

VOICE

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NN leaders are man enough to “Walk a mile in her shoes”

The Annual “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” was held this past weekend at the Peninsula Town Center in Hampton. The men’s march benefited the Center for Sexual Assault Survivors, a non-profit agency serving the Peninsula since 1996.

The Newport News Sheriff’s Office has always been a proud participant in the event, and deputies crossed city lines and walk again this year. They were in full uniform—footwear being the only exception.

“Sheriff Gabe Morgan has been our biggest supporter,” said Shawna Gray, executive director for the Center for Sexual Assault Survivors. “This is our fifth year doing this, and he has been onboard from the beginning. He has said that every year the heels are going to get higher.”

The Sheriff’s heels usually get higher as the pledges but this year was a little different.

The high price of gas and the overall recession played a huge part this year. A

total of \$5,536 was raised this year. A huge difference from last year, which raised \$11,000.

The money supports the rape crisis center. All their services are free, including a 24-hour crisis hotline and one-on-one counseling.

“This year I wore a pair of bright shiny red pumps. I figure red goes with more outfits than pink,” joked Sheriff Morgan.

The way to curb the behavior of sexual violence is through education and awareness. This event raises awareness -- and eyebrows. It is a light-hearted way to get people involved in a serious matter.

Seventy men from all walks of life marched this year.

Newport News Mayor McKinley Price was seen strutting in a black pair of pumps and airmen from Langley AFB had a team, as did the Peninsula Town Center Security Department. Cheerleaders from Hampton University were on-hand offering rousing voices of encouragement. Shop proprietors



Newport News Sheriff Gabe Morgan striding alongside Newport News Mayor McKinley Price

and their customers came out of the businesses along the route to cheer and applaud. [View more photos from the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event on page 3.](#)

Redistricting session opens as reformers appeal for change

Redistricting has always been a hot topic within the state of Virginia. Now, Virginians are calling attention to the issue once again.

The Virginia Redistricting Coalition rallied earlier this week to call attention to redistricting. Their motive: to make the process of drawing new legislative districts more open and fair. Rally participants were also protesting political lines proposed by both Republicans and Democrats.

Virginia is not only home to the Confederacy but also has a history with the Voting Rights Act. That’s why redistricting is such a huge issue within the state.

Redistricting plans must be approved by the Justice Department or a federal court to ensure voting strength among minorities aren’t being strategically weakened.

Virginia’s Constitution allows the legislature, by itself, to redraw both legislative and congressional districts to show population modifications after national censuses.

Politically, lawmakers have preserved one party’s



electoral advantage in order to alter counties and cities. In the past, even voting precincts have been torn apart from redistricting.

Recently, the Independent Bipartisan Advisory Commission on Redistricting was asked to offer

recommendations without taking into account political advantages or protecting incumbents.

According to data collected from last year’s U.S. Census population shifts have caused some districts to move to northern Virginia.

Rev. Doug Smith says urban and suburban interest will drive the General Assembly. Smith is a member of the independent advisory panel Gov. Bob McDonnell organized that is in charge of recommending impartial lines to redistricting.

The General Assembly is the place where the change can happen and members seem dedicated to protecting incumbents to maintain partisan power.

At press time Democrats, who hold the majority in the senate, are attempting to up their numbers in more districts and reduce Republican power in less districts. Republicans, who have the majority in the House, presented plans that some Democrats outside their districts or paired in the same district with party colleagues.

Legislation signed for military and vets to gain in-state tuition

The governor is continuing his efforts in making Virginia "America's Most Veteran-Friendly State."

Gov. Bob McDonnell was recently joined at Fort Lee by a host of military service and family members, veterans and elected officials to sign into law 25 bills aimed at assisting active-duty military members, veterans and their families.

The new laws are part of the governor's ongoing effort to make Virginia "America's Most Veteran-Friendly State" and were passed by the General Assembly during the 2011 session.

The measures are aimed at assisting veterans with balancing their service to the nation with their family and civilian commitments. The bills also make it easier for military families to transition into civilian life after concluding their military service.

The bills signed include laws to:

- Waive the one-year residency requirement for veterans needed to qualify for in-state tuition
- Clarify that a Virginia-domiciled military spouse does not forfeit domicile

status for in-state tuition due when he or she accompanies the active-duty service member stationed outside of Virginia

- Extend the expiration date of certain licenses or registrations held by the spouse of a service member when stationed overseas

- Allow the Department of Human Resource Management to offer voluntary TRICARE supplement health coverage for state employees who are veterans of the armed forces

- Provide to a veteran one copy of vital record free of charge if that record is to be used to determine the eligibility for state or federal veteran benefits

- Provide an exemption to the Certificate of Public Need (COPN) process to all current and future veterans care centers

Speaking about the legislation signed, McDonnell remarked that with legislation passage Virginia moves closer to becoming the country's most veteran-friendly state.

"The commonwealth is home to 327,000 active-duty military members and family members, the second-largest active-duty military population



in the nation," the governor points out. "In addition, over 823,000 veterans call Virginia home, the 7th greatest number in the country and by 2016 it is projected that Virginia will be home to the fourth-greatest amount of veterans nationally."

Military members and veterans are an integral part of the fabric of life in Virginia, McDonnell said, and "we must continue to work to better serve these brave Virginians who have kept our great nation safe and make it easier on them and their families to balance military and civilian life." McDonnell continued, "They have served us, and we must serve them. I am pleased that the General Assembly passed these important pieces of legislation with broad bipartisan support."

The courageous Virginians, McDonnell says, who volunteer "to keep us free and secure" should be recognized for the sacrifices they, and their families, make on a daily basis in that effort.

The governor is a United States Army veteran. He served 21 years active duty and reserve, retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1997. His late father was a lieutenant colonel in the United States Air Force.

The governor's oldest daughter, Jeanine, served in the United States Army, including a one-year tour of duty in Iraq. The governor's late father-in-law served in the United States Marines during World War II, surviving the battles of Saipan, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Senator Ralph Northam (D-Norfolk) says there must be a continued effort to work toward making Virginia the most veteran-friendly state in America.

"We must focus on streamlining services for our veterans. SB959 provides veterans a free copy of their vital records to be used

to determine eligibility for state or federal veteran's benefits. This will greatly speed up the review process, helping our veterans get their disability benefits sooner," Northam said.

Delegate Kirk Cox (R-Colonial Heights) adds that the passage of HB1761, veterans who are employed by the state will now be able to enroll in TRICARE supplement health coverage.

"State employees who elect to enroll in TRICARE will benefit from the convenience and savings of payroll deduction for TRICARE supplemental coverage on a pre-tax basis," Cox said. "This is advantageous to the state and to our veterans by providing better access to active duty and veterans services."

Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli added, "I am pleased with the progress that we have made on behalf of our veterans in the 2011 General Assembly. One of my main campaign platforms was improving the veteran-friendliness of the Office of the Attorney General, and 2011 has been a good legislative year for those who have served in the defense of our commonwealth and country. I look forward to working with the governor's office and the Virginia Department of Veterans Services to make 2012 even better."

In 2010, the governor and General Assembly advanced many efforts to make Virginia more veteran-friendly, including appointing a senior advisor for military community and dependent affairs, passing real estate tax relief for disabled veterans, continuing the Wall of Honor, waiving administration fees for permits and applications for qualified veteran small business start-ups, and providing college admission assistance and improvements for veterans.

PFAC offers clay camps

Peninsula Fine Arts Center's Spring 2011 Studio Art School offers Clay Camp, an afterschool ceramic course educating children ages 5-12 to express themselves through clay.

Children have the chance to experience techniques like hand-building and use of the potter's wheel. Clay Camp is offered in four sessions on Wednesdays from 4-5:30 pm: April 13-May 4, for ages nine-12; and May 11-June 1 for ages five-8.

Clay Camp is ceramic camp for young artists taught by Beth Turbeville and Diane Kroniess. Young minds learning hand-building and uses of the potter's wheel get the chance to get messy while creating their own unique work.

Turbeville says, "There is nothing like getting your hands muddy and that is what these kids will get to experience at Clay Camp."

A no-experience-necessary environment, Clay Camp provides all materials for projects and activities that children in the camp may need. Projects from this course encourage individual expression and foster social skills by children communicating with their classmates.

Pfac offers other classes for children such as Little Helping Hands- Spring Sunshine and Clay and Me & My Grown Up- Spring Sunshine and Clay. Both



classes are family based in which children ranging from ages three-10 can work with their parent to create clay works of art in a studio setting. Additional classes include other media like Children Can Draw! Ages five-10, Introduction to Weaving for Ages 10+, Teen Art Sample and Teen Jewelry.

The Studio Art School also offers classes to adults in a variety of media such as Oil Painting, Drawing 101, and Evening Watercolor.

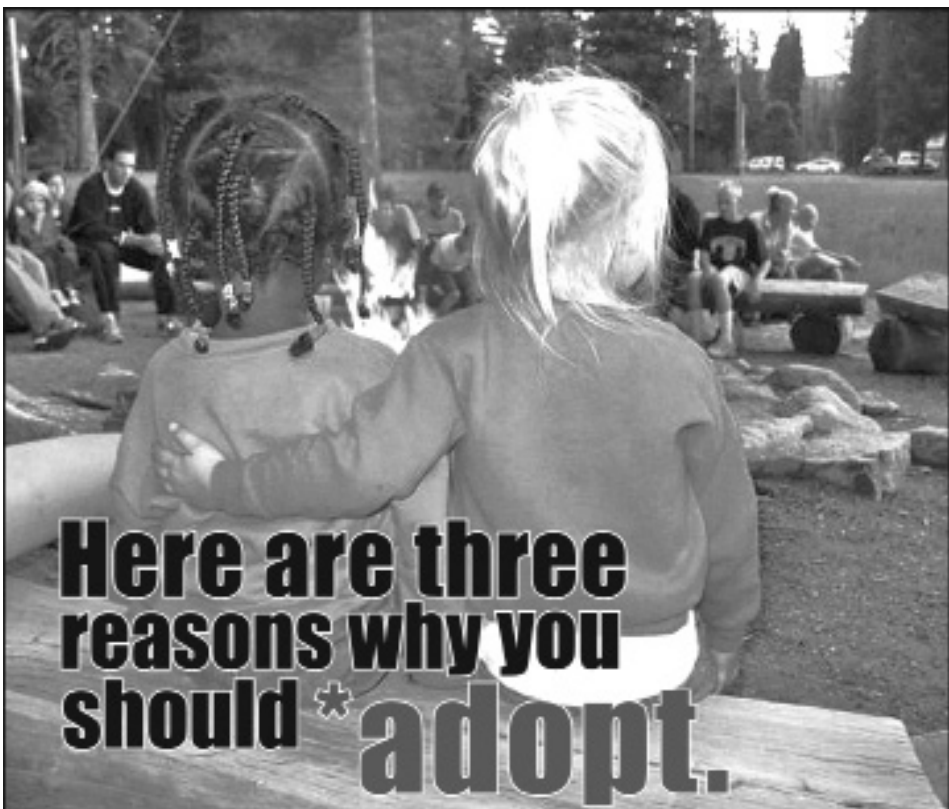
Walking a mile in her shoes



*Sherriff's deputies prove they are man enough
Photos courtesy of NN Sheriff's Office*



Peninsula security joins in the fun



Here are three reasons why you should *adopt.

