NW • Washington, D.C. 20001
 Office: (202) 289-4480
 Fax: (202) 289-4595
 Sunday Worship Services: 7:45am & 11:00am
 Sunday school For All Ages 9:30am
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 11:30am & 6:45pm
 Bible Institute Wednesday at Noon & 7:45pm
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 Email: Ffroffice@firstrising.org
 Website: www.firstrising.org



Mt. Horeb Baptist Church
 Rev. Dr. H. B. Sampson, III
 Pastor
 2914 Bladensburg Road, NE Wash., DC 20018
 Office: (202) 529-3180
 Fax: (202) 529-7738
 Order of Services
 Worship Service: 7:30 a.m.
 Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
 Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.
 Holy Communion: 4th Sunday 7:30 a.m. & 10:30a.m.
 Prayer Services:
 Tuesday 7:30 p.m.
 Wednesday 12 Noon
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JOHNSON

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The reality is that since 2010, eight southern states passed laws designed to make voting more cumbersome for racial minorities. Various civil rights organizations and entities such as the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus have consistently opposed the elimination of federal involvement in local elections.

Recently, a U.S. Court of Appeals judge said that without Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act minority voters would suffer.

Efforts to lessen the impact of the minority vote in Texas have been egregious. Last summer, a federal court in Washington stated that a redistricting map enacted by the Republican

controlled legislature was “purposefully discriminatory.”

In the spring of 2012, the Texas NAACP and Mexican American Legislative Caucus of the Texas House of Representatives went to federal court to stop the state from requiring a photo ID in state elections. A federal court agreed, finding that the law violated Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

Now, the Texas Attorney General says he is going to the photo ID requirement in place.

Bipartisan coalitions of members of both the House and Senate have historically supported the Voting Rights Act and its provisions. In 2006, the Act was renewed for 25 years. The vote in the House was 390 to 30,

while the vote in the Senate was 98 to zero. President George W. Bush signed the measure.

Simply stated, the Voting Rights Act is the perpetuation of our democracy. We are a great country because all of our citizens have the right to exercise the right to vote without fear of intimidation.

Congress must now come together to do what we all know is the right thing to do. We must once again make the Voting Rights Act a principled piece of legislation that protects all of our citizens, regardless of race, class, or religious preference. This is why we are Americans. This is fundamental to our freedom. WI

Congresswoman Johnson represents the 30th Congressional District of Texas.

CURRY

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cious footsteps, the University would have us believe that its discrimination is likewise benign. I think the lesson of history is clear enough: Racial discrimination is never benign,” he wrote in his 20-page opinion.

What remains unclear to me, however is how being admitted into an elite educational program is any way akin to being sold on an auction block like cattle and then being forced to work from sun-up until sundown for no compensation for generation after generation.

When we attend theatrical presentations, we as audience members are expected to “suspend disbelief” in order to view the fiction as possible reality. In this insane political environment, we must also deny reality to accept the notion that we are living in a “post racial” United States of America.

All over this country, practically every business angle, every marketing decision, every crude

corporate hustle has at its root, a sinister racial angle, an angle which generally does not mean Black people any good. From payday loan schemes, to car-title loan schemes, to fast food marketing, to upscale luxury items, to everything in between the shrewd barons of industry understand that their profit margins come from patronage by unwitting Black consumers.

From electioneering to TV coverage of the George Zimmerman-Trayvon Martin manslaughter trial, politicians and media moguls alike understand that even if Black folks are not themselves the targeted customers, customers (viewers/voters) can be lured by appealing to them based on how they portray the racial angle.

In Arizona today, the teaching of Mexican-American cultural studies is prohibited. Yet all over that state, indeed all over the country people eat quesadillas and tacos and burritos, but learning anything about the people who originated those culinary choices is illegal in Arizona, a state steeped in Mexican-American

history and culture.

Never mind the utter stupidity of not studying the reality in which Arizonans are surrounded, I wonder can they study European Renaissance literature and art there? Such decisions – like the entire Republican “seal-the-border” immigration philosophy – are rooted in racial hatred of Brown people, Mestizos, Mexicans. And then they would argue that the 11 million undocumented, mostly Latino residents in this country, would somehow be “gaming” the American system if they are granted a pathway to citizenship; this as if they – like Africans – weren’t brought to this country to provide cheap labor which made only the “Gringos” wealthy. Hypocrites!

