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HBCU LGBT first-time forum earns national kudos

By Adrienne Leon

NNPA - Spelman College is receiving national media attention for hosting an unprecedented summit on lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgender issues at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

The Chronicle of Higher Education, National Public Radio, BET, and Color Lines News for Action are among the media outlets that wrote about the significance of the conference in dealing with gay and lesbian issues on Black college campuses.

Many observers, HBCU alumni, and fellow students commended Spelman administration as well as young panelists for leading the charge.

"Spelman College is leading HBCUs in opening up conversations about the needs and concerns of LGBT students," according to a column published in The Chronicle of Higher Education.

"These types of conversations need to take place on HBCU campuses throughout the nation," it continued. "For too long, gay and lesbian issues have been ignored at HBCUs, leaving behind a significant percentage of African American students who are looking for support as they pursue their educations and develop their personal identities."

Dr. Beverly Guy-Sheffhall, who helped spearhead the inaugural event, said she was "pleased and a little pleasantly surprised by the national coverage." She said the forum



Panelists address audience members at an unprecedented summit on lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgender issues at historically Black colleges and universities. The summit, sponsored by Spelman College, is attracting attention and kudos from media outlets throughout the nation. (Photo by Anare V. Holmes)

is just one of many initiatives she hopes to see in 2011.

Students and faculty from nine colleges, including Howard, Morgan State, North Carolina Central, and Southern universities, met in late April for the historic event titled "Facilitating Campus Climates of Pluralism, Inclusivity and Progressive Change at HBCUs."

Besides raising awareness of alternative lifestyles topics – often considered taboo in Black communities – participants also offered suggestions on how to make Black campuses more inclusive to LGBT students.

JeShawna Wholley, former president of

Afrekete, Spelman's LGBT/Queer advocacy group, called the forum "brave but necessary." "It's our privilege and right to be out," she said. She and fellow panelists shared their vision for broad-scale transformation in 10 years at Black institutions concerning diversity and homophobia that exists on campus.

Howard alumna Victoria Kirby recommended more discussions on gender and sexuality across the board in curriculum.

Spelman alumna Moya Bailey identified a need for LGBT resource centers at every HBCU. She added that at least one staff member sensitive to the issue should be

consulted when policies are made.

Guy-Sheffhall said many Black colleges have been slow to launch LGBT initiatives because of their historic religious affiliations. She said the Spelman forum was held at an urgent time, however, referencing national reports of gay and lesbian students committing suicide out of fear of discrimination or ostracism.

Last September, a gay Rutgers student jumped to his death after discovering his sexual encounter had been exposed online.

The LGBT "intolerance" issue was raised at Morehouse College in 2009, meanwhile, when a newly implemented dress code prohibited students at the all-male school from wearing pumps, dresses and other attire associated with women's clothing.

The situation prompted some Morehouse students – including activists from the sister college, Spelman – to better promote a "safe space" through programs and clubs for those who choose alternative lifestyles.

Guy-Sheffhall said promoting a safe space for LGBT students was the purpose of the pluralism forum. She said a 300-page packet given to summit attendees – which contains recommendations to promote course offerings, staff training, and campus activities – also will be distributed to all 105 HBCUs.

"We're planning to get a working committee in an effort to continue projects on Black campuses," she added.

City leaders and residents celebrate Buckroe Beach preservation

Residents and friends of Buckroe Beach joined Hampton city officials in a ceremony last Friday, that formally designated more than 25 acres of Buckroe and Salt Ponds beaches as public recreation areas.

Mayor Molly Ward noted that the beaches, with easements held by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, are now held under the most

restrictive conditions possible.

"There will be no development of this land in perpetuity. That means forever," she said.

Hampton Vice Mayor George Wallace noted that there never were plans to develop or restrict access to the public beaches, but some residents were still unconvinced. The idea of placing the land under permanent easement was designed to show residents,

he said, that City Council was serious about preserving and protecting the beach so it remains available to future generations.

Jason McGarvey of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation lauded the city's effort to offer the easement. The foundation was established in 1966 to promote the preservation of open-space lands and to preserve the natural, scenic, historic and recreational areas of the commonwealth for

the future.

After the speeches, city and business leaders in suits, Buckroe residents proudly wearing Buckroe t-shirts and a few early beach-goers headed onto the sand to formally cut the ribbon. More than 3,000 feet of ribbon had been placed around the Buckroe portion of the easement to outline the land that has been protected.

Obama administration officials to address HU Minister's Conference

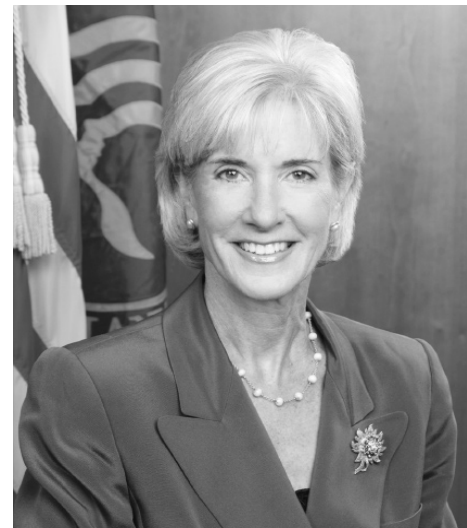
U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius and Dr. John S. Wilson, Jr., executive director of the White House Initiative on HBCUs, will address the largest gathering of interdenominational African American clergy in the world at the Hampton University 97th Annual Ministers' Conference on June 7 at 7 p.m. The event will be held in the HU Convocation Center.

