

VOICE

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FREE

Late summer opening likely for Norfolk light rail line

“The Tide” is coming but the question is when.

Officials are maintaining that Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) has budgeted for an August opening for the light rail line in Norfolk, but is unclear of its start date.

The state’s first light rail line has been overwhelmed with huge cost and management problems that resulted in a previous CEO retiring. The current CEO Philip Shucet says progress is steady, but an actual operating date can’t be determined.

The current budget for the light rail line is \$338 million—almost \$106 million over the original finance plan—and has become the object of two federal inquiries.

Shucet says “The Tide” is being monitored on a daily basis.

“I’m frustrated by the delay, but I’m pleased with the day to day progress we are making,” he said.

It was revealed that there are plans for an August opening but Shucet maintains that Aug. 1 will not be the start of operations.

Shucet has repeatedly said he would not speculate on a new opening date. Even

though the project is near completion with the exception of installation and testing of some safety and communications systems, Shucet refuses to reflect upon an opening date. Earlier this year a May opening was missed.

According to Shucet the cause for the initial delay was because of “safety enhancements” originally part of the plan but had been deleted by the previous administration. The systems were then re-designed into the project last year.

Shucet also points out that HRT is incurring \$17,000 in expenses on a daily basis because of “The Tide’s” delayed opening.

“I do not believe I will know a start date in [next month], but sometime in May events may occur where we are more in charge of our destiny and will be able to establish a start date,” Shucet said. “It is going to take us and the contractor working together to push it over the finish line.”

At press time at least \$302 million had been spent on the light rail line but a HRT



spokesperson points out that may not be an indicator the project could come in under \$338 million. It is expected to cost at least \$5.9 million per year to operate.

HRT is hoping it will be able to return a \$10 million contingency to HRT stakeholders.

The 7.4 mile long system extends from Fort Norfolk/Eastern Virginia Medical Center to the Virginia Beach line at Newtown Road. There are 11 stations and four Park-and-Ride lots along the route that are through downtown Norfolk.

Legendary civic and political leader provided alternatives

By William Reed

(NNPA) - Dr. John L. Cashin, Jr. a dentist and Alabama civil rights leader who once ran for governor against George C. Wallace, died in a Washington, D.C. hospital last week. He was 82.

Cashin, received almost 15 percent of the statewide vote in 1970 as the gubernatorial nominee of the National Democratic Party of Alabama, a Black political alternative to the state Democratic Party. During the course of his tenure with the National Democratic Party of Alabama (NDPA), Cashin and his supporters gained power at the local level and speeded up the integration of county courthouses.

Cashin once ran for mayor of Huntsville, and between 1968 and 1974 the National Democratic Party of Alabama (NDPA) facilitated the election of more than 100 Blacks to public office in Alabama. In 1974, the Alabama Democratic Party surrendered to what had been Cashin’s demands and integrated its ballot.

After serving two years in the Army, Cashin returned to the U.S. where he joined his father’s dental practice. He also became active



John L. Cashin ran for governor of Alabama in 1970 as the National Democratic Party of Alabama candidate.

in politics, particularly with the Alabama Democratic Conference (ADC), a political league formed to bring newly registered Blacks into the Democratic ranks. Whites had long dominated Alabama’s political system at every level, and when President Lyndon Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law in 1965, very few African Americans were even registered to vote in the state.

Though registration drives were held successfully across the South, party leaders at the state level were unwilling to incorporate Blacks into their organizations. As a result, many Blacks who had been successful in getting registered still found themselves excluded from the political process. Frustrated with the continuing lack of African American political power, Cashin contemplated a third-party that would allow Blacks to align with the Democratic Party in presidential elections while providing an alternative at the state and local levels. He modeled his proposal on the Mississippi Freedom Democratic

See “Legendary leader” on pg. 19

Health care advocates celebrate anniversary of health care law

Virginians gathered last week to mark the first birthday of the Affordable Care Act which was signed into law on March 23, 2010, with a forum at the General Assembly Building.

The forum featured U.S. Rep. Bobby Scott, Joanne Grossi, regional director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Jill Hanken of the Virginia Poverty Law Center and local physician Dr. Mark Ryan.

The panel explained what the new health care law will mean for families, Medicare recipients, individuals with 'pre-existing conditions,' small business owners, young people and more.

"Many Virginians have been positively impacted by the Affordable Care Act since its enactment last year," said Scott. "Virginia seniors now receive free preventive services through Medicare. More than 100,000 small businesses have received tax credits to help offset the costs of purchasing coverage for their employees. Thousands of young adults without job-based insurance coverage in Virginia have been able to remain on their parent's insurance policies. Most importantly, more than 430,000 children with a pre-existing condition have been protected from being denied coverage by insurance companies. As this new law continues to be implemented, it is important that we continue to educate and inform Virginians on the benefits of the Affordable Care Act."

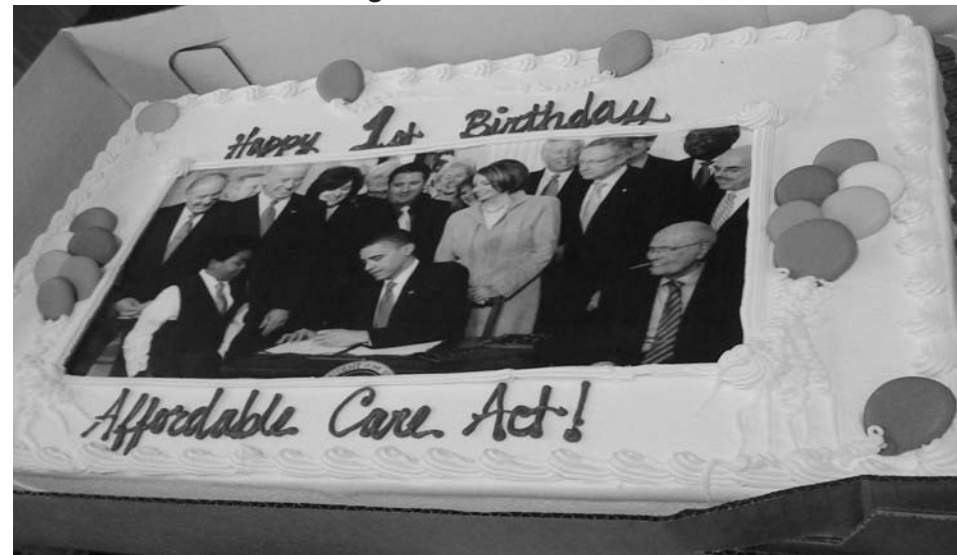
Many key health care law provisions of The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act have already gone into effect including provisions that make sure



insurance companies spend at least 80 percent of premiums on health care, close the Medicare Part D "Donut Hole" and allow young people to stay on their parents' insurance plans. Other provisions will not go into effect until 2014.

Local physician Dr. Mark Ryan was on hand at the forum and gave a provider's perspective on the health care law and explained how the law will help his patients.

"During my career in medically underserved communities, I have worked with too many patients who were unable to afford insurance and as a result went without necessary care. This resulted in patients with multiple uncontrolled illnesses and greater likelihood of complications and risk of death," noted Ryan. "In a nation that has so many available resources, it is hard to believe that we have not addressed this sooner. The ACA



takes important steps to remedy this, and its passage a year ago is an important step forward in making health care accessible for all Americans."

The forum was part of a nationwide week of action celebrating the one-year anniversary of the Affordable Care Act. Over 200 events were held nationwide. Celebratory events took place in Petersburg, Danville, Fredericksburg, Charlottesville, Virginia Beach and Newport News.

"The Affordable Care Act has been under constant attack over the last year and many people are not hearing about the law's many benefits. We celebrated those benefits and called on our elected officials to stand up to the insurance companies, protect our care and move forward with implementing the health care law," said Sandra Cook, chairperson of Virginia Organizing.

Despite an ongoing legal fight by Attorney

General Ken Cuccinelli and the McDonnell administration to block the health care law, important steps have been made towards implementing the new law. Hanken elaborated on the process of implementation and what the commonwealth can expect in the coming years.

"Virginia has already taken important steps in implementing the health care law with the governor's Health Reform Initiative," said Hanken. "The study released by the initiative has identified problems and strengths in health access and service delivery. Its recommendations will provide a guide to full implementation of the ACA."

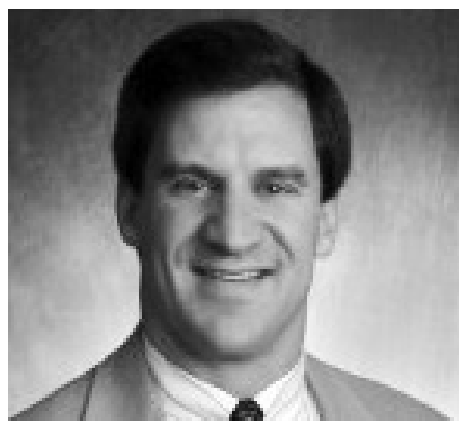
"As Secretary Sebelius said, the passage of the Affordable Care Act has enabled us to make great strides toward a health care system that is stronger, more affordable and that will work better for all Americans," said Grossi.

HRPHF plans free academy to assist men regain continence

The Hampton Roads Prostate Health Forum (HRPHF) will be presenting a free Regaining Continence & Restoring Sexual Health Academy, at the Hampton Roads Convention Center at 1610 Coliseum Drive on April 30, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

This compact, dynamic academy is densely-packed with a wealth of information for men suffering from incontinence and sexual dysfunction and will feature a keynote address by acclaimed local urologist Richard Rento, II, M.D. Committed to treating men with cancer and not just the disease, the HRPHF invites both men and the women who love them to this important awareness seminar.

Charlie W. Hill, president and HRPHF founding member, says the goal of the Regaining Continence & Restoring Sexual Health Academy is to help men "close the gap in their relationships by learning solutions to problems caused by



Dr. Richard Rento, II

incontinence and erectile dysfunction."

This goal is greatly aligned with the forum's mission statement: "To raise awareness and provide education regarding the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer, through community and national outreach programs, synergistic

communications and an established health alliance with local, regional and national medical organizations and providers."

Rento, also an HRPHF founding member, is a board-certified urologist with the Hampton Roads Urology Clinic, in Newport News. He attended the Brown University School of Medicine and completed residencies in Urology and General Surgery at the Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

"This academy," says Hill, "is designed for men and women who are interested in an adult conversation about incontinence and erectile dysfunction."

He adds that in addition to Rento's presentation, a patient's perspective will also be provided.

"A Hampton Roads resident and a Cincinnati, Ohio survivor, who are dealing with the after effects of prostate cancer, will discuss their experiences with an

advance male sling and an artificial urinary sphincter, respectively."

Each man also uses a penile implant. "They will discuss," says Hill, "how the quality of their lives has improved after the procedures and will provide frank and honest answers to questions the attendees might have."

American Medical Systems, a manufacturer and distributor of surgical devices that provide solutions for Incontinence and Erectile Dysfunction and a co-sponsor of the Regaining Continence & Restoring Sexual Health Academy, will also have representatives onsite to respond to technical and equipment inquiries.

Hill advises that, "Seating is limited for this free event. We encourage early reservations." Interested persons can register for the Regaining Continence & Restoring Sexual Health Academy by calling the HRPHF at 757-827-0488.

Archery: A major interest in city schools

Archery is growing and expanding in Newport News Public Schools (NNPS) and teams are succeeding in outside competitions.

The sport is part of physical education instruction in the city's middle and high schools and is now expanded into elementary schools as a club activity for fourth and fifth graders, said Health and Physical Education Supervisor Duke Conrad.

Interest has grown steadily since Conrad introduced the national program to NNPS over four years ago.

The sport of archery requires fewer athletic skills and more precision. Concentration and persistence are required to gain accuracy.

"With archery you're not identifying the same kids that you always do for football and basketball and some of the sports," Conrad said.

Warwick High School's team won the National Archery in the Schools Program statewide tournament in February, which was conducted by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Warwick is now preparing for a national tournament in May.

Although only 24 archers can compete on the team, between 30 and 60 usually show up to participate in intramural archery after school at Warwick, said archery coach Michael Cooke.

"Our four-year students started the program," Cooke said. "We have more students involved here at Warwick than



almost all the other city high schools combined. I attribute that to our four-year kids, their interest and success."