So I labor under no false illusions. I understand emphatically that in the North, the South, the East and the West, in America, all the conversations are all about race. Period. WI

FLETCHER

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plicit—after the fact—in the subjugation of the Native American. That may sound like harsh language but I cannot put it any other way. Although football may be a game, the manner in which Native Americans are characterized and caricatured in this society is anything but a game. These representations, irrespective of the platitudes all too often offered, serve to turn Native Americans,

their history and culture, into the equivalent of ornaments. As a result, the Native American becomes no longer a person but instead an exotic idea or myth. And rather than face the full consequences of the genocide that was perpetrated against them, and the continued racist treatment that they face (in the media, with the police, etc.), too many of us seem to take the position that there is no harm done in using or repeating such caricatures.

Tens of millions of Native

Americans were killed as a result of the European invasion of the Western Hemisphere. I am still finding it difficult to consider any of that fun and games.

Do you? WI

Bill Fletcher, Jr. is a Senior Scholar with the Institute for Policy Studies, the immediate past president of TransAfrica Forum, and the author of “They’re Bankrupting Us” – And Twenty Other Myths about Unions. Follow him on Facebook and at www.billfletcherjr.com.

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DANIELS

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legiance to color-blindness was central to racists' assertion that the doctrine of "separate but equal" was a fair ordering of American society. Such a notion – effectively the law of the land for the next six decades – was not only profoundly undemocratic but, operationally speaking, nonsensical. That the Plessy court accepted it provoked Charles L. Black, Jr., the White legal scholar who had allied himself with Thurgood Marshall and the Civil Rights Movement, some 60 years later to characterize the 8-to-1 majority opinion as one in which "the curves of callousness and stupidity intersect at their respective maxima."

Professor Black's words fit both the radical views of the court's current conservative faction – and the increasingly overt breaches of professional decorum of three of them. From Thomas' refusal to ask questions during cases' oral arguments, to Scalia's racist and homophobic comments on and off the bench, to Alito's misogynistic behavior toward Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan, they've

shown that, in fact, they have little respect for tradition and propriety.

Across the land last week Republican legislators and operatives jumped to take advantage of the conservative factions' blows against democracy: drafting more restrictive voter-identification laws; pledging to overturn existing gay-marriage laws in the states that have them and enacting a constitutional ban on gay marriages; further undermining affirmative action via state laws and referenda; and proposing further laws restricting women's right to decide whether to have an abortion.

There's no doubt that many, if not most of these efforts are also designed to again put these issues – and the landmark Roe v. Wade abortion-rights ruling – before the Supreme Court within the next two years. But consider some of the key political and social developments of these first years of the 21st century:

The conservative faction's gift of Bush v. Gore was supposed to break Black Americans' political spirit and influence. In fact, the Black vote became even more important as more Blacks streamed to the polls, defeating

the Republican Party's neo-Jim Crow voter-suppression efforts in state after state.

A decade ago, many forecast that the sudden emergence of the issue of gay marriage would sharply undermine the gay rights movement and produce a steep decline in the fortunes of the progressive coalition. But just the opposite has occurred.

A decade ago, conservatives were boasting that Latino Americans were on the verge of flocking to the GOP "Big Tent" – before they realized they couldn't – and still can't – turn off the neon-lit "Whites-only" sign blocking the tent's entrance.

And now, last week, when it seemed the forces of reaction in the Texas state legislature were going to steamroller an extreme anti-abortion measure to passage, Democratic State Senator Wendy Davis' startling filibuster gave the progressive coalition a new heroine – and re-affirmed this political era's over-arching lesson.

That is that conservative actions provoke victorious progressive reactions. That means that in terms of the future of America, blue is a "truer" color than red. **WI**

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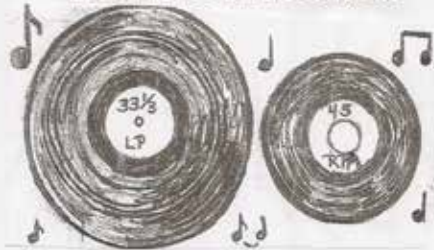


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CLINGMAN

continued from Page 28

practicing their sport of choice, they should also spend some time learning how to practice collective economics. It is one thing to have millions of dollars, but knowing what to do and not to do with that money is far more important. Just ask Allen Iverson, Kenny Anderson, and Antoine Walker. Twenty year-olds need good advice on how to spend and invest millions of dollars. And they must be exposed to the fact that Black professionals can provide that advice. The Jerry Maguire's of the business must get up every morning and thank their lucky stars for Black athletes.

I read a magazine article about one of our mega-millionaire ball players buying 22 pairs of shoes from a famous store that many Black athletes patronize. Of course, the store is not Black-owned, but what else is new?

by unwitting Black consumers.