The two officials have been invited by HU President Dr. William R. Harvey to address conference attendees. Sebelius will speak on health disparities. Wilson will speak on the relationship between the Black church and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs.)

As the nation's highest-ranked health official, Sebelius leads the principal agency charged with keeping Americans healthy, ensuring they get the health care they need, and providing children, families, and seniors with the essential human services they depend on. She is guiding the

implementation of the historic Affordable Care Act and is at the forefront of the Obama administration's efforts to build a 21st century health care system. Before joining the Obama administration in April 2009, Sebelius served as governor of Kansas. She holds a master of public administration degree from the University of Kansas and a bachelor of arts degree from Trinity Washington University.

Appointed in July 2009 as executive director of the White House Initiative on HBCUs, Wilson works with the presidentially appointed HBCU Board of Advisors – chaired by HU President Dr. William R. Harvey – and assists the secretary of education as liaison between the executive branch and HBCUs. He also works with 32 federal agencies that support HBCUs through federal grants and contracts. Wilson earned a bachelor of arts degree from Morehouse College, a master of Theological Studies degree from Harvard University, and both master's



Kathleen Sebelius



Dr. John S. Wilson, Jr.

and doctoral degrees in educational administration, planning, and social policy, also from Harvard University.

Throughout its 97-year history, the HU Ministers' Conference has welcomed such

notable speakers as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, the Rev. Al Sharpton, the Rev. T.D. Jakes, U.S. President Barack Obama and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

Invert Virginia's tax structures to eliminate state budget deficits

A new study has found that inverting state tax structures—whereby the highest income earners would be taxed at the current percentage of income for the lowest income earners, and vice versa—

would collectively raise \$6.9 billion more in revenue, a 21.4 percent increase over Virginia's current tax structure. "Flipping" the tax structure would eliminate future budget deficit woes and would help offset

the serious state and local budget cuts Virginians have experienced for the last four years.

The report, titled "Flip It to Fix It: An Immediate, Fair Solution to State Budget Shortfalls" was released today by Boston-based United for a Fair Economy and is supported by state organizations like Virginia Organizing.

"While Governor Bob McDonnell and our legislators in Richmond pat themselves on the back for creating a surplus, all Virginians continue to suffer as a result of years of unwise budget cuts stemming from a refusal to make common-sense revisions to our antiquated, upside-down tax system," said David Shreve, report co-author and Virginia Organizing supporter.

"Flip It to Fix It" attributes a large part of states' current deficits to the regressive tax structures that the report shows are designed to fail. "Trying to raise adequate revenue through a regressive tax structure—where a greater percent of income is demanded of the poor than the well-off—is like trying to squeeze water from a stone," said Karen Kraut, coordinator of state tax policy at United for a Fair Economy and co-author of the report.

The report highlights Virginia's regressive tax structure where the poorest taxpayers pay a larger percentage of their income than the

richest taxpayers. Virginia's richest 1 percent of taxpayers pay 5.2 percent of their income in state and local taxes while the state's poorest 20 percent pay nearly 8.8 percent. Most of Virginia's middle class pays between 8 percent and 8.4 percent of their income.

"The inadequacy of regressive tax structures puts everything we value at risk: the well-being of families, the future competitiveness of the American workforce, and the nation's ability to rebound from the recession and prosper," said Kraut.

The report contends that an inverted tax structure not only solves budget crises, but increases equity and best spurs steady and strong economic activity.

"Instead of flipping our upside-down tax structure, a proven way to spark new economic activity and jobs, our elected leaders are gutting our infrastructure and education system. They are also relying disproportionately on federal spending and federal jobs to create the illusion of sound state policy," said Shreve. "We cannot continue to kick the can down the road and place a relatively meaningless accounting balance ahead of the state's economy and the needs of its citizens."

The report calls on states to adopt its proposed progressive tax reforms, many of which are immediately achievable and will help solve state deficits.

2011 Norfolk Harborfest



For four memorable days, the 35th Annual Norfolk Harborfest will transform the Downtown Norfolk Waterfront and Town Point Park into an exciting playground for people of all ages. The festival launches Thurs. June 9, from 6-9 p.m. with the 2nd Annual HarborFEAST Seafood Sampler and continues through the weekend with 3 full days of free, fresh, family-friendly fun.

The historic waterfront festival offers a weekend packed with exciting activities on land and sea. Harborfest includes tall ships and the Parade of Sail, the largest fireworks show on the East Coast, local, regional and national entertainment, family activities, unique and unusual performances, water activities and much more.

PFAC announces "Prefaces 2011" art exhibit award recipients

Peninsula Fine Arts Center recently announced awards totaling \$1,100 to artists in Prefaces 2011: High School Student Juried Art Exhibition.

Judged by Vanessa Thaxton-Ward, interim director and curator of collections at Hampton University Museum, Prefaces 2011 allows Hampton Roads high school students the opportunity to show their work in a professional gallery alongside their peers.

Thaxton-Ward said, "They are proud of who they are. Our students recognize that education is important, and that there are certain social ills in our society, as well as the good that can be found in the simplicity of a flower. As I selected the works to include, it was enlightening to see all of this reflected in their work and that 9th – 12th graders were thinking about all of this."

Over 300 works of art were entered from 17 different high schools for Prefaces 2011 and only 97 works were chosen by Thaxton-Ward to be in the exhibition.

"The difficulty in selecting pieces to include in the exhibition proves that the talent is vast and that we are developing a new generation of capable artists," said Thaxton-Ward.