Instructors and participants are trained on the strict setup, 11 steps and whistle commands that go with archery. There is also a social aspect similar to club participation that comes with intramural archery.

Three years ago Newport News started an all-city tournament, with the winner advancing on to the state event. Despite being city kids often competing with those from more rural hunting and fishing type localities, Newport News teams have been very successful with Warwick winning some type of state title three of the last four years.

Some students have bought their own equipment, and will practice at private facilities outside of school.

"Kids are learning archery, enjoying archery and sticking with it," Conrad said. "And they're coming back, and just getting better."

Newport News missing person found



The Newport News Police Department has located Hurley Chapman. Hurley, after missing for a day, was located this past Saturday morning at the Shell Gas Station at Elm Avenue & Warwick Blvd after an officer was dispatched to the area of Cedar Lane and Warwick Blvd. in reference to a male who had fallen. He was returned to the Governors Inn, an assisted living facility at 741 Thimble Shoals Boulevard, and appears to be in good health.

NN recycling efforts recognized nationally

The city of Newport News Department of Public Works Recycling Office has won the Keep America Beautiful President's Circle Award for 2010 activities. The President's Circle Award recognizes exemplary performance made by certified affiliates of the national nonprofit organization to reduce litter, minimize waste, and beautify and improve their local communities.

"While it is awesome for Newport News to be recognized nationally for these accomplishments, this recognition truly belongs to the volunteers who selflessly take time out of their busy lives to make a difference," said Newport News Adopt-a-Spot coordinator Deborah Everitt. "These volunteers are taking the initiative to improve their communities and make Newport News an even more beautiful place to live and work."

The Recycling Office is particularly grateful to the Adopt-a-Spot volunteers, who go the extra mile and make a two-year commitment to clean their adopted locations at least four times per year.

In qualifying for a President's Circle Award, the Newport News Recycling Office has met Keep America Beautiful's standards of excellence by completing an annual Litter Index, calculating the affiliate's cost/benefit ratio, and conducting activities in the three core focus areas of litter prevention, waste reduction, and beautification/community improvement.

Volunteers were key to the city's success. Volunteers included many, like:

- ACC AMIC
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
- Booker T. Washington Middle School
- Brotherhood Ministry – Jefferson Park
- Boy Scouts Troop 6
- Boy Scouts Troop 11
- Canon VA Inc.
- City Manager's Office/Budget Department
- CNU Presidential Leadership Program
- Continental Automotive Systems US Inc.
- Cub Scouts Pack 143
- Cub Scouts Pack 306
- Cub Scouts Pack 313
- Delta Sigma Theta Denbigh Alumnae
- Denbigh Presbyterian Church
- Denbigh Warwick Business Association
- Downtown Newport News Merchants & Neighbors Assoc.
- Elk's Lodge #315
- First Baptist Church East End
- Goldwing Road Riders Assoc.
- Greater Hilton Committee
- Ivy Baptist Church
- James A. Fields House
- Jenkins Elementary School
- Keystone Lodge #22 A.F. & A.M.
- Kiwanis Club Peninsula at Oyster Point
- Knights of Columbus/Walter Pollard Council
- Light of Hope Community Church
- Malcolm Pirmie
- A Neighbor
- Newport News Community Corrections Div.
- Nichols, Sarah & Zack
- Olivet Christian Church
- Order of the Eastern Stars
- Passage Middle School

Gov. McDonnell congratulates VCU on victory



Gov. Bob McDonnell calling Virginia Commonwealth University head men's basketball coach Shaka Smart to congratulate him and the VCU basketball team on their victory over the University of Kansas Jayhawks. The victory gave VCU an NCAA Final Four berth, rare in Virginia sports. (Photo courtesy of Gov. McDonnell's Office)

NRHA among first choice neighborhood planning grantees

Norfolk Redevelopment Housing Authority (NRHA) is among 17 communities that will be the first recipients of Planning Grant funding through the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) new Choice Neighborhoods Initiative.

These communities will share a total of \$4 million in Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants while six other communities were selected as finalists to compete for approximately \$61 million in Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grants.

HUD's new Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CN) will promote a comprehensive approach to transforming distressed areas of concentrated poverty into viable and sustainable mixed-income neighborhoods. Building on the successes of HUD's HOPE VI Program, Choice Neighborhoods will link housing improvements with a wider variety of public services including schools, public transit and employment opportunities.

"Today, we turn a new page in the way we tackle intergenerational poverty," said Secretary Shaun Donovan, in a White House announcement with U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan. "President Obama has said that there is no greater economic policy than one that invests in our children's future and helps America out-educate the world. But that's not possible if we leave a whole generation of children behind in our poorest neighborhoods. The Choice Neighborhoods Initiative expands on the bipartisan success of the HOPE VI program by recognizing that we must link

affordable housing with a mix of incomes and uses with quality education, public transportation, good jobs and safe streets."

The Choice Neighborhoods Initiative is a centerpiece of the Obama Administration's interagency Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative – a collaboration between the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Education, Justice, Treasury and Health and Human Services to support the ability of local leaders from the public and private sectors and attract the private investment needed to transform distressed neighborhoods into sustainable, mixed-income neighborhoods with the affordable housing, safe streets and good schools every family needs.

HUD received 119 submissions for CN Planning Grants and 42 submissions from communities seeking CN Implementation Grants. Successful Planning Grant applicants demonstrated their intent to transform neighborhoods by revitalizing severely distressed public and/or assisted housing while leveraging investments to create high-quality public schools, outstanding education and early learning programs, public assets, public transportation, and improved access to jobs and well-functioning services. HUD focused on directing resources to address three core goals – housing, people and neighborhoods.

The 17 communities awarded CN Planning Grants will use the funding to build the capacity they need to get them ready to undertake a successful neighborhood transformation to create a choice neighborhood. These grants will enable these communities create a



HUD Secretary Donovan says affordable housing should be linked to a mix of incomes and other uses.

comprehensive "Transformation Plan," or road map, to transforming distressed public and/or assisted housing within a distressed community. This federal support provides a significant incentive for the local community to take critical steps to create viable neighborhood transformation.

The six finalists for CN Implementation Grants have already undertaken the comprehensive local planning process and are ready to move forward with their "Transformation Plan" to redevelop their target neighborhoods. HUD will publish a second Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) shortly to give these finalists the opportunity to assemble and submit a more detailed application for the approximately

\$61 million in available funding. HUD will award these grants by the end of September.

Congress approved the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative with the passage of HUD's FY 2010 budget, allowing HUD to use \$65 million in funding to provide competitive grants to assist in the transformation, rehabilitation and preservation of public housing and privately owned HUD-assisted housing. CN builds on the successes and lessons of HUD's HOPE VI program and widened the traditional pool of eligible applicants by allowing, in addition to public housing authorities, local governments, nonprofit organizations and for-profit developers to apply.

EVMS students report on volunteer rotation in the Philippines

On a Physicians for Peace mission to the Bicol province of the Philippines last January, three Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS) students supported volunteer healthcare professionals from the Philippines, participated in lectures and gathered data for their individual research projects on global health. The students presented a detailed overview of their mission at Physicians for Peace headquarters in Norfolk.

Kaitlin Porcaro, Jung Park and Heather Soloria joined the multi-specialty mission through a partnership between EVMS and Physicians for Peace. The partnership gives qualified EVMS students the opportunity to participate in a mission during their fourth-year medical elective rotations.

"I walked away from this mission feeling inspired by the volunteers in the Philippines



Dr. Juan Montero, who helped establish Physicians for Peace-Philippines in 1998, accompanied the students on their mission.

and their commitment to service within their communities," said Porcaro. "It was great to see so much support for the mission, not only from Physicians for Peace and the medical volunteers, but also from the government and private businesses."

Porcaro is the recipient of the 2010 Dr. Charles E. Horton Senior Student Scholarship. Sponsored by the Montero Family Foundation, EVMS and Physicians for Peace, the award honors the founder of Physicians for Peace by offsetting the mission costs for an EVMS student who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to academics, volunteerism and global health.

The students worked with Physicians for Peace volunteers from the U.S. and the Philippines to provide medical, surgical, vision and dental services to patients, as

well as continuing education to community healthcare workers. In all, approximately 2,000 patients received care during the mission.

Park and Soloria said the mission left them with a deeper understanding of healthcare challenges in under-served areas – and a deeper appreciation for the importance of both sustainable, replicable programs and dedicated volunteers.

"The physicians and volunteers I met on the mission have really made service a part of their careers," Park said. "Their commitment made a lasting impression on me."

Soloria agreed. "I came back from the mission with a new way of seeing how people are making do with very limited resources," she explained. "This mission gave me the time and freedom to see things you can't see in medical school."



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97¢ lb.

Holly Farms Boneless, Skinless Chicken Thighs
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Smithfield

\$2.49 lb.

Center Cut Ham Slices
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5-8 Ounce Select Varieties Kraft Shreds, Chunks or Cubes or 12 Ounce American Singles
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12 Inch Select Varieties TombStone Pizza
Without MVP Card \$4.59 Each

3/\$10

2.5-3 Lb. Bag Individually Quick Frozen Food Lion Chicken Breast Halves or Tenders
Without MVP Card Regular Retail

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18 Ounce Cheerios, 25.5 Ounce Honey Nut Cheerios, 24.9 Ounce Cinnamon Toast Crunch or 24 Ounce Lucky Charms
General Mills Cereals
Without MVP Card Regular Retail

2/\$6

31.5-34.5 Ounce Cans (Decaf. and Colombian Not Included) Maxwell House Coffee
Without MVP Card Regular Retail

\$7.99

7.5-15 Ounce Select Varieties Chef Boyardee Pasta and Microwave Bowls
Without MVP Card \$1.29 Each

10/\$10

5 Lb. Bag Russet Potatoes
Without MVP Card \$3.29 Lb.

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE
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16-26.3 Ounce Select Varieties Ragu Pasta Sauce
Without MVP Card \$2.00 Each

4/\$5

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Kellogg's Cereals
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Week Of 03/30/11 - 04/05/11

Safe space is sacred space

By Ronnie McBrayer

While I am no died in the wool traditionalist, not by a long shot, I sometimes have a bit of a problem with the words we now use to describe the places we gather together as the church. They are called “worship centers” or “multi-purpose buildings” or “auditoriums.” This is unfortunate. I much prefer the word used by our grandparents: Sanctuary.

Anywhere the church gathers, in a storefront, a gymnasium, an auditorium, or a thousand-year-old cathedral, that place should be a sanctuary. It should be a safe place, a place where people are welcomed into a better way to live and made to feel at home.

This welcome is far more substantial than saying “hello,” shaking hands, or sharing coffee and doughnuts in the fellowship hall (another questionable description of a church building). Maybe English Bible translator and martyr William Tyndale got closer to the mark when with his “plowboy” English he said that Christians should have a “harborous disposition.” To create secure harbors, a place for others to come in from the storm to be warm, safe, and healthy is a



high and worthy calling.

I once participated in a retreat where several young people – in their 20s and early 30s – gave their unbridled, unedited assessments of the church. At times, their words were immature and selfish. At other times their words were blisteringly accurate. They were brutally dead on, and gave everyone in the room pause.

One young lady who spoke was Charis. Charis was a 30-year-old wife and mother of two who had spent her three decades in the church. Her father was a seminary professor, and Charis herself holds a Masters degree in Biblical Studies. She was no cynical, jaded outsider. She has been a determined follower of Jesus most of her life.

At one point in her talk she said through her tears, “I am afraid of the church



and what it will do to my children, what it is doing to me. I am tired of the church saying all the right things, but not practicing them. It is difficult for me to come into the churches we have created at this point in history and believe any of it really matters.”

Charis did not stop there. Her last remark was a hopeful prayer. She said, “I don’t want church. But I do want love, transformation, and community.”

Love. Transformation. Community. Isn’t this, at least in part, what the church should be about?

Comfort, mercy, communion with God, entrance into the joyful reign of heaven, open arms and open hearts: These should be the natural overflow and outcome of life together with Jesus, as natural as flowers blooming in the spring when the rain falls and the sun shines.

We have spent too much collective time and energy focusing on the drivel, rather than on loving people. We fight and bleed over worship styles, which version of the Bible is the actually inspired one, and drawing up rules and restrictions for who can come to the Lord’s Table and or who can or cannot speak in a pulpit.