- * Help reduce the number of children in the VA Foster Care System.
- * Children deserve a loving, nurturing and permanent family.
- * Bring home a companion for an only child.



Virginia One Church, One Child
1214 West Graham Road, Suite 2
Richmond, Virginia 23220
(804) 329-3420



Participants enjoying themselves during the march



Men from different professional backgrounds participated in the event

Gov. Bob McDonnell on “Virginia at Work!”



Gov. Bob McDonnell continued his “Virginia at Work!” tour with ribbon cutting ceremonies at Thomas Johnson Furniture in Lynchburg and Phoenix Packaging in Pulaski. He also toured the groundbreaking for the Commonwealth Center for Advanced Manufacturing in Disputanta.



Right photo 1st row: Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, McDonnell, and First Lady Maureen McDonnell; 2nd row: Sen. Frank Ruff (R-Clarksville); Sen. John Miller (D-Newport News); Del. John Cosgrove (R-Chesapeake); Del. Rich Anderson (R-Prince William); Del. Riley Ingram (R-Hopewell)

Reproductive freedom threatened by bill signing

Gov. Bob McDonnell has signed a bill requiring the Virginia Board of Health to issue regulations requiring abortion clinics that perform five or more first trimester abortions a month to be categorized as hospitals.

The ACLU of Virginia and other reproductive rights advocates opposed the bill when it was introduced in the General Assembly and have expressed concerns that the ensuing regulations will unconstitutionally restrict access to abortions.

The bill, SB 924 is an example of what is commonly referred to as “targeted regulation of abortion providers,” or TRAP, legislation and is intended to make abortions too expensive for clinics to offer them, or if the costs are passed on to patients, too expensive for women who need them.

The Education and Health Committee of the Virginia Senate has routinely voted down such legislation after it passed the House of Delegates. However, this year the TRAP provisions came in the form of a House floor amendment that then went directly to the Senate floor.

“We are disappointed that the governor, like the General Assembly, decided to put politics above women’s constitutional rights and reproductive health,” said ACLU

of Virginia Executive Director Kent Willis. “In signing this bill into law, Governor McDonnell has singled out abortion providers for completely unwarranted and burdensome regulations that could jeopardize the health of women, particularly those who are least able to afford medical care.”

Ultimately, the effect of the law will depend on the regulations promulgated by the Board of Health. The regulations, which will likely include upgrades to facilities and higher standards for staffing and equipment, may require most clinics to undergo unnecessary and costly renovations.

“There is no study or expert medical opinion behind this bill,” added Willis. “Abortions in Virginia, which are already regulated, are safe. Widening hallways, adding equipment and requiring additional staffing, which are the likely requirements of the new regulations, will not make it any safer.”

“Whether or not there will be a legal challenge will depend on what the Board of Health does,” said Willis. “We’ll be closely monitoring how the board proceeds with its deliberations, and while no one in state government is completely immune from politics, we are hopeful that professionalism will ultimately win out over politics.”

Williamsburg’s connections to slave trade

During the era of the Atlantic slave trade in the 18th century, thousands of African captives, including members of elite families, were captured and sent to Virginia.

“Princes Without a Palace: Tracing African Princes and Captives in Williamsburg” connects the Atlantic slave trade with historic buildings, people and events in Williamsburg and reveals the stories of African princes in exile. This program is at 11:30 a.m. May 5, 12, 19, June 2 and 9 at the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum.

“Princes Without a Palace” provides an overview of the 18th-century Atlantic world including key events occurred in Africa, Europe and North America during the slave trade. A historian narrates slides and video excerpts from Colonial Williamsburg’s Electronic Field Trip, “The Slave Trade.” These are used to explore how businesses, governments and religions supported or opposed the slave trade and the institution of slavery. Stories of princes from elite families in Old Calabar (Nigeria) and a North Africa Muslim named Selim, provide insight into how they and many others negotiated their survival in the Atlantic world.

This program is part of Colonial Williamsburg’s Equiano Forum on Early African American History and Culture which seeks to broaden the public knowledge about African and African American history and culture in Virginia and the Atlantic world

during the American Revolutionary era.

Colonial Williamsburg’s African American programming is made possible through the support of Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Parsons, Douglas N. Morton and Marilyn L. Brown, the Norfolk Southern Corporation, the Charles E. Culpeper Endowments in Arts and Culture of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Altria Client Services, AT&T, Philip Morris, IBM and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Programs and exhibitions at The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation’s DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum are supported by the DeWitt Wallace Endowment Fund.

Colonial Williamsburg’s walking tour, “Freedom Denied: Slavery in the Time of Liberty,” explores the struggles of African Americans to gain liberty and equality during the era of the American Revolution. The tour is offered at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays, April 6-June 10.

Using key documents from the period, this tour explores aspects of law, religion and social customs that established and maintained a system of slavery and oppression.

Guests listen to the stories of 18th-century Williamsburg residents and understand the variety of means by which enslaved and free African Americans acted as agents of change.

Admission to this one-hour walking tour is through any Historic Area admission pass. A free reservation is required and can be made by calling 1-800-HISTORY.

Grant award to help Portsmouth families get job training and employment

U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan announced recently that public housing agencies in Portsmouth will receive \$42,796 to link low-income families with the necessary education and job training to put them on the path to self-sufficiency. These agencies are among nearly 600 that will receive approximately \$54 million in grants.

Funded through HUD's Housing Choice Voucher Family Self-Sufficiency Program (HCV/FSS), the grants allow public housing agencies (PHAs) to work with welfare agencies, schools, businesses, and other local partners to develop a comprehensive program to help individuals already

participating in HUD's Housing Choice Voucher Program increase their education or gain marketable skills that will enable them to obtain jobs that pay a living wage.

"This program is absolutely critical in today's economy," said Donovan. "The research demonstrates that this program works. When families are given the tools they need to move beyond the voucher program, they do. Ultimately, they become self-sufficient and more vouchers become available for other families, some who have been waiting for long periods to receive housing assistance. For America to win the future we need a trained and skilled workforce."

The funding allows local housing authorities to hire coordinators (or caseworkers) to link adults in the Housing Choice Voucher program to local organizations that provide job training, childcare, counseling, transportation and job placement.

Participants in the HCV/FSS program sign a contract that requires the head of the household to get a job and the family will no longer receive welfare assistance at the end of the five-year term. As the family's income rises, a portion of that increased income is deposited in an interest-bearing escrow account. If the family completes its FSS contract, the family receives the escrow funds that it can use for any purpose, including paying educational expenses, starting a business or paying back debts.

The Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Program is a long-standing resource for increasing economic security and self-sufficiency among HCV participants. A

new report just issued by HUD evaluated the effectiveness of the FSS Program. Conducted from 2005 to 2009, HUD's study shows the financial benefits are substantial for participants who remain and complete the program. This study is the second of a three-part series by HUD that evaluate the effects of the FSS program. The first study found individuals who participated in the FSS program fared better financially than those who did not enroll in the program. HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) will launch the third and final installment to complete this series this year.

PD&R will also launch two additional studies this year about the FSS program. The first study will examine whether FSS participants who were still enrolled when the Prospective Study ended went on to graduate from the FSS program and whether they met their goals for financial self-sufficiency.



Downtown Tunnel/Midtown Tunnel MLK Extension Project Design Public Hearing

Tuesday, May 3, 2011 • 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Ghent School, 200 Shirley Avenue, Norfolk

Wednesday, May 4, 2011 • 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

I.C. Norcom High School, 1801 London Boulevard, Portsmouth

Find out about the proposed improvements to the Downtown Tunnel (DT), Midtown Tunnel (MT) and the Martin Luther King Expressway (MLK) extension project. The proposed project design, located in cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth, calls for the construction of a two-lane tunnel near the existing Midtown Tunnel, improvements to the existing Midtown and Downtown Tunnels, and the extension of the MLK Freeway from London Boulevard to I-264 with an interchange at High Street and a full directional interchange at I-264.

Review the proposed project plans depicting the major design features at the design public hearing or at VDOT Hampton Roads District Office located at 1700 N. Main Street, Suffolk, Virginia, 757-925-2500, or TTY/TDD 711. Please call ahead to assure the appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions. Property impact information, relocation assistance policies, and tentative construction schedules are available for your review at the above address and will be available at the design public hearing.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation for the project has assessed the social, economic, and environmental impact of the project on the community and surrounding area. It has been determined no significant impact will result from the construction of this project. The documentation was approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in March 2011 and is available for your review at the Design Public Hearing or at the VDOT office listed above.

Give your written or oral comments at the hearing or submit them by May 16, to Frank Fabian, P.E., Senior Project Manager, Virginia Department of Transportation, 152 Tunnel Facility Drive, Portsmouth, VA 23707. You may also e-mail your comments to Frank.Fabian@VDOT.Virginia.gov. Please reference "DT/MT/MLK" in the subject heading.

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Shaka Smart agrees to eight-year contract

Virginia Commonwealth University men's head basketball coach Shaka Smart has agreed in principle to an eight-year contract.

The agreement comes on the heels of VCU's historic appearance in the Final Four of the 2011 NCAA Tournament.

"Coach Smart's contributions to the university are unquantifiable," said VCU President Michael Rao. "His character, intelligence and pursuit of excellence embody VCU's core values."

At press time the the contract was not fully executed but officials guarantee an announcement will be made upon completion.

VCU Athletic Director Norwood Teague said they indicate Coach Smart's commitment to VCU.

"True to form, Coach Smart's primary concerns were about his players, coaches and the overall support of the basketball program," Teague said. "We are honored that he has decided to stay a VCU Ram. He exemplifies everything that is right about college athletics, and VCU is ecstatic about the future under his leadership."