The exhibition continues through June

12 with free viewings offered on Tuesday evenings 5:30-8 pm, Saturday, June 4, 10 am-5 pm and Sunday, June 5, 1-5 pm. Other exhibitions on view are Richard Hunt: Sculpture and Works on Paper, Form and Shadow: Recent Work by Greg Henry and Newport News Public School Senior Miniature Show.

The awards are made possible by the generosity of The Tidewater Chapter of The Society, Inc. Prefaces 2011 is sponsored by The Tidewater Chapter of The Society, Inc. and Newport News Shipbuilding, a division of Huntington Ingalls Industries.

The winners are:

• Best in Show \$300

Lydia Barnett
Tabb High School, Yorktown
Untitled

Charcoal

• First Place \$250

Emily Eaton
Jamestown High School, Williamsburg
Daydreamin'
Digital photograph

• Second Place \$200

Dominic Simmons
Menchville High School, Newport News
Untitled

Linoleum print

• Third Place \$150



Dashonte' Temoney

Anna Marry
Poquoson High School, Poquoson
Untitled

Collage

• Fourth Place \$100

Dashonte' Temoney
Hampton Roads Academy, Newport News
Organic Splash

Clay

Additional awards:

• Educator's Choice Award \$50

Given by Janet Rash, Art Educator, Pfac
Claire Bresee

Hampton Roads Academy, Newport News
F.L.G.

Photograph, paint and mixed media

• Curator's Choice Award \$50

Given by Michael Preble, Curator, Pfac
Darryl Hayden

Woodside High School, Newport News

Out of Nowhere

Digital media

Local residents graduate from Hampton University with Bill Cosby as speaker

The following local residents graduated from Hampton University last month.

- Carmesha Jordan of Williamsburg, VA
- GiaVonn Powell of Williamsburg, VA
- Jennifer Gentile of Virginia Beach, VA
- Kelli Holmes of Virginia Beach, VA
- Zondra Magee of Virginia Beach, VA
- Jacqueline Malpaya of Virginia Beach, VA
- Edwin Dauda of Norfolk, VA
- Angelique Kater of Norfolk, VA
- Alacia Minor of Norfolk, VA
- Ashleigh Allen of Norfolk, VA
- Tanza Hester of Norfolk, VA
- Heather Marchese of Norfolk, VA
- Brian Otey of Norfolk, VA
- Julie Jones of Norfolk, VA
- Tony Brock of Newport News, VA
- Bianca Nelson of Newport News, VA
- Zane Shenk of Newport News, VA
- Tony Ejinwa of Newport News, VA
- Amanda Hayes of Newport News, VA
- John Jones of Newport News, VA
- Christopher Laws of Newport News, VA
- Justice Telfare of Newport News, VA
- Nicole Joseph of Newport News, VA
- Kimberly Gore of Newport News, VA
- Minal Alfaruqi of Newport News, VA
- Ashley Bennett of Newport News, VA
- Shaunte Moore of Newport News, VA
- Niko Clemmons of Newport News, VA
- Roynell Frank of Newport News, VA
- Michael Graves of Newport News, VA

- Elizabeth Hallaren of Newport News, VA
- Janet Perez of Newport News, VA
- Janae Wilson of Newport News, VA
- Markeysha Taft of Hampton, VA
- Michael Ashburn of Hampton, VA
- Timothy Chaney of Hampton, VA
- Correy Hudson of Hampton, VA
- Stephanie Smith of Hampton, VA
- Jazmine Turner of Hampton, VA
- Temitope Animashaun of Hampton, VA
- Virgelia Banks of Hampton, VA
- Brandi Barnum of Hampton, VA
- Jessica Benjamin of Hampton, VA
- Jovan Benjamin of Hampton, VA
- Jasmin Branch of Hampton, VA
- Randall Callahan of Hampton, VA
- Cristy Cobb of Hampton, VA
- Dottie Collins of Hampton, VA
- Joan Davis of Hampton, VA
- Trent Dillard of Hampton, VA
- Gavin Earl of Hampton, VA
- Stephanie Feld of Hampton, VA
- Leslie Gay of Hampton, VA
- Tamara George of Hampton, VA
- Destiny Hilliard-Thomas of Hampton, VA
- Slena King of Hampton, VA
- Cierra McEachern of Hampton, VA
- Jazmine McFadden of Hampton, VA
- Brittany McKenzie of Hampton, VA
- Thang Nguyen of Hampton, VA
- Tyisha Parker of Hampton, VA
- Philip Payne of Hampton, VA



- Vanessa Petgrave of Hampton, VA
- Eric Robinson of Hampton, VA
- Sherrie Robinson of Hampton, VA
- Brittany Rogers of Hampton, VA
- Robyn Singleton of Hampton, VA
- Kemeya Spence of Hampton, VA
- Clarence Stanfield of Hampton, VA
- Joseph Thomas of Hampton, VA
- Marcus Wiggs of Hampton, VA
- Donna Woodard of Hampton, VA
- Kevin Akeya of Hampton, VA
- Erica Bell of Hampton, VA
- Brian Clark of Hampton, VA
- Stacy Culler of Hampton, VA
- Franklin Frazier of Hampton, VA
- Shakiya Gardner of Hampton, VA
- Jordan Harris of Hampton, VA
- Whitney Hill of Hampton, VA