We build all this structure and all these regulations on who is allowed in and who should be excluded, creating standards so impossibly high, Jesus Christ himself couldn’t get in the door. We have endorsed and supported legalistic minutia while neglecting the weightier issues of love, mercy and justice.

And meanwhile, people who are lonely, who are dying on the inside, who have had the absolute life beat out of them, who are racked by addiction and loss, who are burdened so low by the cares of this world they cannot lift their heads, will not even look in the church’s direction. They feel so badly already, and they cannot imagine that the church could somehow relieve or support them.

We must recognize these mercy-killing behaviors for what they are, name them, and by God’s grace let Christ remove them. For when the church becomes a place of welcome – a sanctuary – it becomes safe space, and safe space is sacred space.

Ronnie McBrayer is the author of “Leaving Religion, Following Jesus.” He writes and speaks about life, faith, and Christ-centered spirituality. Visit his website at www.ronniemcbrayer.net.

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Exploring the future of Black America

On Thursday, March 31, we begin the debate about the number one issue facing the nation – the deep and persistent jobs crisis that has been especially devastating in urban communities of color. As part of the National Urban League’s annual Legislative Policy Conference in Washington, D.C., we will convene a free State of Black America town hall meeting on that day from 10 a.m. to noon at Howard University’s Cramton Auditorium.

A panel of notable policy experts, scholars and journalists will lead a public dialogue

about ways to end the jobs crisis in our communities. But the most important voices invited to this meeting belong to you – the student struggling to pay college tuition, the father who lost his job six months ago and is wondering if he will ever be able to support his family again, the single mother having to choose between child care and health care for her kids.

Clearly, immediate action is needed to turn this picture around.

Marc Morial
CEO, NUL

Inflation and rising prices explained

We have heard the word inflation misused so often we just assume it to mean rising prices. But actually, inflation is the cause of rising prices. Inflation is an increase or inflation of money in the market place.

When government wants to spend money it doesn’t have, there are options as to how to come up with it. One is to float bonds; another is to borrow the money at the price of paying interest.

A third, in America at the federal level, is to print more money. That is the equivalent of me just taking my checkbook and writing in a deposit of however much I happen to want without making a deposit and the bank honoring it. Of course, I’m not able to do that - but our government does by putting more money in circulation. The result is the inevitable law of supply and demand. When there are fewer dollars vying for goods and services, prices go down; when there is more purchasing power, prices go up.

Right now we are facing a huge national debt, and we hear much about it being passed on to our children and grandchildren. And, certainly that is a concern. But it is wishful thinking that the effects won’t be felt before then. The printing presses are presently

going full speed ahead to pay for what has been legislated and that is inevitably causing prices to rise. The results are more gradual and therefore more easily tolerated.

When gasoline prices go up quickly and dramatically, as they are now, people are, rightly so, concerned and eager to take corrective measures. But, when prices go up a little here and a little there, the tendency is to overlook it. Consider the automatic acceptance of “cost of living increases” as being inevitable. Why should that be? The reason for it is the inflation of our currency. We have only to look back in time at prices in years past to see the results.

Just think of when a loaf of bread cost 15 cents and a new car a few hundred. Of course, income was much less then also, but inflation results in a loss in buying power along the way, and is detrimental to people on fixed incomes and the retired. If you are saving now for your retirement years, consider, at the present rate of rising prices, what will that money buy then?

Inflation is a hidden tax that we pay daily. And, run-away inflation is the hallmark of a collapsed economy.

Sue Long
Richmond

Gluttons for military ventures

Neocons are notorious for being the country’s most trash-talking, ferocious, war-mongering chicken hawks who eagerly advocate U.S. military action, especially in the Middle East.

There are few people more despicable than those who consistently cheerlead for the use of military force, yet themselves are unwilling to put their lives or those of their kin in the line of fire, in wars they support. These are wars that have led to the death and maiming of thousands of U.S. military personnel, mostly from low-income and

working class families. Equally revealing of the insidiousness of the so-called neocons is their very selective choice of targets for their military ventures.

Fifteen of the 19 hijackers involved in 9/11 were from Saudi Arabia, a place where women are denied the most basic rights and Judaism and Christianity can’t be publicly practiced, yet I heard nothing from neocons advocating military force against the Saudis. Instead they ardently pushed for the invasion of Iraq.

A. Peter Bailey
Washington, D.C.

A vision to help Richmond and beyond

In 2010 I started [a] transportation service with one thing in mind, to help the teens and residents of Richmond city get to work.

With my own struggle in mind of not being able to get my teenage son Cameron to Doswell to work for Kings Dominion Theme Park, I realized how difficult it must be for many more parents to do the same.

I took a gamble and decided to take the one van I had, dedicate it with my logo “Seasonal Transport” and offer the teens in my community a ride. For a small fee of \$8.00 round trip, I transported over 300.

I quickly came to realize how much of a need this service is. With my salary from my full time job, help from good friends and family, I invested all I had to purchase three more vans to fill the need that came my way. From the small profit gained and my salary, I paid drivers, fueled my vans and made a difference in many lives. Not only did the teens worry no more about keeping their jobs, but moms and dads were given a helping hand in keeping their young people employed.

The Richmond home for Boys and Girls worked closely with me to transport all of their students that were working at Kings Dominion. I set up stops in South Side, West End, East End and even got our VCU

students to work. The name “seasonal” came about because each season, through youth organizations and on their own, our young people search long and hard for jobs. Finding them is hard enough, getting there is harder. So in their season of employment I wanted to help them get to work easily.

To many teens it takes a great deal of responsibility to know they must budget themselves for their own independence. I am not a taxi service, I vanpool. Major employers like Kings Dominion and many others here in Richmond need Richmonders to work. We need to keep our community working and if we make it affordable they will continue to work in Richmond. This year, I offer the same service, getting employees of Kings Dominion to and from work all hours of the night. This service did not prove to be easy last year but with my dedication to the teens and others of Richmond I will do it again this year and every year knowing I am helping teens and parents stay gainfully employed.

My vision was small but the need to get teens to work is large. I have invested all my husband and I have to make it work.

Sylvia A. Coppin-Smith
www.seasonaltransport.com

Bishop is “On Pointe” in his life with hit CD and best-selling book

Bishop David G. Evans has triumphed over many obstacles in his life. He grew up in the Philadelphia-area projects with a hard-working, single mother and his father was an absentee dad and an alcoholic.

In spite of his circumstances, Evans worked his way through college and rose up through the ranks of the corporate world then opened his own million-dollar business before receiving the call to preach in 1990.

In the years since, Evans has shepherded Bethany Baptist Church in South Jersey into one of the largest congregations on the east coast with 27,000 members where he's known not only for teaching general



Bishop David Evans

spiritual principles but also practical everyday principles on wealth building and managing relationships.

Evans is practicing what he preaches in his endeavors outside of Sunday morning church. His Abundant Harvest Entertainment record label is enjoying success with the best-selling CD, “Bishop David G. Evans Presents Automatic Praise Live.”

Over the last two years, the project has included chart hits such as Tracy Shy’s “This Joy” and Earnest Pugh’s “Why Should I Be Bound?” The set has now birthed another hit with Lonnie Hunter’s rousing jam, “Do Something,” that has cracked the gospel Top 40.

On another front, Evans’ latest book, “Dare To Be A Man,” is in its eighth printing and continuing to build momentum.

Using his own real life experiences, good and bad, as a blueprint, Evans paints a picture of God-inspired manhood not only for men to aspire to but also for women to expect of the men in their lives. Evans discusses these issues and others weekly on his highly-rated TV program, “On Pointe,” that airs Sunday mornings on the Daystar cable network at 7 a.m. EST/6 a.m. CST. With urban movie and common sense humor, Evans presents a powerful Bible-based message that offers hope and help to a hurting world.

Hip-hop minstrel Christawn brings message of God to campuses

Lincoln University was the first historically Black university to grant degrees and was also alma mater to famous faces such as Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and bandleader, Cab Calloway. Now, the Pennsylvania-based institution has become a historical footprint on the career path of hip-hop minstrel, Christawn, who launched a college concert tour in support of his latest CD, “Life Story,” at the university.

Fans and students jammed the Ware Center Theater on campus to see and hear the rapper chug out an hour-long set that included his radio smash, “Save Me.”

That guitar-frenzied track features Micah Stampley singing the hook and retells Christawn’s exodus from a life of drug dealing. That and the other beats he performed had the audience on their feet and bobbing their heads throughout the night.

“The crowd was into it and it flowed real

nice,” Christawn says. “I think it was one of the best concerts I’ve had so far and it really felt good to get the tour kicked off.”

“Save Me” was recently featured on the “Play it or Fade it” segment on Radio One’s nationally-syndicated program “The Coco Brother Live Show.”

The audience called in and overwhelmingly voted for the song to be played.

“It talks about what I was doing at different points of my life in the streets,” Christawn explains. “That’s the closest song to my heart because it brings me back to where God brought me from... I want people to know this is where I’ve been. A lot of my life story started right there in the streets. I can’t sugar coat it because this is what’s going on in the lives of many people today... This isn’t just about smoking crack... I was literally around killing all day long and going home and crying at night praying to God to save me.”



Christawn with his family

Bev Smith drives back pressure as Farrakhan speaks up

By Ashahed M. Muhammad

PITTSBURGH (NNPA) - Minister Louis Farrakhan’s clarion call for Black empowerment and self-determination rang out across America during a nationally broadcast town hall meeting at the August Wilson Center for African American Culture in Pittsburgh.

Despite the attempts of critics seeking to influence and divide Pittsburgh’s Black community, Farrakhan joined popular and principled syndicated talk show host Bev Smith for an important three-hour conversation with concerned residents

to discuss “The Disappearing Black Community and How We Can Get It Back.”

Smith received calls from Jewish and Christian leaders expressing their displeasure at her decision to invite Farrakhan to participate in the event. Several writings appeared in the Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle repeating the thoroughly discredited, yet oft-repeated claims of Farrakhan’s “anti-Semitism.”

Though saddened by the unnecessary controversy fomented by those determined to make mischief, Farrakhan was unapologetic in his delivery of a clear

message as a warner from God.

“I love the truth and I love you and I refuse to compromise my principles to get along,” said Farrakhan. “My love of God makes me put my trust completely in Him.”

Undeterred, Farrakhan was joined by Rep. James Clyburn, (D-S.C.) and longtime civil rights activist and radio host Dorothy Tillman, who gladly paid her own way and stepped in to fill the slot vacated by Campbell.

During his message of guidance, which set the tone for the event, Farrakhan touched on issues plaguing Black communities: joblessness, poor education, terrible health, disunity, and moral depravity. All of these maladies contribute to a community that in medical terms would be described as having “flat-lined.”

“Our problem is our fear—not white people—but our fear of them, which makes us act in a manner that is less dignified and less character building and instead of passing on a future to our children oft-times we pass on the legacy of our cowardice and we refuse to confront evil wherever evil is,” said Farrakhan.

Regarding the scorn and abuse he has received as an outspoken and public Black leader during the years, Farrakhan said it is the price that must be paid for representing truth.

In the days leading up to the event, Smith received death threats at her home, and there was even a bomb threat at the August Wilson Center just hours before the event.

Yet, she never considered calling it off or changing her plans for the event.

JCSU students protest voter ID legislation, opponents say bill will restrict access

By Herbert L. White

NNPA - College students are protesting a bill that would require N.C. voters to show valid identification before casting a ballot.

Students at Johnson C. Smith University (JCSU) participated in a press conference to take issue with HB 351, which was introduced in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives. A companion bill, SB 352, is pending in the Senate. Opponents contend the legislation would deny ballot access to groups that would be less likely to have state-issued identification, such as students, the elderly, and African Americans.