At 33, Smart is among the 10 youngest head coaches at the Division I level and has guided the Black & Gold to 55 wins over the past two seasons. That is the highest win total over any two-year span in VCU history.

"I'm extremely grateful for the belief that Dr. Rao and Norwood Teague have shown and continue to show in our coaching staff and basketball program," Smart said. "Their support, in addition to



Shaka Smart

the bright future that our student-athletes possess, makes VCU a very special place for me to be the head basketball coach. I'm very excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for both our program and our university."

The Rams became only the third 11-seed in NCAA Tournament history to reach the Final Four with wins over Southern California, Georgetown, Purdue, Florida State and Kansas. It was the first year that any VCU squad won more than one game in the NCAA Tournament.

Prior to VCU, Smart was an assistant to University of Florida head coach Billy Donovan. He also was an assistant coach at Clemson, the University of Akron and California University of Pennsylvania.

Smart played college basketball at Kenyon College in Gambler, Ohio, where he graduated magna cum laude with a history degree. He also earned a master's degree in social science from California University of Pennsylvania.

Parson of innocence for Wilmington Ten

By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

Forty years ago in Wilmington, N.C., there was a serious struggle of Black Americans to end racial discrimination and violence over the manner in which public schools were desegregated. The NAACP, national and local, had won a series of important court battles in Wilmington and across America to desegregate public school systems. But, during the Nixon administration in the early 1970's, African Americans in the south, as well as in other regions of the nation, were being challenged with the systematic racial disparities involved in the details of how federal court-ordered school desegregation was being enforced.

We are grateful that the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) committed to lead a national initiative to get a "Pardon of Innocence" for the Wilmington, N.C. Ten. While the specifics of the case of the Wilmington Ten are unique, this case of political prisoners raised the broad issues and plight of the struggle for African American liberation and empowerment to a global level during the 1970's.

Black students, parents, and community leaders made a decision in Wilmington in February 1971 that they would stand up and fight to protect and secure the "quality" education of African American students by attempting to preserve the high academic integrity and institutional legacy of African American public schools such as Williston Senior High School. The United Church of Christ, as a progressive mainline Protestant denomination of 1.7 million members, and its Commission for Racial Justice led by The Reverend Dr. Charles E. Cobb, decided to stand with the student-led coalition in Wilmington to demand fairness and equal justice. As a young civil rights activist, I was dispatched because we dared to speak out and to engage in non-violent street protests to the long, unprecedented history of racial violence and injustice in that port city, the African American community became the targets of a violent, paramilitary, anti-Black

terror campaign led by the Ku Klux Klan and the Rights of White People (ROWP) organization. Our movement's headquarters in Wilmington - Gregory Congregational United Church of Christ - and the surrounding African American community was placed in a state of siege by armed white vigilantes, who opposed racial justice and equality.

The Civil Rights Movement evolving from the 1950's and 1960's into the 1970's had to grapple with the fact that the Nixon administration took steps to counter and suppress the momentum and progress of the movement in the wake of the assassination of The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968. Thus, what we faced in Wilmington, N.C. in 1971 was not only the vile of local racial hatred and violence, but also we later found out that right-wing law enforcement officials in the Nixon Administration aided and abetted the concerted frame-up, unjust conviction, and imprisonment of the Wilmington Ten.

We are the Wilmington Ten: Wayne Moore, William Joe Wright, Connie Tindall, Marvin Patrick, James McKoy, Ann Shepard, Willie Earl Vereen, Jerry Jacobs, Reginald Epps, and Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. Because of our involvement in the struggle in Wilmington in 1971, we were unjustly charged, arrested, tried, convicted, and sentenced to a combined maximum total of 282 years in prison in North Carolina in 1972. We all were completely innocent of the alleged charges of arson and conspiracy to assault. In 1978, Amnesty International declared that we were "Political Prisoners." We stayed in prison during most of the 1970's while our case was on appeal. On December 4, 1980, the Fourth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals overturned the unjust convictions of the Wilmington Ten, because of "prosecutorial misconduct" in the unconstitutional and unfair frame-up. Yet, to date there has not been an official "pardon of innocence" issued by the state of or by the federal government.



The VOICE Unleashed

One of the primary functions of a city is to keep its citizens safe and secure. If it fails on that front, and residents are unable to carry out their daily activities because they are afraid for their lives and, in some cases, leery of the police themselves, it is very hard for that city to function. Such is the case in New Orleans.

The United States Justice Department spent 10 months investigating the city's police department, at the mayor's request, and discovered a deeply dysfunctional and corrupt system, one that regularly abuses its power and the city's residents.

New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu contacted federal officials just after he took office, making good on a campaign promise to clean up the Crescent City's long dirty police department. The first step? Figuring out just how widespread the problem actually was.

The investigation uncovered some shocking truths about the New Orleans Police Department, truths that reek of racial profiling and discrimination. For every one Caucasian person that

is arrested in the city, 16 Blacks are arrested, and calls for police assistance by non-English speakers were often unanswered.

But, the troubling news doesn't stop there. Reports of the use of excessive force by officers are widespread and the department has been accused of failing to investigate serious crimes.

So what's next for the N.O.P.D? How does this troubled department 'make it right'?

Obviously, city officials can't be trusted to do this alone; they've dropped the ball for far too long. Federal oversight is necessary to help clean up the department and manage it until it proves it can manage itself properly.

New Orleans has made great progress since Hurricane Katrina roared in, causing billions in damage and taking thousands of lives. But the city, with all of its history and culture, cannot be truly great - or say it has rebounded - until its police department gets on the right side of the law.

-- Judge Greg Mathis

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T.D. Jakes questions if the church is behind the eight ball

What would your church do if there was a natural disaster or long-term weather-related shutdown? Would the ministers and deacons know how to get the word out or even teach Bible Study over the Internet?

Is your church tech-savvy enough to make a mass announcement over Facebook, Twitter or Scream?

In a public relations crisis, who would your church put in front of the TV cameras?

Does your aging pastor have health and life insurance?

Which is most essential – the anointing or the structure for the anointing and what does that even mean?

These are just a few of the issues that were addressed at Bishop T. D. Jakes latest Pastors and Leaders Conference, “What You Don’t Know Can Hurt You.”

“I just see so many people who are going out to do 21st century ministry in a 20th century kind of way,” Jakes said. “Because the world is moving so fast and the church often is not, I think it’s important that we keep up with the changing laws, with the



Bishop T. D. Jakes

changing trends from the IRS to public relations to dealing with the myriad of things that are changing in every aspect of Christian leadership.”

The conference at the Orlando World Center Marriott Resort & Convention Center, featured a prominent list of the who’s who in mega church ministries, including Bishop I.V. Hilliard; Pastor Paula White; Donald Lawrence; Pastor Bill Hybels; Charles Blake; Dr. John Hagee, Dave Ramsey, First Lady Serita Jakes, and Bishop Jakes who has more than 30,000 members in his Potter’s House in Dallas.

The ministry size and success of the speakers are not for the purpose of teaching attendants how to be like them, Jakes said.

This conference will focus more on the nuts and bolts of ministry. “Rich doesn’t solve problems. You can be reach and be suicidal; you can be rich and dysfunctional.”

He continues, “Rather than seeking to be successful, we need to be working to be effective. And if in the process of being effective, we become successful, then so be it ... The problem with this generation I see coming today is that their focus is on the success and not on being effective; so if you become successful at the expense

of being effective, the congregations and your generation and the community suffers for the fact that you have more sizzle than steak.”

Jakes’ last Pastors and Leaders Conference about five years ago in Washington, D. C. had more of a spiritual theme. There will still be a balance, this time, he said, but there will be an “extreme amount of workshops” on issues that help personal and church ministries to grow and stabilize.

Jakes quizzes, “Is the church behind the eight ball?” on Facebook and Twittering?

Acknowledging that some may be intimidated by the tech talk, but they are simply new methods by which to spread the gospel.

“These are extensions of what he does. It will add to him; not take away from him,” Jakes said. “You can have all the anointing you want – symbolized by olive oil in the scriptures. But, if you don’t put the oil in a container, in a structure, it’ll spill. A lot of us are really anointed, but we lack the structure to have the greatest impact in the 21st century.”

Catholic parents march in favor of paddling, archbishop says it’s morally troubling

Forty-five years ago, as a student at Cor Jesu High School in the mid-1960s, young Archbishop Gregory Aymond occasionally saw an angry teacher suddenly cuff a student, or shove him hard in the chest. It never happened to him, Aymond said, nor does the memory of faculty discipline meted out to teen boys in those days particularly trouble the man who later became the archbishop of New Orleans.

Now, more than 500 students, parents and other supporters of St. Augustine High School marched on the offices of Aymond to oppose his call for an end to the school’s policy of using corporal punishment.

The archbishop “is trying to fix something that’s not broken, and he’s going about it in the wrong way,” said Jacob Washington, the student body president at the historically Black school.

The protesters called on the archbishop to issue a “public, unequivocal retraction ... of all statements linking St. Augustine disciplinary policies with violence, particularly in the New Orleans community.”

Protesters also demanded proof of Aymond’s claims that parents have complained about the paddling policy, along with evidence for a study he has cited to bolster his position.

The archbishop has said corporal

punishment institutionalizes violence, runs counter to Catholic teaching and good educational practice, and violates local archdiocesan school policy.

“I do not believe the teachings of the Catholic Church as we interpret them in 2011 condone corporal punishment.

“It’s hard for me to imagine in any way, shape or form, Jesus using a paddle,” he said.

Moreover, he said, the social research “is very, very clear: Violence fosters violence.”

The Center for Effective Discipline has identified St. Augustine as the lone Catholic school in the country still using corporal punishment.

In a prepared statement, Aymond held his ground and prayed for a “peaceful resolution” to the dispute. “I share their passion for the school and its success; we disagree only on the issue of corporal punishment,” Aymond said.

Supporters say the issue is not as much about the wooden paddle as the rights of Black parents to educate and discipline their children in their own traditions.

“It’s about the right to self-govern,” said Warren Johnson, a 1981 alumnus.

As archbishop, Aymond is charged with generally ensuring that all Catholic



“I do not believe the teachings of the Catholic Church as we interpret them in 2011 condone corporal punishment,” Archbishop Gregory Aymond says.

institutions broadly reflect Catholic values.

More particularly, he said, “When a school chooses to be a part of the family of Catholic schools, they commit themselves to adhering to the rules that are set for the office of Catholic schools. And in this case, (St. Augustine) is not following the rules.”

Aymond said he is “eager for further dialogue and conversation” with St. Augustine’s constituents, preferably behind the scenes.