- Hannah Kisseadoo of Hampton, VA
- Fallan Lee of Hampton, VA
- Amber Main of Hampton, VA
- Megan McKinney of Hampton, VA
- Nichelle Parker of Hampton, VA
- Marcus Pillars of Hampton, VA
- Temitope Seriki of Hampton, VA
- Desiree Shoamotamedi of Hampton, VA
- Alisa Simon of Hampton, VA
- Aaric Smith of Hampton, VA
- Mark Southall of Hampton, VA
- Sharee Stowes of Hampton, VA
- Velma Teschemaker of Hampton, VA
- Dejuan Tillman of Hampton, VA
- Nahema Torres of Hampton, VA
- Sheri Turner of Hampton, VA
- Cory Watkins of Hampton, VA
- Sherita Wedlow of Hampton, VA

Rep. Scott hosts policy briefing about over incarceration and its impact on youth



Congressman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (D-Virginia) recently hosted a policy briefing inspired by the recent NAACP report, "Misplaced Priorities: Over Incarcerate, Under Educate." The report explained that the over incarceration of non-violent offenders is a counterproductive approach to crime policy that erodes state budgets at the expense of state public education systems. As a result, the over incarceration of non-violent offenders undermines the promise of our youth. The briefing, titled "The High Price of Misplaced Priorities: How Over Incarceration and Under Education Undermine the PROMISE of Our Youth," featured a five-member panel of leading education, justice, and civil rights advocates.

"There needs to be a paradigm shift in the way America deals with at-risk youth," said Congressman Scott. "The over incarceration of youth for non-violent, drug-related offenses is counterproductive. Those that are incarcerated will eventually be replaced by newcomers, leaving communities no less vulnerable to crime. I hope this briefing will illustrate how alternative strategies to incarceration, such as educational supports and community-based prevention and intervention programs, can be used to move youth from the cradle-to-prison pipeline to the cradle-to-college or cradle-to-workforce pipeline."

Free one-day celebrations of dads

With the help of hundreds of public housing authorities across the nation, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is taking Father's Day to a whole new level. HUD appealed to the nation's 3,200 public housing authorities to host Father's Day 2011 on Saturday, June 18 – a day to celebrate fatherhood, family and to support fathers in staying connected with their children.

These public housing agencies are inviting fathers and their children who live in the public housing or the surrounding community to day-long events with a two-fold purpose – to provide fun activities to support the bonding of fathers and their children, while connecting fathers to economic development resources.

Federal partners, including the U.S. Department of Labor, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, United States Department of Agriculture, and the Departments of Education and Justice, are asking their local grantees and offices to offer on-site information and services such as employment resources, health care consultation and legal counseling. In some cities, participants will meet athletes from the NFL and NBA, who will join in on the fun while others will receive free books from the Read it LOUD Program.

"Children with involved fathers grow up happier, healthier and better prepared to succeed in life," said HUD Secretary Shaun

Donovan, himself a father of two. "Yet every night, one-out-of -three American children goes to bed in a home without a father present. These events will bring fathers and their children together and connect the dads to the social and economic resources they need to be the best parents they can be."

To date nearly 200 housing authorities in 33 states will participate in Fathers Day 2011 and are partnering with other organizations including the NFL, NBA, Boys & Girls Club of America, Legal Services Corporation and the National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI), an organization created in 1993 to raise the awareness of the importance of fathers. Together, these groups are delivering a clear message – America needs dads.

According U.S. Census data, 24 million American children live in a home without a father. Also, NFI says children in homes absent a father are five times more likely to be poor; and are more likely to drop out of school or be incarcerated.

HUD's national Father's Day 2011 campaign is in part modeled after the New York City Housing Authority 2010 Fatherhood Initiative, which hosted a day-long event in all five of its boroughs to kick off ongoing economic development, parenting workshops, tutoring and bonding activities for fathers and children.

Ruth Harris, wife of local civil rights leader interred

Funeral services for Ruth Jones Harris, 86, of Hopewell, who quietly passed away on Sunday, May 22, in her home, were held Friday, May 27 at First Baptist Church, 401 N. 2nd St. in Hopewell, with Chaplain (Lt. Col.) James Palmer officiating. Harris' daughter Joanne Lucas offered the eulogy. She was later interred at the Mt. Sinai Memorial Park in Prince George.

Harris was the first of six children born to the late Daniel and Novella Jones in Dendron, Va. At the age of two, she moved with her family to Hopewell, where she attended the Hopewell Public Schools and was elected president of her high school senior class at Carter G. Woodson. In 1943, a year after finishing high school, she graduated from the Virginia State College of Beauty Culture and Cosmetology. She later studied social work at Virginia Union University and took Business Administration and Early Childhood Development courses at Virginia State University.

On Feb. 20, 1946, Harris married Curtis West Harris, now a local civil rights legend and a longtime Hopewell councilman and former Mayor. For the last few months she



In January, Ruth Harris received a certificate proclaiming Jan.22 to be Curtis W. Harris Day in Hopewell

was helping nurse him to health after he fell ill, was hospitalized, underwent surgery, had a stroke, was in a rehabilitation center, before going back home. They had six children - Curtis, Jr., Kenneth, Michael, Joanne, Karen, and Michelle. The 'Harris Connection,' as the family is called, now includes three daughter-in-laws, one son-in-law, 20 grand-

children, 21 great grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild.

Harris was a business early on. She opened Harris and Young Beauty Salon in 1953. Four years later, she replaced her cosmetology career with a family restaurant when she and her husband opened the Harris Snack Bar in 1959. As manager and head cook,

Harris transformed the Snack Bar into a wholesome part of the community. It became a meeting place---Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. even stopped in during the thrust of the 60's Civil Rights Movement.