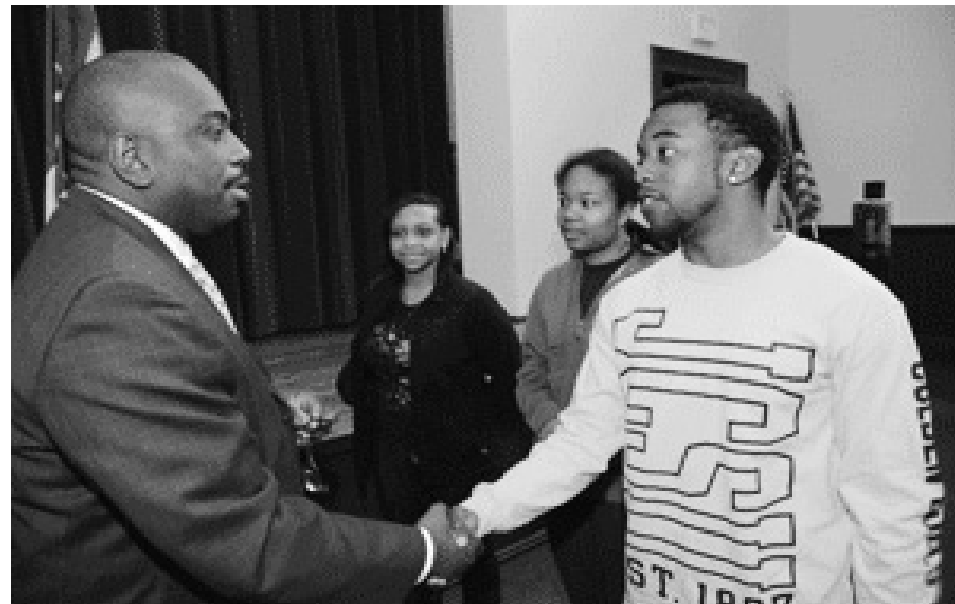
"This bill is extremely harmful," JCSU student government President Erica Hilton said. "Not only will Johnson C. Smith University students not accept it, we will stand united with other institutions in speaking out against a bill that not only will inconvenience us, but a bill that violates our voting rights."

N.C. House Majority Whip Ruth Samuelson (R-Mecklenburg) contends the debate over voter ID "is more politically

motivated than fact based." She contends that using government-issued identification will cut down the possibility of fraud.

The state Board of Elections matched its database of 6.1 million registered voters with records at the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles and found one million voters don't have a current driver's license or identification card with a matching name or address. The board found 460,500 active voters don't have state-issued identification, including 147,104 African Americans, or 32 percent of all voters without ID. Blacks account for 1.2 million active registered voters in the state, or 21.5 percent. Seniors over age 65, who make up 1.1 million active registered voters, account for 148,988 without ID, or 13.4 percent.

"We have a \$2.4 billion deficit, we're laying off teachers and counselors, raising tuition at public colleges and universities and yet the Republican Party would spend millions of dollars to require people to get voter IDs to solve a problem that doesn't exist," said N.C. Sen. Malcolm Graham, a Charlotte Democrat. "You have a better



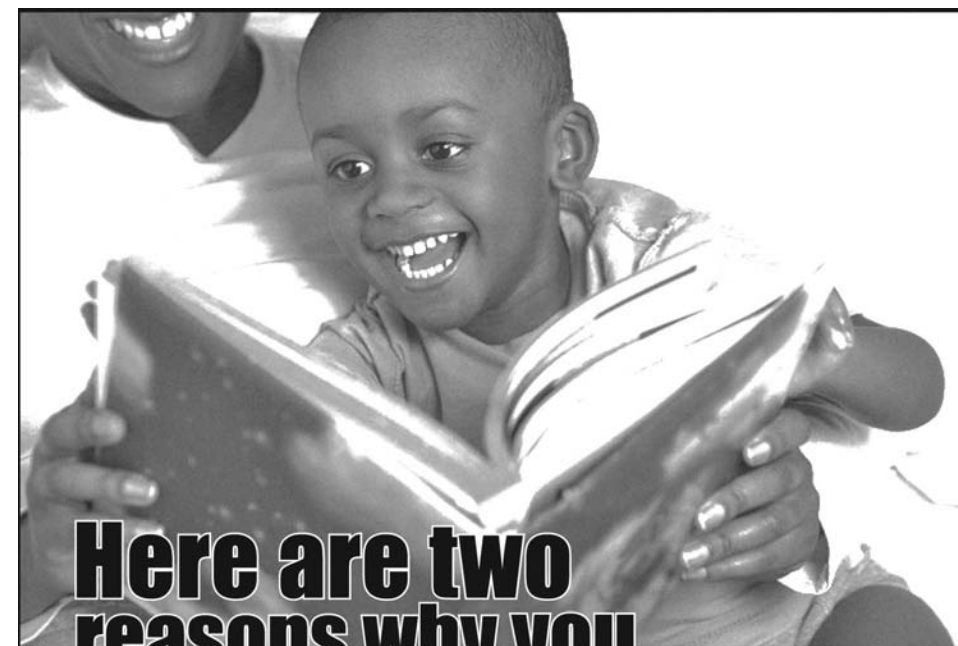
Johnson C. Smith student Chris Kohn (right) shakes hands with N.C. Sen. Malcolm Graham.

chance of getting hit by lightning in North Carolina than someone committing voter fraud."

Voter fraud is a felony in North Carolina, and the state Board of Elections reported the referral of 43 cases of potential fraud to district attorneys in 2008 and 21 in 2010, according to its data. The data does not include more than 230 cases since 2008 involving allegations of convicted felons serving active prison time or probation who sought to vote. The elections board doesn't track convictions.

Students across the state have formed networks to protest the bills, Hilton said. Queens University, N.C. A&T, State University, in Greensboro, and Fayetteville State University have launched initiatives to call attention to the legislation.

The bills, Democrats allege, are an attempt by Republicans to solidify their grip on N.C. politics after wresting control of both chambers from Democrats. Eliminating voters who historically vote Democratic would go a long way to accomplishing that goal, Graham said.



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School apologizes for mock slave auction

(TEWire) - A Black Ohio elementary school student claims he was humiliated when his class held a mock slave auction as part of a history lesson. The school has since apologized.

According to Columbus, Ohio CBS affiliate WBNS, 10-year-old Nikko Burton was given the role of a slave in a mock auction in his class at Chapelfield Elementary School, in Gahanna, Ohio. "I ended up being a slave," Burton told the TV station. "At first I didn't care, but after people were bidding on people it kind of made me a little mad and stuff."

"The lesson regarding the institution of slavery was 10 to 12 minutes long with mainly discussion followed by a very brief role-play exercise," the statement on the website said. "During the role play students were assigned to roles of 'slave' or 'master' based on randomly drawn slips of paper out of a jar."

Burton said the students who were assigned to be slave masters, had to assess those who were playing slaves, to see if they were worth buying.

"The masters got to touch people and do all sorts of stuff," Burton said. "They got to look in your mouth and feel your legs...and see if you're strong and stuff."

After the incident, Burton told his mother, Aneka Burton, that he was humiliated. She later complained to the school.

"He felt degraded, he was hurt and the kids picked on him later," Aneka Burton said. "I feel like that was totally inappropriate; it was racist and it was degrading."

A statement on the school's website claimed that the lesson wasn't intended to hurt its students, but rather as a tool to help them understand the point in American history.

"The intent of the lesson was to provide students with multiple tools to learn about slavery in American history," the statement stated. "It was intended to provide students with empathy, compassion and understanding and was never intended to offend or upset anyone. Regardless of the intent, the effect was that some were offended and hurt by the lesson plan, and for that the school district is deeply sorry."

Blues piano player Pinetop Perkins dies from cardiac arrest

Muddy Waters was looking for a new piano player when chain-smoking journeyman Pinetop Perkins showed off his aggressive keyboarding during a jam session.

"He liked what he heard. The rest is history," said Willie "Big Eyes" Smith, who was a drummer in Waters' band back in 1969.

By then, Perkins, an old school bluesman with the gravelly voice, for years had played the bars among the cotton fields of the Mississippi Delta, and toured far beyond them with rock pioneer Ike Turner in the 1950s. He performed with the likes of Sonny Boy Williamson and slide guitarist Robert Nighthawk.

When he and Waters hooked up, Pinetop was in his 50s and had never recorded an album of his own but "had more energy than us younger folks did," Smith said.

That verve kept him jamming in the clubs and collecting Grammy Awards until shortly before his recent death from cardiac arrest. He was 97.

Perkins' skills came not from any sort of formal training but from an innate ability and love for a musical form that arose from the South's plantation system.

Bob Corritore, a harmonica player who performed occasionally with Perkins and produced some of his work, said, "Pinetop could find the cracks and fill them in and be the glue and mortar of the whole band."



Pinetop Perkins

Fellow great bluesman B.B. King was saddened by the loss of his friend.

"He was one of the last great Mississippi Bluesmen. He had such a distinctive voice, and he sure could play the piano. He will be missed not only by me, but by lovers of music all over the world," King said.

Perkins won a Grammy in February for best traditional blues album for "Joined at the Hip: Pinetop Perkins & Willie 'Big Eyes' Smith." That win made Perkins the oldest Grammy winner, edging out late

comedian George Burns, who was 95 when he won in the spoken category for "Gracie: A Love Story" in 1990.

Perkins also won a 2007 Grammy for best traditional blues album for his collaboration on the "Last of the Great Mississippi Delta Bluesmen: Live in Dallas." He received a lifetime achievement Grammy in 2005.

Even at his advanced age, Perkins was a fixture at Austin clubs, playing regular gigs up to last month. He had more than 20 performances booked this year, said Perkins' agent Hugh Southard. And after

they won the Grammy this year, Smith and Perkins discussed recording another CD.

Perkins, whose real first name was Willie, was born in 1913 in Belzoni, Miss. He gave himself the nickname "Pinetop" because he liked the music of an earlier performer named Pinetop Smith, Corritore said.

And piano wasn't his first choice of instrument. He started out on the guitar.

"But due to a misunderstanding with a woman he was stabbed in the arm and had tendon damage so he switched to piano," said Corritore said.

Perkins accompanied Williamson on the popular King Biscuit Time radio show broadcast on KFFA in Helena, Ark., in the 1940s, but was known mostly as a sideman until he started recording his own style decades later.

"Boogie Woogie King" was Perkins' first solo album in 1976. Beginning in 1992 with "Pinetop's Boogie Woogie," he released a string of 15 albums in as many years.

"There were times I got to spend full weeks with him working on projects. Through all of it, he was just strong and steady," Corritore said.

Perkins lived his life in the tradition of many bluesmen, rambling from place to place, watching most of his contemporaries pass on. He moved to Austin in 2004 to live with an associate since he had no family.

Snoop Dogg, Warren G and others bid final farewell to Nate Dogg

Rappers Snoop Dogg, Warren G and The Game joined family, friends and about 1,000 fans of Nate Dogg to remember the hip-hop singer, who died this month of complications from multiple strokes.

The family of Nate Dogg — whose real name was Nathaniel Dwayne Hale — decided that the ceremony at the Queen Mary Dome would not be open to the public as they previously wanted, but they made 1,000 tickets and shuttles available to fans.

The dome in Hale's hometown of Long Beach is adjacent to the historic ship the Queen Mary and was the former home of Howard Hughes' airplane folly, the Spruce Goose.

Organizers had sought a more central location for the funeral, but none proved large enough for the numbers of expected mourners. A private dinner was planned after the service.



Snoop Dogg (r.) and his wife Shante Broadus arrive at the memorial service for rapper Nate Dogg

Hale started out singing in church choirs, then formed a group with Snoop Dogg and Warren G while the trio was in high school in Long Beach.

His almost monotone vocal stylings anchored some of rap's most seminal songs and helped define the sound of West Coast hip-hop on tracks usually



Nate Dogg

produced by Dr. Dre and performed by rappers like Snoop Dogg, Tha Dogg Pound and Warren G. He remained sought after as a singer more than a decade after his original success, supplying vocals to more recent tracks by 50 Cent and Ludacris.

Late in life, he was plagued by legal and health problems, including at least two strokes in 2008.

Search begins for actor to portray Tupac in anticipated biopic

Morgan Creek Productions and Skee.TV are holding an online casting call for the highly anticipated motion picture "Tupac" based on the life of Tupac Shakur.

The casting call allows individuals who exemplify Tupac to upload their video audition to www.insearchoftupac.com.

Fans and entrants are encouraged to check the website often for announcements and additional opportunities during the course of the month-long audition scheduled to end on April 18.