The archbishop said he wants to avoid a display of episcopal authority in a confrontation with St. Augustine and those who love it.

“I don’t want to go there. I want to be persuasive, and I want to be influential, and I want to do this in as much a peaceful and reconciling way as possible,” he said.

“I would never want to use the last resort.”

Ralph Nader says it's time to stop athlete scholarships

Consumer advocate Ralph Nader is calling for the elimination of college athletic scholarships, saying the move is necessary to “de-professionalize” college athletes.

“As we near the exciting conclusion of ‘March Madness’ — which would more accurately be described as the 2011 NCAA Professional Basketball Championships — it’s time we step back and finally address the myth of amateurism surrounding big-time college football and basketball in this country,” said Nader, whose League of Fans is proposing that the scholarships be replaced with need-based financial aid.

NCAA spokesman Bob Williams said that referring to college athletes as professionals defies logic.

“They are students, just like any other student on campus who receives a merit-based scholarship,” he said.

Nader, a former presidential candidate, argued that his plan would also help reduce the “win-at-all-costs” mentality in high schools, by reducing the incentive of college scholarships.

“An entire industry has developed in the

youth sports arena — club teams, personal trainers, etc. — to prey on families’ dreams of an athletic scholarship,” he said. “The lure of the elusive athletic scholarship is the primary — sometimes the only — marketing tool these youth sports entrepreneurs use.”

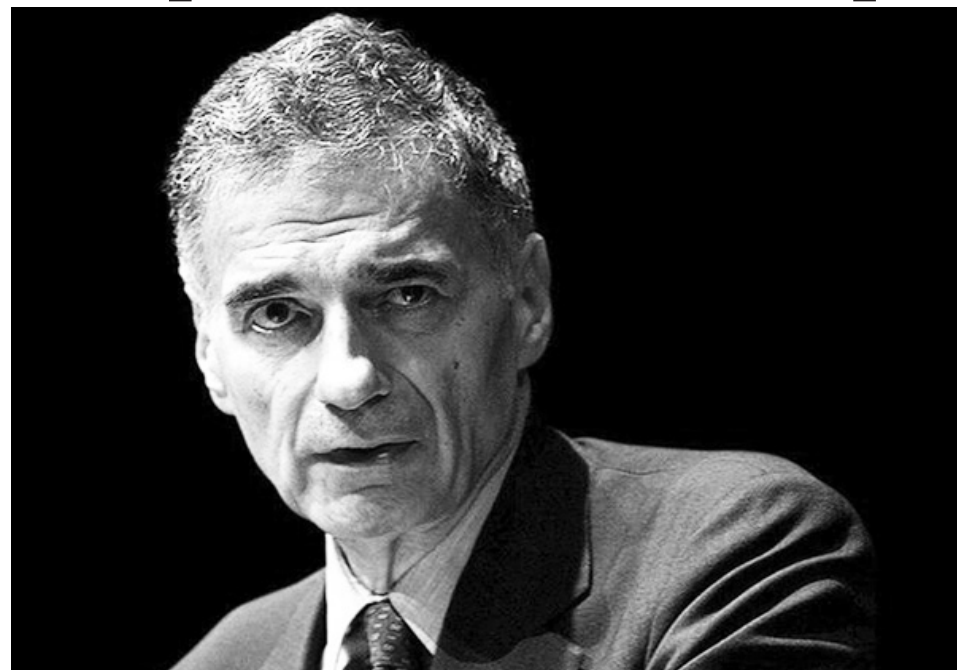
He said he would try to gin up support for his proposal from university presidents, Capitol Hill and the education department.

“We’ll use all the levers,” Nader said. “We’ll use the parents of athletes who’ve been mistreated and sick, and forced to play when they’re injured.”

Nader added that he hadn’t yet canvassed Capitol Hill, but figured he’d find lawmakers who are concerned about the way college athletes are treated.

He noted that the Drake Group, a college athletic watchdog organization, has come out in favor of banning athletic scholarships.

Nader said that colleges should either integrate athletics into the educational mission by eliminating college scholarships, or, “openly acknowledge the professionalism in big-time college sports, remove the tax-



Consumer advocate Ralph Nader wants to revive the League of Fans, a sports reform group that has been dormant for some time.

exempt status currently given to athletic departments, and make universities operate them as unrelated businesses.”

The longtime former head of the NCAA, Walter Byers, has called for paying college

athletes.

Nader said his proposal was the opening initiative of a rejuvenated League of Fans, a sports reform group that has been dormant for some time.

Schools with poor graduation rates should be banned from NCAA tournament

By Perry Green

NNPA - If a school can't keep at least half of its athletes on pace to graduate, it should not compete for a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) championship and be cut out of the multi-million dollar post-season pay-out, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said.

In a crusade launched in the early stages of the NCAA basketball championship tournaments, Duncan zeroed in on the failure of 10 of the 68 schools in the Division I men's tournament to be on track to graduate half of their players, noting that Black players are particularly ill-served.

“If you can't manage to graduate half of your players, how serious is the institution and the coach and the program about their players' academic success?,” Duncan questioned. “Teams with academic progress rates below [that level] should be ineligible for post-season glory.”

His remarks came hours after writing on the Washington Post's opinion page that schools “need to stop trotting out tired excuses for basketball teams with poor academic records and indefensible disparities in the graduation rates of white and black players.”

Duncan also recommended the NCAA restructure its post-season tournament revenue-distribution formula, which currently pays the conference of each school \$1.4 million for every game their team plays in



Secretary of Education Arne Duncan

the tournament.

“Right now the formula handsomely rewards teams for winning games in the tournament, but does little to reward teams for meeting minimal academic benchmarks,” said Duncan. “I simply cannot understand why we continue to reward teams for failing to meet the most basic of academic standards off the court.”

He was citing the findings of the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics. That group, formed in 1989 to combat college sports scandals by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, called for tougher standards for schools and student-athletes a decade ago.

He also cited the University of Central

Florida's Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sports' annual study report that found that 10 of the 68 schools currently involved in the NCAA Tournament carry academic progress rates (APR) of less than 925, which would create a graduation rate of less than 50 percent. The academic progress rate is an NCAA measure of the progress toward graduation of student-athletes.

Dr. Richard Lapchick, the primary author of the study, noted that only 59 percent of Black basketball players graduate, far less than the graduation percentage of whites at 91 percent. The reports show percentages are even lower among schools such as Kansas State University, where 100 percent of white players graduate, yet only 14 percent

of Black players graduate. The University of Akron also graduates every white player, but has a zero percent Black player's graduation rate.

According to the Knight Commission, in the last five years, teams that had graduation rates of less than 50 percent or an APR standard of less than 925 earned 44 percent of the total \$409 million distributed.

NAACP President Ben Jealous agreed with Duncan, but also acknowledged the high graduation rates made by the other 58 schools in the NCAA Tournament.

“When you are coaching student-athletes, you have a responsibility to them both as an athlete and a student,” said Jealous, who highlighted programs like those at Xavier University, which sends designated personnel to check on players frequently to make sure they attend class and study regularly. “It happens because coaches decide to make sure that the young men are prepared for victory in life and not just on the court.”

Duncan suggested that barring schools with poor graduation rates from the NCAA tournament would motivate more programs to follow Xavier's lead.

“The dream of playing in the NCAA tournament is what brings so many student-athletes on to these college campuses,” he said.

Former Pittsburgh Steeler Chuck Sanders gives back to elevate community

By Rebecca Nuttall

This Spring, former Pittsburgh Steeler and well-known philanthropist Chuck Sanders will open Savoy, a new upscale restaurant in the Strip District. In the time since plans for the restaurant were first set in motion, Sanders has kept busy organizing gospel concerts and managing his many charitable contributions through Chuck Sanders Charities, all while operating his company Urban Settlement Services LLC, which has found itself among the top 15 in the nation for Black enterprise.

“Success breeds success. This didn’t happen overnight. There’s a legacy that I’m trying to uphold. I’m very proud of the reputation my father had and I’m happy to carry it on myself,” Sanders said. “It’s very important to me to do things right.”

In a creative marketing strategy, Sanders is organizing several concerts presented by Savoy including, CeCe Winans, who performed at the Benedum Center, and Charlie Wilson who will appear at the Monroeville Convention Center on May 8.

“I love music; I just love gospel concerts. It’s not a moneymaker,” Sanders said. “I want to make a statement that this

is what we’re about; we’re about supporting praise and worship. It is a great way to advertise.”

Of his many contributions over the last year, perhaps the most significant was a \$100,000 donation to the Pittsburgh Initiative to Reduce Crime. The anti-violence program run by city government confronts gang members and threatens them with severe consequences if they refuse to stop their violent behavior.

“I had talked with Chief Nate Harper and (District 9 Councilman Rev. Ricky Burgess) about what the program was about. On the surface, of course, it was about stopping the murder rate, but once I looked into the program I saw that there was actually a mechanism in place. I really wanted to focus on the social service aspect of it once I saw there wasn’t any corporate money in place,” Sanders said. “Being realistic and understanding it takes time, I feel good about where we are. I am disappointed that more private businesses haven’t donated money to the program, but that’s not going to stop me from contributing.”

Sanders’ other philanthropic involvement includes contributions to the Workforce



PILLAR OF SOCIETY—Chuck Sanders has become a staple of Pittsburgh’s philanthropic community. (Photo by J.L. Martello)

Development Global Alliance, NAACP, Hill House Association, Macedonia Baptist Church, the Program to Aid Citizen Enterprise, and a scholarship fund for Slippery Rock University.

“One of the goals of Chuck Sanders Charities is not to reinvent the wheel. There’s

a lot of good programs out here that just need help,” Sanders said. “I’m just a true believer in giving. It was how I was raised. It’s why you’re blessed. It’s always worked. It’s a great formula.”

Savoy Restaurant is predicted to serve as “See **“Chuck Sanders”** on pg. 11



MLB to honor Morgan Freeman, Carlos Santana and Ernie Banks

Academy Award Winner Morgan Freeman, Grammy Award Winner Carlos Santana, and Baseball Hall of Famer Ernie Banks will receive MLB Beacon Awards during 2011 civil rights game week, a series of events developed by MLB and the Atlanta Braves to pay tribute to all of those people who fought on and off the field for equal rights for all Americans.

Freeman, Santana, and Banks will be honored with the MLB Beacon of Hope, Beacon of Change and Beacon of Life, respectively, at the MLB Beacon Awards Banquet on Saturday, May 14th. The MLB Beacon Awards recognize individuals whose lives have been emblematic of the spirit of the Civil Rights Movement.