Ruth confessed Christ at an early age and was dedicated to a spiritual life, but her role in the church changed when her husband entered the ministry in 1957. By 1966, she was first lady, simultaneously, at First Baptist Church, Bermuda Hundred (Chester), Gilfield Baptist Church (Ivor), and Union Baptist Church (Hopewell). Through the years Harris has been a Sunday School teacher and superintendent, president of the Missionary Circle, a Bible study instructor, a member of the Deacons Board, and chairperson of the finance committee and Women's History Month committee. As an extension of her Christian service, she was a founder of the Usher's Union of Hopewell, Petersburg, and Vicinity; past Worthy Patron of the Lily of the Valley Chapter #44 Order of the Eastern Star; and has participated on the local, state, and national levels of the See "Civil Rights Leader" on pg. 5

NC State Conference NAACP leader jailed for protesting budget cuts

The leader of the NAACP North Carolina State Conference, Reverend Dr. William Barber II, was handcuffed and taken to prison last week along with six other leaders for attempting to speak in the North Carolina house against attempts by right wing, tea party-backed legislators to push through draconian cuts that would dramatically affect the poor and middle class.

The cuts are the latest in a coordinated move in the state to advance a radical agenda including resegregating schools, eroding voting rights, and cutting back on education funding.

“Our state can do better than the direction we are headed,” remarked Barber, who was released the day after the arrest. “The state of North Carolina has come too far to go back to the dark ages of segregation and economic despair. Our coalition of civil rights, faith, labor and civic organizations will continue to organize, educate and empower communities across the state to keep North Carolina moving forward.”

The efforts by tea party legislators in North Carolina mirror attempts throughout the country to restrict voting rights, deplete education funding and eliminate civil rights in the workplace the NAACP notes. These extreme actions disproportionately

impact African Americans who are more likely to lack qualifying photo IDs, attend the poorest schools, and suffer discrimination in the workplace.

In Florida, newly enacted laws disenfranchise minorities, the working poor, and young Americans in the voting process by cutting the number of days for early voting by more than half, imposing overburdening regulations on voter registration organizations and denying newly released felons immediate restoration of their voting rights. In South Carolina, a new voter ID law adds another unnecessary obstacle to vote for older citizens who may have never acquired a driver’s license in their life.

In Pennsylvania, the target appears to be education funding. Newly elected Gov. Tom Corbett proposed cutting over \$1.2 billion from the state’s education budget while simultaneously raising prison spending by nearly 11 percent and requesting construction of three new prisons.

In the Midwest, it is the rights of workers that are under attack. Last month, Missouri legislators tried to raise the threshold for an employee to file a discrimination lawsuit against an employer. And in Wisconsin, Tea Party-backed officials tried to eliminate the right of public employees to organize.



“From Florida to Wisconsin, Missouri to Arizona, we are seeing a coordinated attempt to turn the clock back on our nation’s progress,” said NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous. The NAACP will not sit idly by with so much at stake.”

And it hasn’t. As in North Carolina, civil rights, labor and faith organizations have taken a stand. From lawsuits in Florida, to rallies in Pennsylvania, to a letter writing campaign in Missouri that led to a governor veto of the bill that would promote

workplace discrimination, the NAACP and its allies have fought to prevent the radical agenda from taking hold.

“We must fight against these cruel measures that only serve to hurt the middle class and the poor and will not make our nation better,” stated NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous. “The courage of Reverend Dr. Barber and other leaders across the country show the unyielding resolve that we must all exhibit to protect America’s promise for hard-working families.”

IIA expands leadership team with Jamal Simmons

Former Virginia Congressman Rick Boucher (D-Va.) and communications consultant and political analyst Jamal Simmons have joined the Internet Innovation Alliance (IIA) as honorary chairman and co-chairman, respectively. Founded in 2004, the IIA is a broad-based coalition supporting broadband availability and adoption for all Americans, particularly increased mobile connectivity for underserved and rural communities.

“Congressman Boucher and Jamal Simmons are a natural fit to join IIA,” said Bruce Mehlman, IIA co-chairman. “The Alliance has long marshaled innovation leaders in support of public policies that harness the power of high-speed Internet to benefit all Americans. We are thrilled to partner on achieving universal broadband with these two leaders who have been so dedicated to expanding access to opportunity for all Americans.”

Simmons emerged from CNN’s 2008 presidential campaign coverage as an influential television commentator, also regularly seen on CBS News. A communications consultant in Washington, D.C., Simmons previously served as

an advisor to the Democratic National Committee during the Obama-Biden campaign. He began his career in politics as a press aide to Bill Clinton during his 1992 presidential campaign and political appointee at USTR and the Commerce Department in the Clinton administration. He was also a congressional chief of staff and deputy communications director for Al Gore in 2000 before serving as traveling press secretary for Sen. Bob Graham and General Wesley Clark’s presidential campaigns in 2004. Simmons is a graduate of Morehouse College and the Kennedy School at Harvard University.

“Everyone in America should be able to participate in the technological revolution that is changing our society,” said Simmons. “At IIA, I look forward to spreading awareness about the positive impact of bringing broadband to communities of color and rural citizens who are disconnected. Expanded high-speed Internet will help more Americans access everything from health care to educational and job opportunities and empower them to start and grow their own businesses.”

Civil Rights Leader

From Page 4

International Association of Ministers’ Wives and Ministers’ Widows.

In September of 1972, Harris and her husband opened the Union Day Care Center, Inc. She went back to college and joined professional organizations such as the American Childhood International, the Southside Association of Early Childhood Education, and the Virginia and National Association of the Education of Young Children. The Union Day Care Center director created a unique situation when she decided to start a senior citizen program across the hall from the children in the day care center. She was appointed by the Hopewell City Council to serve on the Senior Citizens Commission from 1981 – 1985. After 28 years of warming the hearts of children and seniors, she retired from the day care industry in the year, 2000.