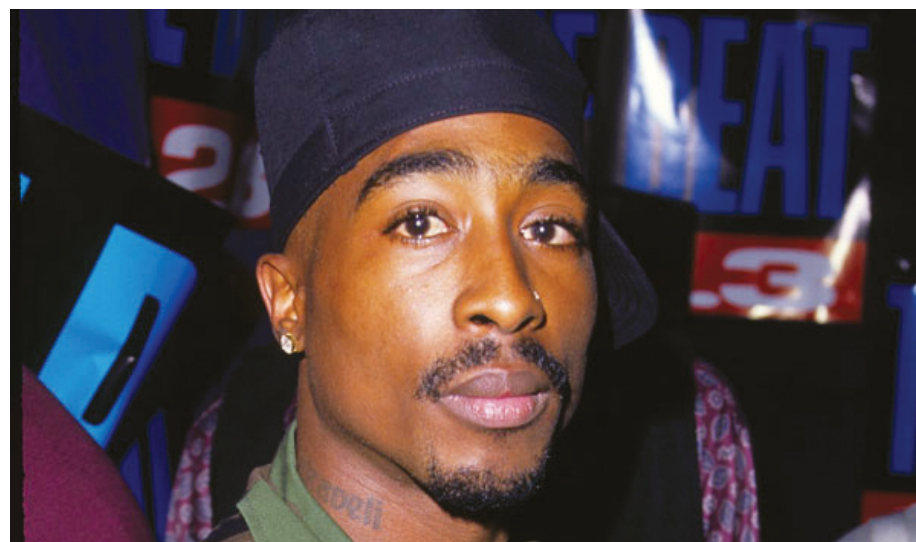
"We are excited to partner with Morgan Creek on this innovative casting call," said

Scott "DJ Skee" Keeney, founder of Skee.TV.

"This audition process is a great example of utilizing today's ever-evolving technology to reach fans and actors around the world to pay homage to a hip-hop legend."

Speaking on requirements for the lead role in the biopic, Producer David Robinson said, "We're looking for someone with the right mix of raw charm and charisma for the role. At this point, we're more concerned about finding someone with the ability to give their entire heart into the performance than just looks and personality."

"Tupac" chronicles the life and legacy of



Tupac Shakur

AOL and Queen Latifah enter partnership

NNPA - AOL and Queen Latifah recently announced a content partnership that Queen Latifah will executive produce and also star in a variety of original video web series to be featured across AOL's network of sites. AOL's Blackvoices.com, a leading website for African Americans, will showcase the series in a specially created hub designed to enhance the site's current video offerings that are increasingly popular with its audience.

In addition, Queen Latifah's production company, Flavor Unit Entertainment, will serve as the main producer of the original web series. The short form, talk show format web series will cover topics ranging from entertainment and sports, to social issues and entrepreneurialism. Viewers will have the ability to influence potential future series that are produced.

"With Queen Latifah's proven track record to create content that resonates with a broad audience, AOL is excited to partner with such a dynamic personality and bring her unique perspective to the digital space," said Tim Armstrong, Chairman and CEO of AOL.

"Our production company, Flavor Unit is always in search for a perfect partner when we create original content and with this new web series, AOL is certainly it," said Queen Latifah. "It's very exciting to collaborate with them as they are leaders and will help bring our show to the masses."



Queen Latifah

The announcement follows a number of recent acquisitions and partnership deals from AOL including the agreement to acquire The Huffington Post, the acquisitions of the TechCrunch network of sites, the social software start up Think Labs, Inc., and 5min Media, the web's largest video content syndication platform.

In the second half of 2010 alone, AOL closed deals with more than 20 premium content partners and digital studios to deliver a mix of high quality programming to AOL's audiences.

Aretha Franklin celebrates 69th birthday

After battling back from health problems, the Queen of Soul celebrated her 69th birthday in a big way in New York City.

Aretha Franklin had a birthday bash at a luxury hotel with performances and special guests. According to her publicist, Franklin even went to the theater before her party to catch "Driving Miss Daisy" on Broadway.

The music legend underwent surgery late last year in her native Detroit for an undisclosed ailment. Since then, she's lost more than 80 pounds. Franklin has said the weight loss was because of a change in diet and exercise.

She's due to return to the stage in May, and also has a new album on the way.

Shakur including his rise to superstardom as a hip hop artist and actor, his imprisonment and controversial time at Death Row Records where he was steeped in the East Coast /West Coast rap war. He died in 1996, the victim of one or more gunmen.

"Tupac" will be directed by Antoine Fuqua whose has directed such films as "Training

Day," "Tears of the Sun," and "Brooklyn's Finest".

The film will be produced by James G. Robinson, David Robinson and LT Hutton, and executive produced by Tupac's mother, Afeni Shakur. The screenplay was written by Stephen J. Rivele, Christopher Wilkinson and Steve Bagatourian.

Ask Gwendolyn Baines

My husband is a sports addict!

Dear Gwendolyn:

I have been married for two years. When dating, my husband and I were always going on trips, movies, and the finest of restaurants. How can I get him to do these things again? I gave a Super Bowl party and told him to invite some of his friends. He invited ladies from his job who came wearing tight jeans, short skirts, and see-through blouses. We had a big argument because only one male came. I had wanted my marriage to be exciting but it is turning out to be everything except joy.

Gwendolyn, he is such a changed man. Sometimes I wish I had stayed single. Not a bad life...you know?

Ruby

Dear Ruby

It is said that the man you date is not the man you marry. I am sure that saying does not apply to all married men. There are many men who keep the excitement going. You must admit, however, there are some women who wear the hat of



not being exciting. In fact, women are known to turn their attention away from their marriage. Good you are not in that category. With you, your marriage is a dream world and there is nothing wrong with that. I suggest you have a talk with your husband. I'm sure you have talked with him many times before. But, have that talk again. I also suggest that you do not start a family. I say this because your marriage may not survive.

If you have to return to single life, at least you know that being single is not a bad life. More women need to realize that. It's sad that women dream of getting married and then dream --- of getting out.

Health care reform is still the law

NNPA - Ca. Attorney General Kamala D. Harris filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit strongly asserting the legality of federal health care reform and urging the court to uphold the law.

"The law strikes an appropriate--and constitutional--balance between national requirements that will expand access to affordable healthcare while providing States with flexibility to design programs that achieve that goal for their citizens," the amicus brief states.

In December, a federal judge in Virginia ruled that the law's requirement that individuals maintain health insurance or pay a fine is unconstitutional.

Attorney General Harris, joined by eight other attorneys general, rejected that view in a brief filed in Richmond, Virginia. They argued in the amicus brief that the Constitution gives Congress broad powers to regulate interstate commerce.



Ca. Attorney General Kamala D. Harris

The failure of millions of Americans to purchase health insurance has a significant impact on the states. In 2008, the cost of uncompensated care was \$43 billion nationally. In California, the annual cost of covering the health care expenses of

the uninsured is \$455 per individual and \$1,186 per family.

The new law's minimum coverage provision will reduce the need to shift the cost of uncompensated care of the uninsured--and will thus reduce the expenses absorbed by the states and by individuals with health insurance.

Further, the brief states that the Affordable Care Act does not "commandeer the states to implement a federal program" but rather provides them with important tools to cooperate in order to provide their citizens with access to affordable and reliable health care.

Other states joining California in this brief are Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Maryland, New York, Oregon, and Vermont.

In January, the same group of attorneys general filed an amicus brief in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit regarding the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act.

To buttress the attorney generals' effort in supporting the President's Health Care

Reform Act, Dr. James A. Mays, a primary care physician, who has been operating a clinic in South Los Angeles for decades, has written a letter to President Obama in which he stated, in part, "... I have three (3) offices serving diverse groups of people. I would like to congratulate you on the passing of the Health Reform Bill. It is much needed.... The reason for the letter is to emphasize there will be a greater need for physician, office and clinic staff. There will be a great demand for more nurses of all types, technicians, medical assistants and receptionists...."

This demand for medical care employees presents the ideal situation to institute a solid foundation of permanent employment in this respected profession and at the same time, provide positive direction for our young population..."

As someone who is on the frontline in providing health care service, Mays is uniquely qualified to highlight the positive, long-term effects of the president's Health Care Reform Bill.

Free health fair addresses health concerns by the numbers

By Michael Robinson

NNPA - According to About.com Men's Health, Black men suffer far worse health than any other racial group in America.

At least 44 percent of Black men are considered overweight; Black men suffer more preventable oral diseases that are treatable; and Black men have a higher incidence of diabetes and prostate cancer.

These, and many other reasons, are why one church took on the challenge of creating a free health fair totally dedicated to men, particularly Black men, "Know Your Numbers: A Men's Health Initiative," on Enon's main campus. The event's theme "Know Your Numbers" refers to the importance of men knowing their blood sugar/cholesterol levels, prostate PSA, height, weight, blood pressure and other health factors.

"Black men tend to not take care of themselves. We wanted to create a content, for free, that would provide men with health care information and services that they need," said Dr. Alyn Waller, Senior Pastor, Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church.

"The church is in the best position to address health, education, and economic development. When we do this, we become more relevant, the church needs to be more relevant," Waller said. Enon is one of the largest African American church congregations in Pennsylvania. Waller, a Black man in his mid-40s, is determined to improve the image of the church community by initiating such impactful

and life changing ministry outreach services, such as the health fair.

May distributed free FDI Pharmacy Discount cards that reduce the cost of expensive prescription drugs. More than \$300 Billion was spent on prescription drugs last year, FDI's Pharmacy discount program saved Americans more than \$70,000,000 in real money in 2010.

Within the massive sanctuary of Enon, throngs of Black men were lined up waiting at various check points for prostate exams, chats with health care vendors, listening attentively to guest lecturers, eating healthy meals at food stations or waiting their turn for therapeutic massages performed by students of Cortiva Institute's School of Massage Therapy, just one of many vendors in attendance.

"The city of Philadelphia was ranked as one of the lowest in national health, especially for men of color," claims Gilda Smith, 43, Certified Massage Therapist, owner of My Exhale Spa and a member of Enon.

"Women seem to be more diligent and conscious about their health," Smith said. She believes personal health may be less of a priority for men, but her main message to men is, "Take care of yourselves, so you can be in position to take care of others."

Looking at the diversity of medical doctors and specialized health care professionals on hand, Enon had enough medical staff in attendance to staff a full service medical center.

The Enon congregation is undergoing



Santhosh Abraham checks the blood pressure of Oliver Burke at the Men's Health Fair which was held at Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church in Philadelphia, P.A. Photo/ROBERT MENDELSON

their sixth year of a 40-day "Daniel Fast", a plant based diet. When asked what foods the "Daniel Fast" entailed, it was found that if it has a mother, it's off the menu. The fast has reduced weight, fostered better health, and greater dependence on God for congregants.

Dr. Jody Borgman, 48, director of the HIV Clinic at Einstein, said that men's machismo attitude and pride prevents them from getting medical check-ups. According to Borgman, sexually transmitted disease is rising among men, particularly African-American males.

"Syphilis, chlamydia, and HIV are the most common diseases affecting African American males," she said. "Surprisingly,

senior citizens are experiencing higher rates of sexually transmitted disease because of unprotected sex that they are having. Also, hepatitis is a sexually transmitted disease that kills more people than AIDS/HIV."

Dr. Steven Sivak, Chairman of Internal Medicine at Albert Einstein Medical Center conveyed that Einstein prides itself in serving the community, bringing health care to the community.

When asked what he would like the men to take away from the event he said to know that 'it wasn't as bad as I thought,' and feeling good for taking responsibility about their health.

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Arts Education Funding

The Virginia Commission for the Arts will accept until April 1, 5 p.m., applications for its 2011-2012 Local Government Challenge Grants, Artist in Residency Grants, and the 2012-2013 Performing Artist Tour Directory.

All applications must be received by deadline to be considered. Late or incomplete applications will not receive any consideration. The grants, respectively, are intended to encourage local governments to support the arts, provide elementary and secondary students and teachers to work with professional artist, and support Virginia's performing artists as well as increase opportunities to experience arts.

For more information, visit www.arts.virginia.gov.

HU High School Day

All high school students are invited to be part of the Hampton University experience for a day. HU is hosting its 33rd annual High School Day April 1 on the university campus. The event gives a preview of what HU offers academically and culturally, by having representatives from various areas on-hand to answer questions and provide prospective students with information. It is the university's largest recruiting event and hosts thousands each year.