From electioneering to TV coverage of the George Zimmerman-Trayvon Martin manslaughter trial, politicians and media moguls alike understand that even if Black folks are not themselves the targeted customers, customers (viewers/voters) can be lured by appealing to them based on how they portray the racial angle.

In Arizona today, the teaching of Mexican-American cultural studies is prohibited. Yet all over that state, indeed all over the country people

Anyway, the shoes cost \$16,000. Throw in about 10 suits for a couple of grand each, and multiply that by 30 other Black professional athletes who frequent the store, and you're talking about a serious positive cash flow. You know how we like to look good. Unfortunately, other groups know it much better than we do – and they sure do take advantage of it. They make it; we buy it – no matter how it looks.

I know there are competent White agents out there, but as Ware said in the article, "It's no longer a question of ability, but one of opportunity." Some White agents were crying foul when more African Americans got into the game. In a television special, a White agent accused Black agents of "playing the race card" to get Black athletes to sign with them. He suggested Black athletes should select their agents and others who work for them solely on the basis of tal-

ent. Ironically, he was asking for a "level playing field."

If Asian athletes comprised 70 percent of NBA players, we would see nearly 70 percent Asian agents. A similar scenario would prevail if there were a majority of Jewish or Hispanic players. Why are we accused of playing the race card when we suggest African American athletes hire Black agents? (I wonder how many White athletes are represented by Black agents.) If we play it right, one day not only will we win the game, we win the championship.

Jim Clingman, founder of the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce, is the nation's most prolific writer on economic empowerment for Black people. He is an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati and can be reached through his Web site, blackonomics.com. **WI**

MUHAMMAD

continued from Page 28

an elite educational program is any way akin to being sold on an auction block like cattle and then being forced to work from sun-up until sundown for no compensation for generation after generation.

When we attend theatrical presentations, we as audience members are expected to "suspend disbelief" in order to view the fiction as possible reality. In this insane political environment, we must also deny reality

to accept the notion that we are living in a "post racial" United States of America.

All over this country, practically every business angle, every marketing decision, every crude corporate hustle has at its root, a sinister racial angle, an angle which generally does not mean Black people any good. From payday loan schemes, to car-title loan schemes, to fast food marketing, to upscale luxury items, to everything in between the shrewd barons of industry understand that their profit margins come from patronage

eat quesadillas and tacos and burritos, but learning anything about the people who originated those culinary choices is illegal in Arizona, a state steeped in Mexican-American history and culture.

Never mind the utter stupidity of not studying the reality in which Arizonans are surrounded, I wonder can they study European Renaissance literature and art there? Such decisions – like the entire Republican "seal-the-border" immigration philosophy – are rooted in racial hatred of Brown people, Mestizos, Mex-

icans. And then they would argue that the 11 million undocumented, mostly Latino residents in this country, would somehow be "gaming" the American system if they are granted a pathway to citizenship; this as if they – like Africans – weren't brought to this country to provide cheap labor which made only the "Gringos" wealthy. Hypocrites!

So I labor under no false illusions. I understand emphatically that in the North, the South, the East and the West, in America, all the conversations are all about race. Period. **WI**

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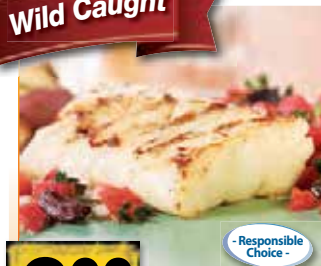
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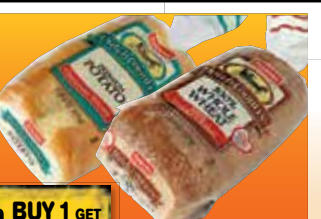
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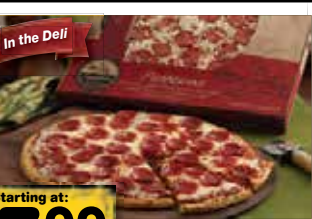
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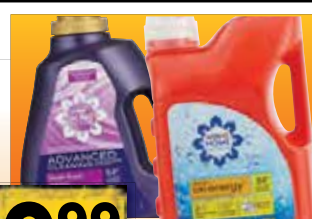
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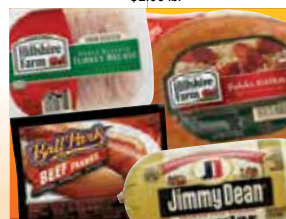
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