“Ms. Ruth,” as she is lovingly referred by many, has been a pillar in her community as well as in her home. She has been a Girl Scout leader, a member

and officer in the Moses Life Insurance, a volunteer at the Hopewell Food Pantry, a member of the Parent Teacher Association, and a grade mother in her children’s school. Acknowledgement of her many accomplishments humbled Harris when she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the Virginia University of Lynchburg in 1986. As a foot soldier in the continuous battle for social justice, she has been selfless in her responsibilities as a wife and mother when the urgency of the civil rights movement has required her husband to be away from home. Her presence in the movement was acknowledged by the National Southern Christian Leadership Conference during its First Lady Award Celebration on August 8, 2007 when Ruth became one of the first recipients of the Faithful Servant Award.

According to those who knew her well, Harris’ sincere testimony for living is captured in the poignant lines of the 121st Psalm: “I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord...”

Support for ex-offenders

Several years ago as a younger man, I decided in "urgency" to leave my home in Virginia. I was an honorably discharged Viet Nam veteran and as result of experiences suffered during the war, I returned to civilian life undiagnosed with issues determined as a "post traumatic stress disorder"(PTSD). Ultimately, and for years, the condition had driven me into a cycle of addiction, crime and imprisonment. Finally, I resolved that if I did not leave Virginia, I would no doubt spend the rest of my life behind its bars.

I was a non-violent offender. Time and again, upon release from prison, I returned to a community without support to aid in my transition. I was not aware of my disabling condition, had limited education, work experience and was further stigmatized by revealing my criminal background when applying for jobs. The fact remains, most area companies will not hire if there is a criminal record and will terminate upon learning a criminal record has been denied. As a result and being unable to maintain support on menial jobs, I returned to past criminal activities and returned to the cycle of crime and imprisonment.

I decided to leave Virginia and was soon incarcerated in a new state. However, to my amazement, this term of incarceration would serve towards a "change" I had been searching for in my life. I was screened and enrolled in the "Model Learning Center" where there was a comprehensive plan to "assist" offenders in their efforts for transition. While incarcerated I was enrolled in college, received business credits and training towards employment change for my future.

In nearing completion of my sentence, I phased into a pre-release program. Residing in an atmosphere of "virtual freedom", I was assisted in finding a job and revived in skills such as planning a daily schedule, job interview training, being on time for appointments and I also developed

good social habits such as attending plays, concerts, sporting events and bowling.

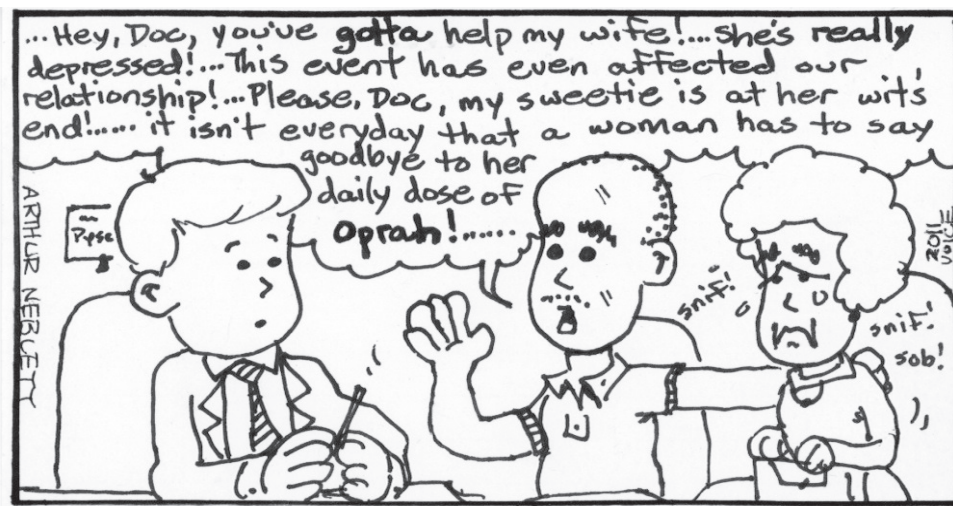
Over the course of the following years, my life became measurable in progress ranging from my first job as a cook for a major Washington D.C. hotel chain, construction foreman, superintendant on many federal construction projects to include the Smithsonian, Pentagon and the state department. Often, these projects required "clearances" wherein my prior record never served as a hindrance.

In 1997, along with a partner, I formed a Medical Transportation Corporation serving D.C. Medicaid and in 2003 we opened a second company serving Virginia Medicaid in Hampton Roads. In 2008, I received restored citizenship rights from former Governor Timothy M. Kaine and voted for the first time.

Unfortunately, our Virginia community lags behind years in rehabilitation efforts to help its ex-offenders in their recovery. Even today, seven years in return to Virginia, in disclosed knowledge of my accomplishments, volunteered services, political references and restored rights, the glass ceiling of my criminal past continues to haunt. I was recently denied minimum wage employment based solely on my record, which is now 25 years old.

I remain hopeful our corporate and small business communities will join in with our mayor, commonwealth's attorney, police chiefs and sheriff's calls for support on the issue of jobs for ex-offenders. Most offenders at some point will be released back into our communities. Educational training and rehabilitative efforts underway, would serve them no successful gain if in their return they are denied fair opportunity to earn a decent living!