This year's event theme is "Get Connected with Hampton University @ High School Day." High School Day offers a well-rounded glimpse of the university that students and parents will appreciate.

On campus activities that day include an outdoor soundstage and vendor bazaar, performances by the HU Terpsichorean Dance Troupe and the Hampton University Choirs. There's also an academic fair where prospective students can speak to faculty and staff from various academic departments.

For more information or to register online for High School Day, visit www.hamptonu.edu/highschoolday or call the HU Office of Admission at 757-727-5329. Registration materials, including a schedule for the day, a map of the campus, and departmental phone numbers and locations, will be mailed. Attendees can also register on-site event day, starting at 7:30 a.m. in the HU Convocation Center.

Unity Awards Nominations

The Hampton Citizens' Unity Commission is accepting applications for its 2011 Unity Awards Program through Friday, April 7. This program recognizes individuals, initiatives, organizations and businesses that have had a positive impact on racial and cultural diversity in Hampton.

Nominations are judged on whether they achieve one or more of the following:

- Demonstrated behavior and commitment to fostering healthy race & cultural relations;
- Advanced awareness of diversity issues;
- Fostered dialogue among diverse cultural groups or diversity efforts;
- Worked to dispel myths and misperceptions about diversity issues; and
- Demonstrated a commitment to cultural diversity through community involvement

Applications are at www.hampton.gov/unity. Awardees will be recognized at a reception to be held on Thursday, May 12 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at The American Theatre, 125 East Mellen St., Hampton.

Project Inclusion Forum

The Project Inclusion Leadership Development Program will host the 2011 Hampton Roads Citizens Board Governance Forum, Thursday, April 7, 6 p.m. at Norview Middle School, 6325 Sewells Point Road, Norfolk.

Attendees can network and hear from a panel of government officials as they discuss the basics of applying and participating on local boards. Jennifer Aulgur, director of appointments in the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Virginia, will serve as the keynote speaker.

This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served following the program. To RSVP, visit <http://inclusion15.eventbrite.com/>.

For more information, contact inclusion15@gmail.com or 757-853-8500.

Project Inclusion Leadership is a 12-week leadership development program sponsored by the United Way of South Hampton Roads. One of three programs nationally recognized by United Way of America as a "Best Practice For Diversity Program," the program is designed to recruit, educate, develop and retain leaders for inclusion as effective directors on the boards of local non-profit agencies.

The Virginia Commission for the Arts will accept until April 1, 5 p.m., applications for its 2011-2012 Local Government Challenge Grants, Artist in Residency Grants, and the 2012-2013 Performing Artist Tour Directory.

Young Dems

When Virginia Young Democrats gather for their annual convention April 8 – 10 in Williamsburg, Rep. Bobby Scott will join them. Scott, a long-time supporter of young Democrats, will address the group at their banquet the evening of April 9.

Every spring, Virginia Young Democrats gather to conduct club business, elect new officers and celebrate members' achievements. The Virginia Young Democrats is a statewide organization for Democrats under the age of 36. With 51 chapters and 10,000 members, the Virginia Young Democrats are the premiere volunteer organization for Democrats in the commonwealth. Visit vayd.org to learn more about the organization and to contribute to thousands of young Virginians seeking to make Virginia a more equitable place.

Richard Hunt Dedication

"Build a Dream" by Richard Hunt Dedication Ceremony

Thursday, April 7, 1 p.m.

Across from The First Baptist Church East End

3000 Jefferson Ave., Newport News

In partnership with The Newport News Public Art Foundation and the city of Newport News, internationally renowned sculptor Richard Hunt unveils a monumental sculpture Build a Dream. To Hunt, build a dream represents the communal dream and aspirations of the people of Newport News.

The sculpture, when assembled, will be 14 feet wide by 14 feet deep, 22 feet high and weighs 5,000 pounds. It will arrive in Newport News from Chicago as four separate sections that will be welded together on site. Delivery time frame is the first week of April.

Exhibition "Richard Hunt: Sculpture and Works on Paper" at Peninsula Fine Arts Center April 9 through July 10

A Chicago native, Richard Hunt has developed an international reputation for his sculpture and was the first African-American sculptor to have a major solo exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in 1971. Recognized by a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Sculpture Center in 2009, Hunt's work has changed the landscape of cities throughout the country and around the world.

This dynamic exhibition will include four large (over six feet tall) sculptures, three medium (4-6 feet tall) sculptures, eight 1.5-4 feet tall sculptures, one 20 square-foot ground-hugging sculpture, a wax model of "Build a Dream," along with 25 original

works on paper (prints and drawings), and five photo murals. Hunt's sculptures are bronze and stainless steel. This exhibition is presented in partnership with the Newport News Public Art foundation and sponsored by Northrop Grumman, with additional support from WHRO.

Peninsula Fine Arts Center is located at 101 Museum Dr., within Mariners' Museum Park, Newport News. For more information call 757-596-8175 or visit www.pfac-va.org.

Admin. Professionals Lunch

The Catering Company at Point Plaza Suites joins with the Peninsula Chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals hosting a luncheon on April 27, from 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. in celebration of Administrative Professionals Day. The doors will open at 11:30 a.m. The luncheon will have many fabulous door prizes along with entertainment and will also feature a delicious menu created by The Catering Company. The nominal cost per person is inclusive.

For registration, contact Erin Prescott at 757-599-4460 ext 304.

The theme for this year's celebration is "Find Your Passion to Create Your Purpose." All administrative professionals are invited to attend.

The Administrative Professionals Week has been observed annually since 1953.

Burning Bush Donations

Wondering where the next meal is coming from is something most people never have to worry about. However, for many in the Tidewater community, it is a constant concern but Burning Bush Worship Center Food Share Ministry, is helping thousands of hungry children and adults. The "Small Church with a Mega Ministry." needs help to continue helping others. You can do this by:

1. Donating money

a. Online donations: through Pay Pal available at www.burningbushwc.com

b. Mail a donation: Burning Bush Worship Center, 405 Pendleton St, Norfolk, VA 23523

2. Donate time: We are in need of volunteers to donate time and talent

3. Donate space: For storage space

Burning Bush Worship is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization where all donations are tax deductible. For more information contact, Tina Bracy at 757-495-9768 or 757-515-9950.

Guinness refuses to verify 119-year old as world's oldest person

This 'great-great-great-great grandmother' claims to have lived through three centuries and her family believes she could be the oldest person in the world.

But Rebecca Lanier, 119, whose secret to long life is to "keep on living", will not be recognized by Guinness World Records because she has no birth certificate.

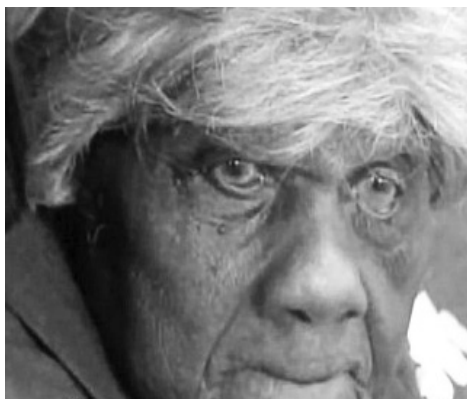
Lanier, of Warrensville Heights, Ohio, who was born in March 1892, has seventh-generation grandchildren and outlived her husband and their two daughters.

She was born in a small Mississippi community to parents who had been slaves, at a time when many laws were prejudiced against Black people in the South.

Because Lanier is Black she was born with no birth certificate in the 1890s, which was normal in the South even though slavery had ended almost 30 years earlier.

This has caused problems as the Guinness Book of World Records needs that certificate to verify her age, which would make her the oldest living person in the world.

"It's quite a rigorous process that you go through because the birth certificate is a



Rebecca Lanier, 119, of Ohio, whose tries to "keep on living", will not be recognized by Guinness World Records because she has no birth certificate.

crucial matter," a Guinness World Records spokesman said.

Lanier does however have a letter from the Social Security Administration that states the year of her birth as 1892, her grandson, Jimmie Shambley, 61, said.

A Social Security spokesman said however, they do not give verification of age and the burden of evidence is on claimants, who must provide official documents.



Besse Cooper, 114, of Georgia, was verified as the world's oldest living person by Guinness World Records.

These can include birth certificates, citizenship certificates or permanent residence cards, with individuals receiving benefits getting an annual letter with their details on.

She spends her time doing the Chinese martial art tai chi every day and does not need to take any medication for illnesses or ailments.

Lanier, who now lives with Shambley

and his family, says she is "doing alright" and had her 119th birthday this month.

"She still is in her right mind and has great health," Shambley said. "She makes her bed up every morning as she gets herself dressed."

Lanier uses a 'walker' to balance herself as she moves, but often travels with the family to various events around the country.

Lanier had two daughters and has 15 great-great grand kids, 18 great-great-great grand kids and has two great-great-great-great grand kids.

During her life Lanier has witnessed more than 20 presidents and lived through major events such as two world wars, the birth of flying and the right for women to vote.

The claims come after Georgia great-great grandmother Besse Cooper was visited by Guinness World Records this month to certify her as the world's oldest living person.

Surrounded by family, 114-year-old Cooper accepted a plaque during a small ceremony at a Monroe nursing home.

Illinois becomes the 16th State to abolishes the death penalty

NNPA - The movement to abolish the death penalty recorded a significant advance when Illinois Governor Pat Quinn signed legislation abolishing capital punishment. The action, which comes a decade after then-Governor George Ryan imposed a blanket moratorium on executions there, makes Illinois the 16th state to ban capital punishment.

"If the system can't be guaranteed, 100-percent error-free, then we shouldn't have the system. It cannot stand," a somber Quinn said as he signed the bill of abolition in the state capitol of Springfield.

Both houses of the Illinois state legislature had approved the abolition measure in January and sent it to him.

Behind their action stood more than a



Gov. Pat Quinn

possibility of parole. Quinn in his remarks repeatedly mentioned the fact that in the intervening years the number of inmates sentenced to death but subsequently found either innocent or improperly convicted had reached 20. In taking the action, he also commuted the death sentences of the 15 prisoners in the state who had been sentenced to die to life without the possibility of parole.

Nonetheless, he said, referring to his empathy for the victims of the capital crimes and their families, the decision was "the most difficult" he had had to make as Governor.

The Illinois attorney general and several county prosecutors and victims' families had appealed to Quinn to veto the legislation, and death-penalty proponents in the state legislature said they would craft a new capital punishment measure with safeguard sufficient to prevent the execution of the innocent.

In the last decade, several other states have eliminated the death penalty, but Richard Dieter, executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center, which advocates abolition of capital punishment, said Illinois' action is most significant "because it was a state that used [the death penalty], reconsidered it, and now rejected it."

decade of growing support for formally ending capital punishment in the state. That support had mushroomed after a series of investigations in the 1990s of 13 prisoners awaiting execution found that they were innocent or had been convicted improperly. At the time Illinois, which reinstated the death penalty in 1979, had executed a total of 12 prisoners.

Ryan imposed his moratorium in 2000 and three years later emptied the state's death row, commuting the sentences of 167 inmates to life in prison without the

Tuskegee Airman dies at 97 years old

NNPA - As a member of one of the most prestigious military units, the Tuskegee Airmen, Henry Dawson McCullough, of Point Breeze, was laid to rest last week after peacefully passing away at the age of 97.

McCullough was born on Oct. 13, 1913 in South Carolina and later relocated to Pittsburgh at a young age. He was educated in the Pittsburgh Public School system and then attended the University of Pittsburgh, where he earned a degree from their College of Business Administration in 1936.

After school he became employed with the YMCA as the Boys Work Secretary and then was appointed Assistant Regional Manager of the Bureau of Employment

Security.

But, it was McCullough's time in the United States Army that would make his legacy live on forever. He joined during World War II and was stationed at Tuskegee Air Base in Alabama, where he became a First Lieutenant and one of 26 Pittsburgh residents stationed there. He was one of the Tuskegee Airmen, the first African-American military aviators in the armed forces.

Along with being a Tuskegee Airmen, he was also a member of the Pittsburgh Kiwanis organization, the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh and a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Prior to this death, he was one of only two Tuskegee Airmen still alive.