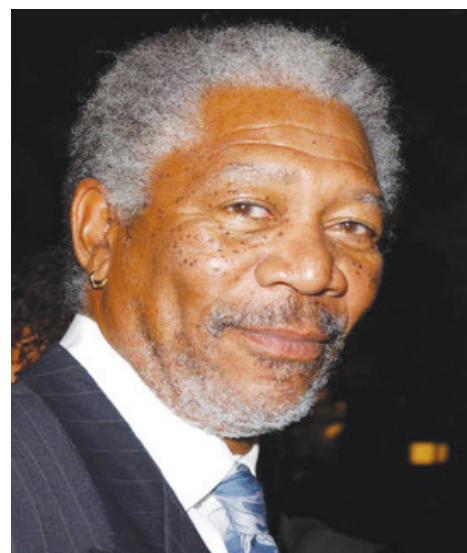
The Banquet is part of civil rights game week, which culminates with the 2011 civil rights game between the Atlanta Braves and Philadelphia Phillies on Sunday, May 15 at Turner Field in Atlanta. The game will air live on TBS. Fans can purchase tickets to the MLB Beacon Awards Banquet at www.mlb.com/civilrightsgame.

MLB.com/civil rights game, and highlights will be available on MLB.com, the official website of Major League Baseball.

American Civil Rights Movement leader and co-founder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference the Rev. Joseph Lowery will deliver the keynote speech at the banquet. Proceeds from the affair will benefit the Washington, D.C. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation.

The 2011 civil rights game week also will feature the inaugural Selig Business Conference; a Red Carpet tribute to Hank Aaron and special screening of the Academy Award-nominated documentary "Chasing the Dream"; the Baseball & the Civil Rights Movement Roundtable Discussion; and the Civil Rights Game Youth Summit/"Wanna Play?" Event.

The Atlanta Braves and Philadelphia Phillies will celebrate the Negro Leagues during the game on Saturday, May 14. The Braves will wear replica uniforms worn by



Morgan Freeman



Carlos Santana

the Atlanta Black Crackers and the Phillies will wear those worn by the Philadelphia Stars. Additionally, there will be a pregame ceremony honoring former Negro Leagues players, and fans will receive Atlanta Black

Crackers caps.

For more information, visit www.MLB.com/civilrightsgame.

Special to the NNPA from the Tri-State Defender

Ask Gwendolyn Baines

My mother wants me to turn down my scholarships!



Dear Gwendolyn:

I read your column and noticed that most of your letters come from adults. I am 17 and scheduled to graduate in May. I am the second highest in my graduating class. I have received at least six scholarships. Four of the colleges are Ivy League and two are small colleges in small towns.

I am so disgusted. Going away is fine with my father, but mom – I just don't know about her. I can't understand why she wants to keep me from getting a good education away from home. Our town is small and there is no university or college here – not even a junior/community college.

My father is educated but was never able to get a high paying academic job. After marrying my mother (who was pregnant before their marriage) my father stayed here because mom didn't want to leave her parents. Staying here really did hinder my father. He is such a wonderful person but sometimes I can see the pain in his eyes.

Gwendolyn, I don't want to give up my dreams only because my mother doesn't want me to move away. What can I do?

Shirley

Dear Shirley:

Have a talk with your mother letting her know that this is your time to leave – your time to seek a higher education – your time to seek a job or start your own business after college graduation. You may even decide to get a master's degree or a Ph.D. Becoming a lawyer, doctor, accountant, or move into the high paying field of technology could possibly become an interest.

Shirley, your mother is part of 'ole school' thinking you will go astray from your upbringing. You mentioned that your mother was pregnant when she and your father married. It is amazing how she is thinking. Today's parents hope their children do not become addicted to drugs and all the other evils of the world. Let your mother know that whatever she fears you will do if you leave home, you can do --- at home.

Serena Williams ad shelved

A racy video game ad featuring Serena Williams won't be aired on broadcast television after the game's developer said it was too risqué.

The ad for "Top Spin 4" features Williams as "the world's sexiest tennis player" facing off against Rileah Vanderbilt, an actress labeled "the world's sexiest tennis gamer." The scantily-clad women make suggestive facial expressions, motions, and moaning while showing lots of skin, to the tune of a techno soundtrack.

The public response to the ad, after Vanderbilt allegedly introduced it to cyberspace through her Twitter account, was negative. As a result, 2K Sports, the game's developer, canned the commercial and distanced itself from it.

"As part of the process for creating marketing campaigns to support our titles, we pursue a variety of creative avenues," the company said in a statement. "This video is not part of the title's final marketing campaign and its distribution was unauthorized."

However, to some people, 2K Sports' response rings hollow. Many say that the company was behind the ad from the start, but didn't want to deal with the negative attention it brought.

"2K Sports deliberately created an absurdly racy ad to drum up interest in the game but didn't have the courage to officially endorse the commercial because of possible public backlash," a commentary on the website Sports by Brooks said.

Chuck Sanders From Page 10

another feather in the cap of successful endeavors Sanders has been involved in during the past decade. The Urban Redevelopment Authority, who lent \$310,000 to the project, recently described the \$2.1 million investment as a "first class restaurant with a five-star chef and a New York-style lounge."

"When you think of the great moments of your life, a lot of them were probably sitting around the table with family and friends, enjoying a meal. It's a place where everyone can go and be comfortable," Sanders said. "It's just a really pretty place. I say

that humbly. I've been part of some really nice restaurants in other places. We're going to be able to offer food and atmosphere that Pittsburgh has never seen."

In the future, Sanders will return to his real estate roots with the development of condominiums and housings on land in the Strip District. He also plans to continue his work with Urban Settlement Services to help homeowners who are at-risk of losing their homes because of the current economic crisis.

"That crisis, while it might be getting better, there are still people losing their homes at alarming rates," Sanders said.

Special to the NNPA from the New Pittsburgh Courier

GRAND OPENING

thursday, april 7th, 9:30am

meadowdale plaza, 4020 meadowdale blvd
richmond

the same top quality you'd find in department stores for up to 60% less.
every day.

ladies' • men's • kids' • juniors' • shoes • accessories • home



ladies' tops
\$5⁹⁹-16⁹⁹
compare at \$12-34



men's shirts
\$7⁹⁹-14⁹⁹
compare at \$16-30



ladies' sandals
\$12⁹⁹-24⁹⁹
compare at \$20-40+



girls' dresses
\$7⁹⁹-12⁹⁹
compare at \$16-26



juniors' shorts
\$9⁹⁹-14⁹⁹
compare at \$20-30



Marshalls

RICHMOND

Farming initiative helps low-income produce healthy habits

By Herbert L. White

Feeding people is a dirty job, but Robin Emmons doesn't mind.

Emmons, founder of Sow Much Good, a non-profit organic farming initiative for underserved communities, broke ground earlier this month on a production garden at her Huntersville home.

Last week, she launched a garden at Ashley Park Elementary School to engage students in the science of agriculture. The harvest – blueberries, radishes and leaf lettuce – is expected to be ready by late May.

“Our goal is to educate people about the benefits around eating nutritionally dense food products, specifically those that are organic, and taking control over their food source,” Emmons said. “We can't grow enough to feed the need, but if people understand the benefit and understand it's not impossible to do it for yourself, maybe we can create a movement that turns into a revolution.”

Sow Much Good, which Emmons launched in 2009, aims to reach out to low-income residents in Charlotte's food deserts, where access to fresh produce is limited by economics or the lack of supply. The initiative's goal is to empower families and communities to grow and prepare their own food.

“I think in underserved communities where there's not been access or we've lost touch with what our grandmothers did outside our back doors, there's an education component that has to go along with that,” Emmons said. “We can't just set up gardens; we have to go engage communities and answer their questions. Many people think Type 2 diabetes is in the cards, that's their fate. They don't understand that's not necessarily a genetic thing.”

SMG is an accidental mission. Emmons became an advocate for her chronically homeless and mentally ill older brother, Brian Hill. As part of his recovery, Emmons made a point of providing him fresh food from her garden. Not only did it improve Hill's well-being, it provided inspiration.

Economically-challenged communities can benefit from home-grown food, said Elizabeth Racine, a UNC Charlotte professor who co-wrote a study that identified so-called “food deserts” where stores that sell fresh fruits and vegetables are scarce. Eating balanced meals, she insists, helps alleviate maladies like high blood pressure and cancers that strike African Americans at higher rates than the general population.

As Emmons talked to more people, she



Robin Emmons, founder of Sow Much Good, prepares soil for planting at her Huntersville home. The non-profit grows organic produce in economically-disadvantaged neighborhoods.

found a need for healthy, organic food was especially acute in economically challenged urban neighborhoods that lacked access to fresh produce. Partnerships with businesses, colleges and neighborhood groups helped launch the first production gardens that provide economic and social benefits through urban farming.

“You've got to have people to make that happen,” she said. “My hope is to model this in other areas of the country once we have the pilot and the success here. The need is significant, not just here, but across the country.”

Special to the NNPA from The Charlotte Post

Rep. Maxine Waters: A legislator and activist on HIV in the Black community

By Nick Chiles

NNPA - One of the most prominent and effective African American members of Congress, Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA), has long been a fighter against the spread of HIV/AIDS in the African American community and a strong advocate for the rights and care of individuals with HIV/AIDS. Given the tremendous challenges facing our nation at a time of great possibility for people with HIV/AIDS, Waters was asked about her views.

What concerns do you have about how the challenges to health reform might affect people with HIV/AIDS?

Health disparities like HIV/AIDS, heart disease, cancer, diabetes, etc., for people of color are getting worse, and more and more people are going without health insurance. That's why the Affordable Care Act, also known as the health-care reform law, specifically addresses these disparities and other pre-existing conditions and makes it illegal to be denied health insurance because of them. We cannot allow the health-care reform law to be repealed, and part of the reason I voted against repeal was because the Affordable Care Act will help lessen health disparities, including those



Maxine Waters is an advocate for the Minority AIDS Initiative in Congress and usually gets tested in public on Capitol Hill or in Los Angeles so others can join in and see how effortless it is.

related to HIV/AIDS.

Moving forward, I'm encouraged that the president announced a National HIV/AIDS Strategy last year, with the three primary goals of reducing the number of new infections, increasing access to care for people living with HIV, and reducing HIV-related health disparities. A national strategy is something that's long overdue and something I've long called for, and I urge everyone not only to get behind it but

to financially support it 150 percent. Again, ideals are one thing, but securing adequate funding to make those ideals come true is something else.