Cleveland C. Mabry
Southeast community
Newport News, Virginia



The VOICE Unleashed

We were toddlers when we met, Georgie and I.

He was the son of my aunt's best friend, and when we would travel to Kansas City, as we did almost every summer - because going to stay with a relative for a week was what most Black people called "vacation" in those days - my siblings and I couldn't wait until Georgie and his siblings showed up so the fun could start.

Although he had a brother, and I had a brother, Georgie preferred to play with my sister and me. We were blissfully unaware of sexuality - ours or anyone else's - so it didn't matter.

But even after we got older and understood more about Georgie, it still didn't matter. Nor did it matter once we were fully grown with families of our own, and Georgie was off living with the man he loved. Nor did it matter when he died of AIDS, one of the first to succumb to the wicked disease.

All that mattered then was that our long-time, lovable, faithful, thoroughly enjoyable good friend was gone for good. All that mattered were the memories of a great guy who went too soon.

Apparently, that early experience burrowed into my consciousness and permanently shaped my thinking about gay

rights because, to this day, I cannot figure out why anyone would reject, despise, discriminate against or stigmatize a good man or woman based on which gender he or she is attracted to.

Recently, Don Lemon, the weekend anchor for CNN, revealed that he is gay. The Internet exploded with comments - many of them supportive, but far too many dismissive, critical and ignorant folks weighed in, usually harbored in anonymity. A good number of the backslashers either said or suggested they are Black.

I suspect the Black man's struggle to assert and get respect for his manhood in a country that carries such heavy discriminatory baggage may have something to do with the rampant anti-gay strain that runs through much of Black America. Some seem to wear their homophobia as a badge of honor, as if the level of the greater their contempt, the greater their masculinity. We know better than that. Real men aren't threatened by people, places or things that are not their concern and are not concerned with them.

From all I have seen, Don Lemon is a stand-up brother - competent, insightful, conscientious and honorable. That's the real measure of a man.

Deborah Mathis

THE VOICE

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Editor's note: I am sharing the essay/missive below with you because I believe it serves as an example of what our youth can achieve if they try. The writer is a 16-year old young man who will soon leave his mother to attend a college in Illinois on a full scholarship. We congratulate him and his family for this landmark achievement. - MJ

Importance of leadership

Aristotle said "All human actions have one or more of these seven causes: chance, nature, compulsions, habit, reason, passion, desire." I am interested in electrical engineering as a field of study in college because I embody all of these characteristics. I moved to Atlanta, Georgia for my junior year in high school and took a class called foundation of engineering. It showed me all the different forms of engineering and really inspired me to do some type of engineering. The class was taught by Mr. Anterro Graham, a former NASA engineer. His mission statement is to educate, encourage, and empower young minds through the use of mathematics and robotic technology. Mr. Graham inspired me to be an engineer. The course provided students with opportunities to develop fundamental technological literacy as they learned about the history, systems, and processes of invention and innovation.

When I was in elementary school I skipped the 3rd and 5th grades. This shaped my life and shows how hard I work. My favorite subjects are math and science. I love engineering as a whole because of the math involved in the subject. I am a great student. I have the passion, desire, and heart to be a great electrical engineer. I love to learn new things that can help me improve the world. I really like to get involved with the community and help the kids. I tutor

them so they can improve their lives and study habits.

I want to have an impact on the world and help humanity. Humanity as a whole can be innovated and changed for the better. I can make life easier to live for people. I can invent a machine, a device or anything to improve the world and get rid of unnecessary things. With my intelligence, mankind can evolve gloriously and flourish as a people. The human race can use me for so many great things. The world would appreciate my strong efforts and will-power when I create things to help civilization. I feel it is my responsibility as a human to help others as much as I can. My unique caring outlook on life will make me a successful person along with my problem solving skills.

The world needs more engineers to help with mankind, and so we can evolve as a species. Engineers helped build this world as we know it. They made the wheel that now has evolved into cars and even RVs. The wheel shaped the world of modern transportation and is how it all started. I hope I can impact the world like other great engineers before me.

Electrical engineering will help your life as well as mine. I can change the world based on the foundation of my ancestors. I believe the world would not be able to survive without engineers. Rewards are few and far between, but capturing your visions and dreams in each and every outlook is altogether more inspired, and the rewards certainly more lasting than a mere "engineering".

This is my description of the importance of leadership and service, and how I will contribute to those ideals at Illinois Institute of Technology and the United States.

**Chauncey Dawkins
Richmond**

Hypocrisy over Bahrain

So, I want to ask you, the reader, a simple question: why are we not bombing Bahrain? The U.S.A. and N.A.T.O. [North Atlantic Treaty Organization] chose to intervene militarily in the conflict in Libya. They have been engaged in air strikes against installations and forces of the Qaddafi regime. This was all justified as being for humanitarian reasons. It was also based on a United Nations mandate to institute a so-called "no fly zone" over Libya, yet NATO is not limiting itself to attacking the almost non-existent Libyan air force.

Ok, think about it for a moment. Here's the second part of the question. Why are we threatening Syria, but remaining curiously quiet about Bahrain and Yemen? There is a major crackdown going on in Syria. It is being carried out by a very undemocratic government, but it is an internal matter. There are voices in the U.S.A. that are suggesting that military action be taken against Syria.

Yet, no action has been taken against Bahrain (or Yemen for that matter where repression has been underway). In case you have not been following this story, a pro-democracy movement emerged in Bahrain challenging the Sunni clique running the country where there is a Shia majority. The movement has faced massive and brutal repression, including the introduction of Saudi Arabian troops. Most recently doctors and nurses who treated pro-democracy demonstrators were arrested for treating these demonstrators.