President Obama as Hitler angers store patrons in Florida

By Nicolas Grizzle

A protest outside a Rohnert Park supermarket drew police involvement last week thanks to a controversial sign featuring President Barack Obama with a Hitler-style moustache.

“Obama has done so much for us,” said Rita Stedman, a German woman who was upset by the sight of the poster. “This is a nice town, Rohnert Park, why here?” Activists for the LaRouche Political Action Committee set up tables and signs outside Raley’s and refused to budge, despite multiple requests to vacate by the market’s staff and shoppers. Police were on scene, but told Store Director Brian King they had a legal right to be there.

The shopping center is owned by Codding Enterprises, and King said police were



Nicole James, left, and Myhoa Steger drew the ire of several Raley’s customers in Rohnert Park with their image of President Obama with a Hitler mustache.

Photo by Nicolas Grizzle

looking into the legality of the gathering.

“This is killing our business right now,” said another employee. The protestors were not involved with, or cleared by Raley’s management. “It’s not Raley’s at all,” the employee said.

The reason for the attention-grabbing poster is Obama’s health care bill, said Nicole James, who was one of the two women gathering signatures for the LaRouche Political Action Committee. “Hitler’s health care bill... is an exact replica of Obama’s health care bill,” she said.

James, 28, is an African American woman from Los Angeles. Her partner, Myhoa Steger, is 34 and has worked full time gathering signatures for the committee for the past eight years.

Steger said she was surprised at the opposition to the images, saying the response was not as negative in other cities she had been. “This is a really strange town, it’s messed up.”

James said about 15 people had signed up to receive more information in the four hours they were in front of the store.

Shopper Mary Jane Guerra was offended by the image on the poster. She said the two women started singing the National Anthem when she asked them to leave. “This is just not right,” she said.

“Some people have an emotional response instead of thinking things through,” said James.

Special to the NNPA from The Community Voice

An alert for summer vacationers: You cannot hide from the cameras

By James Harper

The Rev. Victor Gooden and his wife were involved in an accident in April 1991 on the corner of Orange Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in Daytona Beach.

Both he and his wife were injured by someone who ran a red light at that intersection. At the time, there were no cameras and no way to identify who was driving the car.

Gooden, who is an advocate for cameras at intersections to catch red light runners, related this story to Daytona Beach commissioners at a meeting last October when they decided to approve installing cameras at selected intersections throughout the city.

The pastor said he is in support of the program because he believes that behavior can be controlled. “Behavior is controlled by guidelines and rules; the commission sets the rules to make it safer,” he said.

The camera captures a picture of a car’s license plate while it’s running a red light. A fine is then mailed to the owner of the car.

The owner of a car caught driving through a red light where the cameras are installed will receive a \$158 citation. The state gets \$83 of the money and the city collects \$75. Tickets will begin to be issued on April 4.

Daytona Beach city officials have received permission from the Florida Department of Transportation for five locations it requested to have red light cameras installed, according to the city’s public information officer.

The contractor recently began installing cameras at International Speedway Boulevard



and Clyde Morris. It takes about two weeks to install five cameras, which includes running cable and pouring concrete for the bases, said Susan Cerbone, spokesman for the city of Daytona Beach.

“There is a 30-day warning period before notice of violations is issued. The intersections were selected based on crash data,” she explained.

The first five intersections are: Nova Road and US 92, Nova Road and George Engram Boulevard, Nova Road and Mason Avenue, Ridgewood Avenue (US 1) and US 92; and Clyde Morris Boulevard and US 92.

Four of the five intersections are located in the majority Black section of the city.

Some critics have raised concerns about drivers who may be ticketed unfairly due to the sensitivity of the cameras.

“It’s about behavior modification. We are looking for people that are blowing the redlights. The objective is to reduce crashes,” Daytona Beach Police Chief

See “Cameras” on pg. 19

Campaign for Col. Young monument begins

The National Veterans Coalition recently launched a fundraising initiative to fund a bronze monument of famous Buffalo Soldier Col. Charles Young that will be erected in Washington, D.C.

When completed, the bronze statue will be the first in the nation to showcase a black military officer on a horse. An excellent equestrian, Col. Young was the highest ranking African American in all of the U.S. military at the time of his death in 1922; he was denied a promotion because of his race.

“We are pleased to have viable, bi-partisan legislation that will honor Col. Young with Brigadier General status,” said Charles Blatcher, III, chairman and chief executive of the national group. “Now we are focusing our energies on funding the cost of the project.”

One aspect of the million-dollar capital campaign is a Black History Poetry Poster series featuring tributes to American heroes Crispus Attacks, Frederick Douglass and Col. Charles Young. The set of four posters retails for \$55.

Corporate donors who meet financial criteria will receive a limited edition miniature bronze replica of the monument. All donations are tax deductible.

The Veteran’s Coalition has commissioned renowned sculptor Antonio Tobias Mendez to create the life-sized statue of Col. Young. Mendez is recognized for producing the bust of Thurgood Marshall at the BWI Airport named in his honor in Baltimore and the statue of Danny Thomas at St. Jude Hospital and Medical Center in Memphis, TN.

The group has agreed in principle to house the monument at the University of the District of Columbia. The Coalition is also proposing to establish a \$500,000 scholarship for disadvantaged students.

Bi-partisan support of Col. Young’s honorary promotion demonstrates his rightful place in American history, Blatcher said. “It’s time for us to redress a time period that wasn’t kind to minorities in the military.”

Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA) reintroduced the center piece of the Col. Young legislative package that grants him an honorary promotion to the rank of Brigadier General.

A strong supporter of the Coalition’s efforts, Congresswoman Jackie Speier (D-CA) is sponsoring a bill that seeks National Trail Status for the route traveled by Col. Young and the Buffalo Soldiers when they served as stewards of Sequoia National Park.

Congressman Geoff Davis (R-KY) has come aboard as co-sponsor of the legislation to give an honorary promotion to Col. Young. He also supports state efforts to designate Col. Young’s birthplace as a landmark.

Congressmen Wm. Lacy Clay (D-MO) and Steven Austria (R-Ohio) have jointly proposed a law that grants National Landmark status to Col. Young’s adult home in Xenia, OH, allowing the National Park Service to manage and preserve it.

This cooperative effort also includes support from the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and the NAACP. Both groups have previously honored Col. Young for his many achievements.

In 1912, the Omegas selected him as the second honorary member in the fraternity’s history. This year the storied, international brotherhood will celebrate its 100th anniversary. The NAACP presented Col. Young with the Spingarn Award in 1916 for his exceptional work in Liberia. The Civil Rights group annually awards the Spingarn Medal for outstanding achievement by a Black American.

Ugandan joins commission for rights

President Obama has tapped Julius Ecuru, a Ugandan environmental scientist, for an international research panel studying the use of human subjects in scientific studies.

The commission will address such controversial studies as one in Guatemala where mental patients, soldiers and prisoners were injected and otherwise contaminated with syphilis by American public health doctors to study the course of the disease. No effort was made to cure all the infected patients.

Many other studies took place between 1845 and 1990 including the well-known testing of 400 African American sharecroppers in 1932.

However, the 37-year old Ugandan may draw fire over his work in biotechnology and genetically modified (GM) organisms. Schools throughout the U.K., the U.S. and parts of Europe have banned GM foods as unsafe and not fully tested. Other countries which have banned



Julius Ecuru

GM crops include Zambia, Venezuela, Hungary, and India for some crops.

The international panel will deliver its recommendations and findings to President Obama before October this year.

Africans against U.S. bombing campaign

A growing chorus of African leaders are loudly voicing opposition to the U.S.-led bombing campaign against Libyan President Muammar Gaddafi, allegedly aimed at disabling his air force but also, as President Obama has said, “to tell Mr. Gaddafi he has to go.”

“We condemn the obvious double standards and hypocrisy of the West in ignoring the ravaging bloodshed and abuse of human rights in Yemen, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia,” said Dr. Koku Adomdza, President of the Council for Afrika International, a U.K.-based think tank.

“We urge proactive diplomatic and mediatory intervention and condemn foreign military intervention, since the latter will only escalate violence.”

In Nigeria’s capital city of Abuja, Foreign Affairs Minister Odein Ajumogobia expressed reservations at what he described as the ‘complexities and contradictions of international foreign policy’.

“The international community imposed a no-fly zone in Libya, seemingly to protect civilians, yet the same international community watches as women are killed in Cote d’Ivoire,” he said.

In South Africa, President Jacob Zuma called for an immediate cease-fire and said his government would not support any foreign effort to overthrow the government of Libyan leader Moammar Gaddafi, which has been battling an eastern-based insurgency for the past month.

“We say no to the killing of civilians, no to the regime-change doctrine and no to



Pro-Gaddafi Libyans protest bombing raids

the foreign occupation of Libya or any other sovereign state,” Zuma said.

Zuma is part of a special committee appointed by the African Union to mediate the Libya conflict. The Union has also criticized the multinational coalition attacks on Libyan anti-aircraft and communications installations in which several dozen civilians were reportedly killed.

Other leaders speaking out against the bombing strikes include Namibia’s President Hifikepunye Pohamba, the presidents of Zimbabwe and Uganda.

Dr. Jesse Jackson, during a visit to Trinity College Historical Society in Dublin, concurred with the African heads of state.

“Something had to happen to stop the genocidal march,” he said. “On the other hand, the U.N.’s resolution was about containment and cessation not about aggression. It was not a resolution to wipe out Gaddafi but a humanitarian mission to save the victims of genocide.”

Massive student-led protest in Burkina Faso

The death of a student in police custody has set off massive student protests and the government closing of all universities, dormitories, and student cafeterias in this west African nation.

Authorities used tear gas to disperse thousands of students marching Friday to protest the apparent murder of student Justin Zongo on Feb. 22. Red Cross officials said nearly 30 people were wounded at the rally.

Official reports stated meningitis as the cause of Zongo’s death. But, the students claim it was police brutality. “There was a police blunder in Koudougou. We are in free country so we have the right to demand justice. Impunity is rampant in this country and it is frustrating,” said student Ousmane Traoré.

“Burkina Faso’s government appears worried about the possibility of a protest movement gaining steam,” observed Alex Thurston, a blogger with the Christian Science Monitor. The country’s rulers may be hoping to snuff out the movement before its turns its anger towards autocratic President Blaise Compaore.

A graduate of President Gaddafi’s



Burkina Faso students at a sit-in

World Revolutionary Center, Compaore took power in a 1987 coup in which his predecessor, Thomas Sankara, was killed. He was voted President in disputed elections in 1991, 1998, 2005, and 2010.

The gold-rich nation has seen numerous general strikes over economic grievances and human rights violations.

Nigerians deploy Internet against poll fraud

With more than 29 million users of the internet across Nigeria, election officials and activists are turning to the Web to monitor the country’s upcoming national elections in early April.

Nobel laureate, Professor Wole Soyinka, and the chair of the national electoral commission observed the launch of reclaimnaija.net – a website based on the Ushahidi technology developed in Kenya to track activities at polling places nationwide.

Social media has also been called into action. ReVoDa, a new mobile application from the Enoughis Enough Nigeria coalition, allows citizens to report violence/fraud, police behavior, election staff conduct, etc, from their respective polling units – and from their mobile phones. “ReVoDa turns eligible voters into informal election observers, and allows monitoring organizations to draw conclusions about the legitimacy and accuracy of the elections,” according to the site <http://eienigeria.org>

Meanwhile, close to a million people were discovered to be double-registered in the just-ended voter registration period, according to the Independent National Electoral Commission. Those involved will be prosecuted, said INEC chair Attahiru Jega, including some “high profile Nigerians.”



Wole Soyinka, Nobel laureate

About 73.58 million people registered during the exercise that ended on Feb. 5.

Meanwhile, eyewitnesses report more than a dozen deaths and the burning of campaign vehicles in the state of Akwa Ibom stemming from an apparent grudge match between supporters of current president Goodluck Jonathan and candidate Akpan Udoedeghe of an opposition party.

The VOICE flashes back to: Odetta

Odetta Holmes, known simply as Odetta, was a singer, actress, guitarist, songwriter, and a human rights activist, often referred to as “The Voice of the Civil Rights Movement”.

Her musical repertoire consisted largely of folk music, blues, jazz, and spirituals. She was an important figure in the American folk music revival of the 1950s and 1960s was anointed “The Queen of American folk music” in 1961 by Martin Luther King, Jr.