What deciding moment occurred in your life that made you become committed to this issue?

Well, for years I had been troubled by the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in our community and among women, homosexual men, and other communities of color. Even though

African Americans are about 12 percent of the population, we're almost half of all HIV/AIDS cases! Taken together, two-thirds of all HIV/AIDS cases involve minorities. That kind of disparity indicates a crisis, and as chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus in the late 1990s, I got Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala to publicly say so after asking her about the disease's impact on the African American community.

From that admission, I began work to create the Minority AIDS Initiative. It wasn't easy, but this was a top priority for me. The Black community was being torn apart by HIV/AIDS, and many other communities of color were not faring much better.

The Minority AIDS Initiative provides grants to community-based organizations and other health-care providers for HIV/AIDS awareness, treatment and prevention programs serving African American, Hispanic, Asian American and Native American communities. It also enables health-care providers serving minority communities to expand their capacity to deliver culturally and linguistically appropriate care and services.

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.

The National Alliance

The National Alliance on Mental Illness-Central Virginia Chapter (NAMI-CVA), is having their monthly meeting on Thursday, April 7, 2011 at 7pm at the Weinstein JCC on 5403 Monument Ave., Richmond. There is a change, it is on the first Thursday this month. Our featured speaker will be Dr. Kathy Tierney, a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner who is Director of the Crisis Stabilization Unit at Richmond Behavioral Health Authority. She will present information on "Earlier Intervention to Promote Positive Recovery Outcomes." The meeting is free and open to the public. For further information, please call (804) 285-1749.

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.

HU Students Life Lessons

Former world heavyweight champion George Foreman will address students at Hampton University on Friday, April 8. He will speak at 11 a.m. in the Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications auditorium. HU's William R. Harvey Leadership Institute is sponsoring the event, which is open to all Hampton University students.

A successful author, minister and entrepreneur, Foreman will discuss his life, his transition from boxer into businessman, and the importance of leadership.

"I come from an era where all too many kids learned their lessons from the streets," Foreman said. "A top college education is important in my family. To tour and speak with students at such a fine university is a thrill for me."

Foreman will be in Hampton along with his son George III, who will fight the following evening at the Hampton Roads Convention Center as part of a full card of boxing entitled "The Legend Continues."

Foreman Sr. has 10 children. Each of his five sons is named George: George Jr.,

George III, George IV, George V, and George VI. He has two daughters, Freeda George and Georgetta. He also has three daughters from a previous relationship.

Foreman's most notable fights in his early career were his knockout (TKO-2) against Joe Frazier in Kingston, Jamaica, on January 22, 1973 and his loss to Muhammad Ali (KO by 8) in Kinshasa, Zaire, on October 30, 1974. He later became the oldest heavyweight boxing champion of the world, ever, when at age 45, he knocked out (KO-10) Michael Moorer, 26, on November 5, 1994 to reclaim the title he held more than 20 years earlier. He has been named one of the 25 greatest fighters of all time by Ring magazine.

More than 100 million units of the George Foreman Grill have been sold over the past 15 years, bringing Foreman a fortune believed to be more than \$200 million.

Voorhees Cartography Lecture

Saturday, April 9

Time: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Place: Lecture Hall

The 2011 Voorhees Lecture features two speakers. Richard W. Stephenson, retired Library of Congress specialist in American cartographic history, will discuss "Jed Hotchkiss and Albert Campbell: The Army of Northern Virginia's Preeminent Mapmakers." Cassandra Farrell, Library of Virginia map specialist and senior research archivist, will speak on "Highlights from the Library of Virginia's American Civil War Map Collection." There will be a special one-day exhibition of maps relating to the talks, as well as behind-the-scenes tours of the Library. The exhibition will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and the lectures will begin at 1:00 p.m. To register, please call (804) 692-3813.

Ordinance of Secession

Saturday, April 16

Time: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Place: Library Lobby

The Library of Virginia houses a unique and important document related to Virginia's Civil War history—the Ordinance of Secession. Because of its age and fragile condition, this rare piece of Virginia history is rarely on public display. In addition to the Ordinance of Secession, the Library of Virginia will display archival records that document the emancipation of African Americans by Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation and passage of the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Among the items displayed will be the journal of the 1864 Virginia Constitutional Convention that banned slavery and cohabitation records that formalized marriages between enslaved African Americans.

Poetic Principles Featuring Poet Kate Daniels

Wednesday, April 27

Time: 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Place: Conference Rooms

Kate Daniels, a Richmond-born poet and graduate of the University of Virginia, will read from her work, answer questions, and sign books as Poetic Principles takes up its new home at the Library of Virginia. An associate professor of English at Vanderbilt, Daniels was recently named the winner of the 2011 Hanes Award for Poetry by the Fellowship of Southern Writers for her work to date. She is the author of *A Walk in Victoria's Secret* (2010), *Four Testimonies* (1998), *The Niobe Poems* (1988), and *The White Wave* (1984). Originally a program co-sponsored by New Virginia Review and the VMFA, which was the host of the events, the reading series will now take place at the Library, which has replaced the VMFA as co-sponsor and as host.

Registration Opens for Youth Peace Summit

Young people can now register for the seventh annual Richmond Youth Peace Summit, Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., at Ginter Park Presbyterian Church, 3601 Seminary Ave, Richmond 23227. The event is open to young people ages 12–19, free of charge. Lunch will be provided. Participants are asked to arrive by 9:30.

The summit promotes teen leadership, nonviolent conflict resolution, social justice and positive self-expression. Morning and afternoon workshops offer a variety of topics of interest to teens, including conflict resolution, leadership skills and positive expression through the arts. The summit also features a midday theater performance by The Conciliation Project.

Participants are eligible to earn credit for six community service hours. Early registrants get first choice of workshops.

Participants can register online (preferred method) by emailing rypp@rpec.org, or by visiting www.rpec.org, through U.S. mail (RPEC, 400 W. 32nd St., Richmond VA 23225), or by calling 232-1002. Advanced registration required.

The Youth Peace Summit relies on volunteers and contributions. Donations from individuals are encouraged. Organizations sending groups of young people to the event are asked to donate \$5 per participant to help defray the costs of the event.

*If you represent a non-profit or are hosting a free community event, submit particulars no less than two weeks prior to the event.
E-mail: editor@voicenewspaper.com
We reserve the right to edit all submissions*

Banks' foreclosure bias hurts everyone

By Charlene Crowell

NNPA - Fix or Evict, the Center for Responsible Lending's latest in a series of research reports on mortgage lending and foreclosures, reaches eye-opening conclusions in its ongoing scrutiny of America's still-unfolding foreclosure crisis. It's no secret that banks and other loan servicers are harming struggling homeowners by pushing unnecessary foreclosure. Now, this research shows that banks are also acting directly against the best interests of loan investors – the companies that own the loans including pension funds and life insurance companies.

Most importantly, the report found that the lending industry's poor track record on loan modifications cannot be blamed on homeowners who re-default.

"It's well documented how mortgage servicers' unfair, shoddy practices have hurt homeowners," said Mike Calhoun, president of CRL. "This research shows that servicers also routinely give the investment community a raw deal."

At present, families facing eviction outnumber those with a modification by a 12-1 margin. Updated statistics show that residential mortgage foreclosures are on track to reach 13 million by the end of 2014 at a cost of nearly \$1 trillion in direct losses to families, local governments, and financial institutions. When CRL factored in the lost value to homes in close proximity

of foreclosures, \$1.9 trillion in losses will We need mandatory reforms that ensure servicers follow the law and act in the best interests of their clients – that would end up benefiting everyone."

Perhaps if investors with deep pockets could align themselves with the people whose pockets have been picked, we could have a real and sustainable recovery. Sure, it would be an odd couple alignment. But, maybe after so many losses, it's the one that could make the true difference. be stripped away by 2012. From CRL's perspective, it is time for the banks to accept the consequences for the hundreds of billions of dollars in damages that have been inflicted on the nation. It was the lack of accountability by banks that is so disturbing when the public bailed them out. Before any foreclosure is allowed to proceed, there needs to be full disclosure for homeowners and investors to ensure that every loan got a good look from the servicer. Further, the current loan servicing investigation by the nation's attorneys general must result in remedies to reform an industry that perpetuated the crisis. Let's not forget that this crisis began with foreclosures and spread to the rest of the economy.

Findings from Fix or Evict? also corroborate recent data from the Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP), which showed how four out of five households that received HAMP modifications are still current on their mortgages. Unlike many short-term loan

Newsmaker award recipients applauded for contributions to make America better



CBC Members Congresspersons William Lacy Clay (D-MO) and Maxine Waters (D-CA) (center) were two of 10 Congresspersons honored for their bold action as members of the Financial Services Committee at the dinner. They are flanked by Dorothy R. Leavell, NNPA Foundation Chairperson (left) and Danny J. Bakewell (right). Photo by Carole Geary

repairs that occur outside the HAMP program, HAMP loan modifications are most likely to involve reducing the homeowner's monthly payment – and this is the type of modification that is likely to be the most successful.

It is amid this growing body of objective analyses that some from the investment side are questioning the low number of

modifications as well.

"The misalignment of economic interests between the owners of mortgages and those who service them is the single reason why the mortgage problem has become a crisis and every loan got a good look from the servicer. Further, the current loan servicing investigation by the nation's attorneys general must result in remedies to reform an industry that perpetuated the crisis. Let's not forget that this crisis began with foreclosures and spread to the rest of the economy.

Findings from Fix or Evict? also corroborate recent data from the Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP), which showed how four out of five households that received HAMP modifications are still current on their mortgages. Unlike many short-term loan repairs that occur outside the HAMP program, HAMP loan modifications are most likely to involve reducing the homeowner's monthly payment – and this is the type of modification that is likely to be the most successful.

It is amid this growing body of objective analyses that some from the investment side are questioning the low number of modifications as well.

"The misalignment of economic interests between the owners of mortgages and those who service them is the single reason why the mortgage problem has become a crisis and a massive economic drain on this country," said Bill Frey, president of Greenwich Financial Services and a longtime investor advocate.

North Carolina Dems reach out to HBCU students

By Herbert L. White

North Carolina Democrats are looking to strengthen ties with students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

The College Democrats of North Carolina will hold a leadership conference for HBCU students in late March in Greensboro. The forum – a first for the state Democratic Party – will focus on engaging students in the political process, political activity, and on-campus leadership. North Carolina has 11 HBCUs, second only to Alabama.

"HBCU students have a unique story and this HBCU Leadership Conference is here to ensure that we give them a voice and a seat at the table," said N.C. A&T student D.J. McKelvey, CDNC's Black college coordinator.