She had operatic training from the age of 13. Her mother hoped she would follow Marian Anderson, but Odetta doubted a large Black girl would ever perform at the Metropolitan Opera.

Her first professional experience was in musical theater in 1944, as an ensemble member for four years with the Hollywood Turnabout Puppet Theatre. She later joined the national touring company of the musical Finian’s Rainbow in 1949.

She made her name by playing around the U.S. at the Blue Angel nightclub in New York City, and Tin Angel in San Francisco, where she and Larry Mohr recorded “Odetta and Larry” in 1954.

A blossoming solo career followed, with “Odetta Sings



(December 31, 1930 – December 2, 2008)

Ballads and Blues” in 1956.

Many Americans remember her performance at the 1963 Civil Rights Movement’s march to Washington where she sang “O Freedom.” She considered her involvement in the Civil Rights Movement as being “one of the privates

in a very big army.”

Broadening her musical scope, Odetta used band arrangements on several albums rather than playing alone, and released music of a more “jazz” style music on albums like “Odetta and the Blues” in 1962 and “Odetta” in 1967.

Thirty years later she re-focused her energies on recording and touring and her career took on a major resurgence. The new CD “To Ella” was released in 1998, followed by three new releases that included “Blues Everywhere I Go,” a 2000 Grammy Nominated blues/jazz band tribute album to the great lady blues singers of the 1920s and 1930s. She also released a live grammy-nominated gospel album in 2007.

In 1999, former President Bill Clinton presented Odetta with the National Endowment for the Arts’ National Medal of Arts. In 2004, Odetta was honored at the Kennedy Center with the “Visionary Award” along with a tribute performance by Tracy Chapman. In 2005, the Library of Congress honored her with its “Living Legend Award.”

In November 2008, Odetta’s health began to decline. She had hoped to perform at President Barack Obama’s inauguration but didn’t make it.

On December 2, 2008, Odetta died from heart disease in New York City.

Where you can find us

VOICE The Hampton Roads

**H
a
m
p
t
o
n**

Visions N Motions Salon
Changing Faces Barber Shop
Mystic Jamacia
Flames Clothing &
Accessories
Platinum Cuts
Denbigh Municipal Ct.
NN Prison Farm Business Office
Tomorrow’s Image
The Greyhound Bus Station
In & Out Convenience Store
S&B&M Barber Bridge Shoppes
Oyster Point Center
Peninsular Healthcare
Peninsular Fine Arts. Ctr.
Main St. Library
Dominion Phys. Therapy
Calvary Com. Church Ctr.
Social Service
48Th St. Physicans
Chic A Sea
NNRHA
Police Station Lock-up
The Warwick SRO
Newport News City Hall

West Ave Library
St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
Moton Community House
Adell’s House of Styles
Barber Shop
Freedom Outreach
Speedy Mart
Zion Baptist Church
Boys & Girls Club
Bottom Records
Carver Memorial Presbyterian
Reginas Restaurant
Al-Quba Islamic Center
Downing Cross Cultural Arts
Pearl Bailey Branch Library
Esquire News Conv. Store
Doris Miller Comm. Ctr.
C Waldo Scott Ctr.
East End Health Facility
New St. John’s Church
Franklin Fisher Funeral Home
Wesley Grove United Church
St. Paul AME Church
Chic A Sea
Civic Social Club
Trinity Baptist Church
Britts Florist

School of Beauty
Smith & Son Funeral
Royal Cleaners
East End Barbershop
2nd Baptist Church
Glor. Chu. of Jesus Christ of
Apos.
Gilmores Funeral Home
New Birth Church of
Deliverance
Gethsemane Baptist
Newsome House Museum
Clark Multipurpose Center
Union Baptist Church
Ivy Baptist
American Legion
Hampton Health Center
Greater Bethel Christian
Academy
The Messiah Center
Hampton Com. Corrections
Center
1st Baptist Church
Hampton Com. Service Center
Kentes Café Lounge
Old Hampton Com. Center
Advantage Care

Consolidated
E.J. Brown Unisex hair Salon
Palm Tree Resturant
BK’s Barbershop
Bethel AME Church
1st Baptist of Hampton
Queen Street Baptist Church
Little Zion Baptist Church
American Legion
Greyhound Bus Station
Hampton University
Exxon
Old Point National Bank
West End Baptist Church
Essence of Styles
Barber’s Ink
Tina Vick Real Estate
Ms. G’s Barber and Beauty Shop
White’s Grocery #2
Boy’s and Girls Club of Va
Willie’s Barber Shop
Antioch Baptist Church
Hampton City Hall
Shoney’s

Roads

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Cameras From Page 16

Chief Mike Chitwood told the commissioners.

Chitwood said the red light cameras also would help catch criminals. "If you do a drug deal or rob a bank, you are not stopping at that red light and sometimes we don't get any information other than it was a blue car. If the car goes through a red light, it gets the license plate number... it gives us a starting point that we may not have had to begin with," he said.

Special to the NNPA from the Daytona Times

Legendary Leader From Page 1

had mounted serious but unsuccessful challenges to Mississippi's White Democratic Party in 1964 and 1965.

In 1967, Cashin helped found the National Democratic Party of Alabama (NDPA) and was elected the first party chairman. The NDPA embraced the ideals of the "Black Power" movement and marked a shift in the methods of civil rights activists in Alabama. Instead of direct-action protests, such as marches and sit-ins, which targeted the elusive and intangible goal of "equality," the NDPA engaged in Black power politics. He led a delegation to the Democratic National Convention in 1968, challenging the representative nature of the regular Democratic Party delegation.

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CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS INVITATION FOR BIDS/REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

On behalf of the City of Newport News, Virginia, the Director of Purchasing, or her designated representative, will accept SEALED BIDS/PROPOSALS in the Purchasing Department, City Hall, Fourth Floor, 2400 Washington Avenue, Newport News, VA 23607, until the time specified below for the following:

RFP #2011-4843-1524 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (L.T.) RISK ASSESSMENT SERVICES
PROPOSAL DUE DATE: April 21, 2011 @ Close of Business

RFP #2011-5109-2005 GENERAL ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR GENERAL ARCHITECTURAL, ENGINEERING SERVICES TO INCLUDE ARCHITECTURAL, SPECIALTY AND GENERAL CIVIL SERVICES
PROPOSAL DUE DATE: April 21, 2011 @ Close of Business

Specifications and proposal forms may be down loaded from our website at www.nngov.com/purchasing. If you have difficulty opening the documents, please call (757) 926-8721, or fax 757-926-8493.

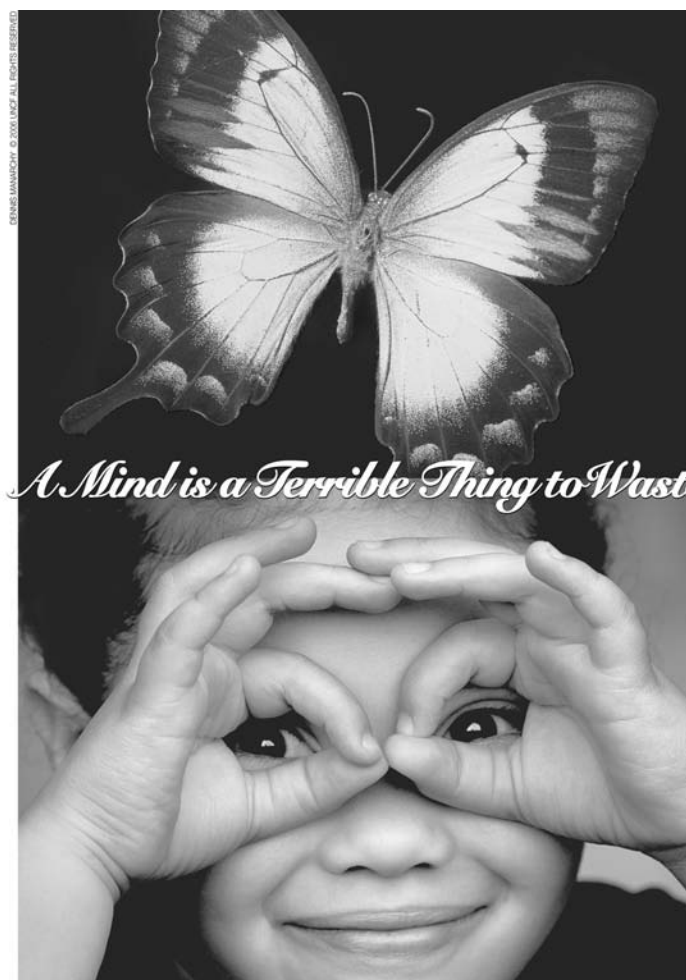
IFB #2011-4738-2021 ITS PORTABLE DYNAMIC MESSAGE SIGNS
BID DUE DATE: April 26, 2011 3:00 p.m.

Plans and technical specifications for said contract are available for free download from our website, www.nngove.com/purchasing. The Standard Specification are available for \$15.75, including tax, per copy non-refundable, from the Department of Engineering, City Hall Building, 8th floor, Newport News, Virginia 23607, telephone (757) 926-8611. If the Contractor submitting a bid does not have a set of the current Department of Engineering Standard Specifications, a set shall be purchased prior to submitting a bid at a cost of \$15.75, including tax per copy, non-refundable and shall be maintained on the job site at all times until completion of the project.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids/proposals, to award these contracts in whole or in part, and to waive any informality in the the IFB/RFP process.

Bidders/Offerors making errors may request withdrawal of their bid/proposal by giving written notice, including original work papers, within two (2) business days of the IFB/RFP due date.

Sheri L. Chapman, CPPB
Director of Purchasing



156-325 HAMPTON SOLICITATION



The Director of Finance or his designated representative will accept written responses in the Procurement Office 1 Franklin Street, Hampton, VA on behalf of the Entity(ies) listed below until the date(s) and local time(s) specified

CITY OF HAMPTON

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

2:00 PM – ITB 11-61/E (Rebid) Heavy Duty Truck Allison Transmissions Rebuild/Repair Services

Monday, April 18, 2011

2:00 PM – ITB 11-60/E (Rebid) Hampton Roads Convention Center Carpet Replacement, Mandatory Prebid Tuesday, April 5, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. Conf Rm D, HRCC, 1610 Coliseum Dr. Hampton, VA 23666

HAMPTON CITY SCHOOLS

Friday, April 15, 2011

3:00 PM – RFP 11-355434/D Financial Compliance Audit for Hampton City Schools.

Friday, April 22, 2011

3:00 PM – RFP 11-355459/D Software Solution for the Special Education Student Data. Non-Mandatory Conference at 10:00 a.m. April 15, 2011.

For additional information, see our web page at <http://www.hampton.gov/bids-contracts>.

A withdrawal of bid due to error shall be in accordance with Section 2.2-4330 of the Code of Virginia. All forms relating to these solicitations may be obtained from the above listed address or for further information call; (757) 727-2200. The right is reserved to reject any and all responses, to make awards in whole or in part, and to waive any informality in submittals. **Minority and Woman-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply.**

Karl Daughtrey,
Director of Finance

ENGINEERS – CONSULTING

(Structure and Bridge New
Design and Inspection Services)

The Virginia Department of Transportation is seeking expressions of interest from consultant engineering firms to provide professional engineering services on an as needed basis, for new design plans and inspection services for highway structures and bridges under a one year term contract. Such contract may be renewed for two additional one-year terms. This is a statewide multi-award contract. It is anticipated that three (3) contracts will be awarded. The sum of all projects in each contract shall not exceed \$5,000,000 per year.

A detailed scope of work may be found in the RFP. The Department believes that these services support 10% DBE participation. The RFP can be found at www.virginiadot.org/business/rfps.asp, File No. SB2011-06, mail to Kendal R. Walus, VDOT, 1401 E. Broad St. Richmond, VA 23219, or fax request to Jeffrey Li, at (804) 786-2988. TTY/TDD only calls: in Virginia, call 711; national wide, 1-800-828-1120 (FOR HEARING IMPAIRED ONLY).

Expressions of interest must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on April 15, 2011.

VDOT assumes compliance with Title VI requirements of nondiscrimination in all activities pursuant to this project.

100

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