U.S. Rep. Mel Watt (D-NC) will be among the panelists and speakers, which include N.C. State Reps. Marcus Brandon and Alma Adams, N.C. Sen. Gladys Robinson and state Democratic Party Chair David Parker. Panel topics include "HBCUs, Politics and History," "Black Women and Politics," "How to



Rep. Watt is one of several democrats seeking to improve political ties with college students

Run for Public Office" and "Campaign and Professional Involvement."

Party activists see the conference as an opportunity to strengthen ties between Democrats and young voters whose support helped Barack Obama carry North Carolina in the 2008 presidential election.

"The College Democrats of North

Carolina recognize the importance of engaging HBCU students," CDNC President Tori Taylor said. "We are taking the first step in hopefully a long, consistent line of communication between HBCU students and the Democratic Party."

Special to the NNPA from The Charlotte Post

Rangel says Congress should be consulted about Libya dealings

By Herb Boyd

If there are any side effects or residue left from a straining battle over his possible removal from office, Rep. Charles Rangel did a good job concealing them. What wasn't hidden was his objection to the Obama administration as it joined a coalition in an attack on Libya.

"What needs to be done at this point is a call by the president or the vice president for a special session of Congress to inform us and to ask our position on this matter," Rangel said during a press briefing last week at the State Office Building.

"Obama is going along with past presidents and the United Nations, which is 90 percent [influenced by] the U.S. At the end of the day, we pay the price physically and financially."

Rangel was outraged that President Barack Obama agreed to launch an attack on Libya without consulting Congress, thereby repeating a pattern of previous presidents, including Harry Truman in Korea, Lyndon Baines Johnson in Vietnam, and George W. Bush in Iraq. "When they say we should get rid of Gaddafi, who is the 'we'?" Rangel continued. "Yes, we should have compassion for the rebels, but should we have a number of sleepless nights

worrying about getting rid of Gaddafi? I don't like the idea of his being taken out."

The congressman stopped short of endorsing Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich's call for an impeachment of Pres. Obama, who has charged the president with going beyond constitutional guidelines.

"I'll leave that alone," Rangel said of his feelings about impeachment. And, he used an anecdote from his past to sidestep Minister Louis Farrakhan's idea of sending a diplomatic team of prominent Black Americans to sit with Gaddafi.

"I was in Tanzania at the time of its independence, and I was asked by some of the leaders, 'What brings you to our country? Are you also made in America like so many of the bombs falling on our people?' It dawned on me, from their perspective, that color had nothing at all to do with the situation."

Critically connected with the recent move by the Obama administration on Libya, which the president said he didn't need congressional authorization for since the Senate had unanimously approved a resolution calling for the United Nations Security Council to impose a no-fly zone over Libya, Rangel, a decorated soldier of



Charles Rangel

the Korean War, introduced once again—for the fifth time he said—a Universal National Service Act, or a draft bill.

The bill calls for the establishment of a universal requirement for national service. "If you enjoy the benefits of our democracy, then you should be willing and required to contribute to its defense," he said, reiterating a recently released press

statement. "We make decisions about war without worry over who fights them. Those who do the fighting have no choice."

The Obama administration, Rangel observed, may have no choice about the cost of entering another war or "what's the end game and how do we get out of it." *Special to the NNPA from the New York Amsterdam News*

Eddie and Sylvia Brown named 'Marylanders of the Year'

Eddie C. and C. Sylvia Brown have a talent for using philanthropy as a tool to battle inequality. They and their family have contributed more than \$22 million to various charitable causes over the past 15 years.

The Maryland Historical Society (MdHS) selected the Browns as the society's "Marylanders of the Year," an award whose recipients have included Ben Bradlee, Tom Clancy and R. Sargent Shriver.

Maryland Day commemorates the founding of Maryland. On March 25th, 1634 settlers stepped from two small sailing ships, the *Ark* and the *Dove*, onto Maryland soil. They landed at St. Clements's Island on what is now St. Mary's County, Maryland. MdHS leads the commemoration in Baltimore each year with a patriotic celebration and the naming of the Marylander of the Year.

Burt Kummerow, MdHS President, said, "Eddie and Sylvia have generated spectacular dividends for impoverished inner-city residents and leveled playing fields across the country in the realms of education, health care and art.

However, a number of their gifts have been targeted to improving the quality of life in the broader Baltimore community."

After college Eddie joined IBM as an engineer, earned an MBA and worked as an investment manager for T. Rowe

Price, before founding Brown Capital Management in 1983. His Baltimore-based business was soon able to amass more than \$6 billion in assets under management. The Browns established their charitable foundation (C. Sylvia and Eddie C. Brown Family Foundation) in 1996.

The Browns' \$1 million challenge grant gift to the Enoch Pratt Free Library is the largest donation extended to the institution in its 129-year history. Its purpose was to make widely available the libraries collection of African American literature then stored in a basement area.

Their largest overall gift was the \$6 million that helped fund construction of the \$20 million Brown Center, located on the urban campus of the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) in Baltimore. They also underwrote a number of full scholarships for African American students to attend MICA.

Their second largest single gift of \$5 million was for the Turning the Corner Achievement Program (TCAP) that guides inner city Baltimore youth towards success.

University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) is another educational institution that has received the Browns assistance. They provided \$1 million to form the Brown Capital Management Faculty Institute of



The president of the Maryland Historical Society (MdHS), Burt Kummerow (left) led the ceremony for Eddie C. and C. Sylvia Brown as the Society's "Marylanders of the Year." They have contributed over \$22 million to various organizations aiding inner city children in Baltimore and elsewhere.

Entrepreneurship to provide faculty training and activities that help kindle the spirit of entrepreneurship in UMBC students.

The Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture received a \$1 million challenge grant from the Browns for the purpose of helping the museum establish an endowment.

The Browns' mission in the realm of the arts has been two-pronged: to provide more opportunities for African Americans in the arts, while simultaneously helping

to expose their talents and skills to a wider audience.

Some other recipients of the Browns' philanthropy include; Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University, Center for Urban Families (CFUF) that develops career paths and strong family models, Baltimore School for the Arts, Howard University, Middle Grades Partnership in Baltimore city and the Soulful Symphony/Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) Partnership.

Special to TEWire from GIN

Fears rise in Africa over nuclear plans

With six nuclear power plants on the drawing boards in South Africa, local groups are increasing pressure on government for a building moratorium.

“The decision to go nuclear will be our mess to sort out,” warned Lerato Maregele, Youth Coordinator at Earthlife Africa Johannesburg. “We will have to live with the ever-present danger of a nuclear accident for the rest of our lives. ... The South African government will be leaving us with climate change and a big nuclear bill. Thanks a whole lot.”

“As South African citizens, we’re concerned,” remarked Makoma Lekalakala of the Johannesburg group. “We’ve been campaigning around nuclear for quite a long time ... Government and the power company Eskom must stop and not extend their nuclear plant for the future.”

Today, South Africa’s two nuclear power reactors stand alone on the continent, but by the end of the decade, that could very well change. More than a half dozen African countries – Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya,

Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, and Egypt are studying prospects for nuclear energy. Ghana and Niger have both scrapped their plans for the moment.

“Nigeria has for some time now tinkered with the idea of nuclear power to generate electricity,” observed a recent editorial in Nigeria’s Daily Independent. But “Nigeria should be prepared for the earthquake experience. Having experienced earth tremors in 1933, 1939, 1984, 1990, 1994, 1997, 2000 and 2006 with the surface wave magnitude of between 3.7 and 3.9 the probability cannot be ruled out.

“Building nukes is like building a large building without any toilets,” wrote Ethnopunk on South Africa’s Business Day website. “There is no safe means of disposing of the waste... The same people who told us asbestos is safe are telling us that uranium and nuclear waste is also safe. We should therefore all demand a public inquiry into the deaths of workers due to exposure during uranium milling and mining.”

Ouattara forces promise Abidjan offensive

The prime minister of Ivory Coast’s internationally recognized president, Alassane Ouattara, has said the time is right for a “rapid offensive” against the country’s main city, Abidjan. Guillaume Soro said days of clashes in the city had sown panic among troops loyal to incumbent Laurent Gbagbo.

Many residents are trapped indoors without food, water and electricity.

Earlier, the UN urged Ouattara to investigate hundreds of deaths blamed partly on his supporters in Duekoue.

The UN recognized Ouattara as president after a run-off vote in November, but Gbagbo also claimed victory and refused to quit. Gbagbo has received a boost as his defecting army chief of staff, Gen Philippe Mangou, has returned to the fold.

Gen Mangou met Gbagbo after leaving the South African ambassador’s residence on this week, where he had taken refuge.

Pro-Ouattara troops have been massing just outside Abidjan amid confident talk of a final push, although they have been saying that for days, according to reports. Residents occasionally venture out to brave bullets and looters in search of water, now cut off in parts of the city.



Alassane Ouattara

A group of journalists trying to drive into Abidjan were fired on repeatedly by militias.

A spokesman for the UN mission in Ivory Coast (Unoci) said there had been shooting near the presidential palace, where Gbagbo was believed to be staying.

A source in Ouattara’s camp said there had been a relative lull in the fighting while reinforcements arrived from the country’s north.

‘Titide’ is back in Haiti

Former President Jean Bertrand-Aristide is back in Haiti after a seven-year exile in South Africa. He returned less than two days away from the run-off election.

Accompanied by actor and activist, Danny Glover, Aristide was welcomed by many of his supporters.

“If you could lean your heart against mine, you would hear how it beats faster, you would hear how it sings a consoling melody for Haiti,” Aristide said in a public statement at the airport, alternating between Haitian Creole, French, Spanish and Zulu. “Haiti is our mother who needs to breathe the oxygen of dignity...”

Ricardo Noel witnessed the reaction of Aristide’s supporters upon his arrival.

“The streets of Port-Au-Prince were in total jubilee,” he said. “The people that worked in the airport actually left their job site and ran towards the airplane. It was amazing.” Noel, along with a group of nearly 30 Howard students and faculty, volunteered in Haiti as part of Alternative Spring Break.

Noel recalls seeing graffiti on the wall that said, “Obama, fok Titide retounen,” (Obama, Titide must return).



Jean Bertrand-Aristide

Aristide said that he will not participate in politics, but will focus on education.

“Today, in the shade of Toussaint Louverture, we are happy to come engage the youth, the new generation, who want education in dignity and without exclusion,” he said.

“My job is to serve you with love. Your job is to live so Haiti does not die. The job of a good patriot is to love his country.”

Swaziland serial killer faces hanging

A serial killer responsible for at least 28 deaths in the southern African state of Swaziland has been sentenced to death by hanging.

A judge handed down the sentence nine days after David Simelane was convicted.

His lawyer said he would appeal against both the verdict and the sentence.

The killings are thought to have begun in

the late 1990s and lasted until 2001 when police arrested Simelane after a tip.

He led the police to shallow graves where 45 bodies were found altogether, including several pregnant women.

The serial killer was charged with 34 murders and convicted of 28.

No executions have been carried out in Swaziland since 1983.

Libya rebels move on Brega

Libyan rebels are advancing towards the eastern oil town of Brega, reports say, in renewed fighting with forces loyal to leader Col. Muammar Gaddafi, who currently hold the territory. Brega has changed hands several times in the past month.

Senior Libyan envoy Abdul Ati al-Obeidi is now in Turkey for talks. He has said Col Gaddafi wants the fighting to end.

Meanwhile, Italy has become the third country to recognize the rebel council as Libya’s legitimate government.

Obeidi, Libya’s deputy foreign minister,

held talks in Athens early this week. He is reportedly keen to open a dialogue with the international community.

According to reporters on the road close to Brega, the rebels appear to be more buoyant and organized than recently, while the sounds of gunfire and weaponry can be heard from the front line a few kilometres away.

“Rebel fighters are charging towards the front line, clearly bolstered by the presence in their ranks of more and more soldiers who have defected from Gaddafi’s army,” said BBC reporter Wylie Davies.

The VOICE flashes back to: Booker T. Washington

Booker Taliaferro Washington was a dominant figure in the Black community in the United States from 1890 to 1915. Representative of the last generation of Black leaders born into slavery, he spoke on behalf of Blacks living in the South.

Washington maintained his standing because of the sponsorship of powerful whites, substantial support within the Black community, his ability to raise educational funds from both groups, and his accommodation to the social realities of the age of Jim Crow segregation.

Washington was born into slavery to a slave mother and white father, who was a nearby planter, in a rural area in southwestern Virginia. After emancipation, he worked in West Virginia in a variety of manual labor jobs before making his way to Hampton Roads seeking an education. He worked his way through Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute (now Hampton University) and attended college at Wayland Seminary (now Virginia Union University). After returning to Hampton as a teacher, in 1881 he was named as the first leader of the new Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

Washington attained national prominence for his Atlanta Address of 1895, which attracted the attention of politicians and the public, making him a popular spokesperson for Black citizens. He built a nationwide network of supporters in many Black communities, with Black ministers, educators and businessmen composing his core supporters.

Washington played a dominant role in Black politics,



(April 5, 1856 – November 14, 1915)

winning wide support in the Black community and among more liberal whites. He gained access to top national leaders in politics, philanthropy and education.

Washington's efforts included cooperating with white people and enlisting the support of wealthy philanthropists, helping to raise funds to establish and operate thousands of small community schools and institutions of higher education for the betterment of Blacks throughout the South.

Northern critics called Washington's followers the "Tuskegee Machine." After 1909, Washington was criticized by the leaders of the new NAACP, especially W. E. B. Du Bois, who demanded a stronger tone of protest for advancement of civil rights needs. Washington replied that confrontation would lead to disaster for the outnumbered Blacks, and that cooperation with supportive whites was the only way to overcome pervasive racism in the long run. At the same time, he secretly funded litigation for civil rights cases, such as challenges to southern constitutions and laws that disenfranchised Blacks.

During a difficult period of transition, he did much to improve the working relationship between the races. His work greatly helped Blacks to achieve higher education, financial power and understanding of the U.S. legal system. This led to a foundation of the skill set needed to support the Civil Rights Movement and further adoption of important federal civil rights laws.

Washington died in 1915, at the age of 59. His death was believed to have been a result of congestive heart failure, aggravated by overwork. Five years ago examination of medical records indicated that he died of hypertension, with a blood pressure more than twice normal.

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American Legion
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Hampton University
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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

Monday, April 18, 2011

3:00 PM – ITB 11-62/E International Trucks, Power Plant Maintenance and Repair Services

Tuesday, April 19, 2011

3:00 PM – ITB 11-38/EC (Rebid) Roof Repair Buckroe Beach Park and Grundland Creek Park, Mandatory Prebid April 13, 2011

Thursday, April 28, 2011

2:30 PM – ITB 11-20/C (Rebid) Construction of an Offshore Breakwater at Buckroe Beach, off the Eastern Terminus of Pilot Avenue.

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

3:00 PM – RFP 11-1200/C Customer Relationship Management and Collaboration Services (CRM Services)

HAMPTON CITY SCHOOLS

Tuesday, April 26, 2011

2:00 PM – ITB 36/C Auditorium renovations at Hampton High School, Kecoughtan High School and Jefferson Davis Middle School

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

2:30 PM – ITB 11-38/T Construction of (2) Baseball Dugouts at Hampton High

Thursday, May 12, 2011

2:30 PM – ITB 11-37/T Parking Lot Expansion/Lights at Phillips Elementary School

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**

ENGINEERING CONSULTING

The Virginia Department of Transportation is seeking expressions of interest from consulting engineering firms who wish to be considered for professional engineering services to provide support to the Richmond District design engineering staff and to prepare right of way and construction plans on an as-needed basis. The proposed one-year limited services contract with optional two (2) one-year renewable terms will have a maximum value of \$5,000,000.00 per term and will be administered by the Richmond District, Location and Design Section.

Responses must be received by 4:00 p.m. on April 15, 2011. A copy of the Request For Proposal (RFP) may be obtained at <http://www.virginiadot.org/business/rfps.asp>. For additional information contact Mrs. Gisela Green, at (804) 786-6752 (TDD 711).

VDOT assures compliance with Title VI requirements of nondiscrimination in all activities pursuant to this advertisement.

**CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS
INVITATION FOR BIDS**

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:

IFB #2011-4994-2005

FOAM COATED RE-ROOF PROJECTS:
FAMILY COURTS AND FIRE STATION NO. 9
April 19, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.

BID DUE DATE:

This contract consists of plans and technical specifications as amended by Special Conditions and Department of Engineering Standard Specifications. Plans and technical specifications for said contract may be accessed at the Department of Purchasing's website <http://www.nngov.com/purchasing/resources/currentsolicitations>.

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 the completion of the project.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, to award this contract in whole or in part, and to waive any informality in the IFB process.

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

Sheri L. Chapman, CPPB
Director of Purchasing

CONSULTANT INSPECTION SERVICES

The Virginia Department of Transportation is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from consulting engineering firms who wish to be considered to provide professional engineering services for:

A Hampton Roads District – Wide Contract (Contract IV) providing construction engineering inspection services under a Fixed Billable Rate Contract. This contract will be for a 1 year period with optional 2 one-year renewable terms. The proposed one-year contract will have a total maximum compensation not to exceed \$5,000,000.00.

Project inspection will require 1 (one) Construction Inspection Coordinator, 1 (one) Construction Manager and twenty two (22) inspectors during peak construction operations consisting of twelve (12) Construction Inspector Seniors, eight (8) Construction Inspectors, and two (2) Construction Inspector Trainees. All personnel shall be knowledgeable of the Department's Construction Program, VDOT's Specifications and Standards, and Computer Based Construction Management Systems. Additional requirements include 1 (one) Traffic Engineer and 1 (one) Scheduling Specialist. Additional Engineering functions which may be required include, but are not limited to, bidability/constructability review, the review of shop drawings, schedule review, and notice of intent analysis.

In the event the Virginia Department of Transportation chooses to assign in-house personnel to this contract, the number of inspectors to be furnished by the consultant may be reduced at any time during the duration of the contract.

Expressions of interest must be received by 4:00 p.m. on April 18, 2011.

A copy of the request for proposal (RFP) may be obtained through VDOT's WEB site at <http://www.virginiadot.org/business/rfps.asp>. If you experience difficulty downloading the RFP please contact Ms. Tracy K. Sell (804) 371-4315 or fax (804) 225-2447. TTY/TDD/Voice Calls: 1-800-307-4630 (For Hearing Impaired Only)

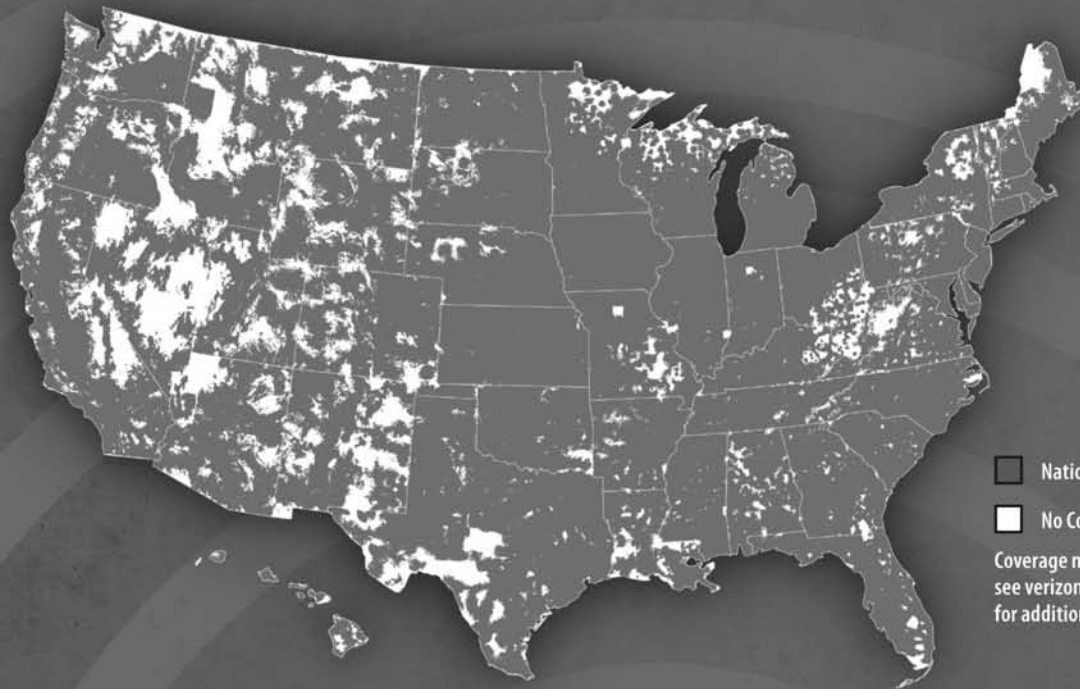
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