And, the U.S. government has been largely silent.

The hypocrisy here is not surprising, but nevertheless disgusting. Both Bahrain and Yemen are key allies of the U.S.A. So, the script seems to be that they can get away

with whatever level of repression they choose, whereas in situations where there is a country with either a less reliable ally (Libya's Qaddafi) or a contentious near enemy (Syria's Assad), it is fine to either militarily intervene or to at least wave the threatening sword.

**Bill Fletcher, Jr.
Washington, D.C.**

Where is the president?

As everyone knows, there have been record-breaking floods in the heartland, and recently, a deadly tornado that nearly wiped out Joplin, Missouri. The death count from this tornado has been over 100.

Our president was over in Ireland checking out his ancestral heritage while Americans were suffering from these devastating acts of nature. President Obama called the Missouri governor from Ireland and expressed his sympathy and condolences, but he could have returned to see and visit the victims of these devastations, which they would have greatly appreciated, but seemed to feel that having a photo-op playing ping pong was more important than returning to the U.S.A. Why couldn't he have postponed his visit to Ireland? Most any of his preceding presidents would have dropped everything and returned to America, no matter what political party they belonged to. Also, where was president Obama during the Gulf oil crisis? Answer: Playing golf!

Here is the really bad news for President Obama: No matter who the GOP candidate running against him in 2012, they will have a field day with these typical examples of weak leadership. Americans will remember this at the 2012 voting booths.

**Gary Allen
Colonial Heights**

Pastor Jonathan O. Smith



Rev. Jonathan O. Smith is the founder and pastor of River of Living Waters Ministries, Inc., a non-denominational ministry, located at 5501 Huntington Ave, Newport News near the shipyard. RLWM, Inc. shares the space with Noland Memorial United Methodist Church. Church services start at 11:30AM every Sunday and Bible Study is on Wed. night at 7 p.m. Come as you are, ready to hear God's Word straight from the Bible. Don't let a bad experience ruin your walk with God. He wants you to be saved..come and worship and bring your family with you. You make the first step - God will do the rest!" Call (757)272-8834 for more information.

Keeping the Faith: A true act of God

By **Ronnie McBrayer**

"Maybe God finally got the attention of the Japanese," a lady said to me in the aftermath of the recent Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami. After I peeled myself off the ceiling, I asked her what in the world she meant by such a statement. She went on to speak about idolatry, the evil Buddha, and Pearl Harbor. When she finished I resumed my place on the ceiling tiles.

It happens every time a major natural disaster strikes, and it doesn't matter if it is in Japan, Europe, Haiti or New Orleans. Pontificating preachers, tawdry televangelists, and their minions begin pointing fingers, blaming the victims, and speaking of God's raging vengeance. Even insurance companies get in on the fault-finding, referring to otherwise inexplicable disasters as "acts of God."

An act of God? Really? What about the crashing of tectonic plates, the inherent danger of living on a coastline prone to major hurricanes, the tornadic collision of cold fronts with warm air over the Great Plains, and the natural eruption of lava from the earth's crust? These are native conditions of our planet, not the fickle trigger finger of an angry God.

I know that is not the response for which many Christians are looking, because we want intractable answers to all of our questions. We want to be able to provide all the divine reasons for justice/injustice in the world (even when we are incapable of discerning the divine or justice). And we hold on to words like God's "control, sovereignty," and "judgment" over the world as a thin defense mechanism when we have no other explanation.

I'm not saying that God isn't sovereign over Creation. But I am saying that we don't understand what that means, and we have no business whatsoever sitting in judgment over those who now face unfathomable suffering. Granted, I can't unravel the enigma that is a loving God presiding over an often unjust world, but I cannot accept the "act of God" explanation for so much misery.

I do not believe that it was God who caused the Japanese earthquake. Rather, it is God who will now enter the sorrow and be with those victimized by it. It was not God, who with a cosmic breath forced the ocean waters onto the Tōhoku shore. Rather, it is God



Ronnie McBrayer

who now weeps with those left to bury the dead.

It was not God who systematically and vindictively planned this disaster. Rather, it is God who will be with the Japanese every step of the recovering process in a life that is terribly unjust. How will God do this – join those who suffer? Through you and me.

As a Christian, I believe that the greatest divine revelation is the appearance of Christ, who showed us in the flesh what God is really like. Sent from God on a truly earth-shaking mission of grace, he now sends his followers to do the same. "As the Father sent me," Jesus said, "I am sending you."

I can't hear those words, or witness human suffering, without thinking of my friend Walt DeNero, former Director of the University of Georgia's Fanning Leadership Center. He used to tell a story every time he gave a lecture, a story about two log-sitting turtles, discussing world events.

One turtle said, "I wonder why God allows so much suffering in the world? Sometimes I'd like to ask him 'why' when he could do something about it." The other turtle then said, "Well, why don't you ask God that question?" And the first one responds, "No. I am afraid God might ask me the same thing."

Quit wondering if God got the attention of the Japanese. Ask instead, "Did God get my attention?" For now is the time to give, to help, to love, and to become the hands, feet, heart, and compassion of God to those who hurt. Now is the time to redefine "act of God," not as a cataclysmic disaster of the divine kind, but as a deed of love and grace toward those who need it most.

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

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.

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New book helps students find much needed scholarships

According to the 2010 Nation's Report Card released by the U.S. Department of Education, the average high schooler's G.P.A. is in the high B to low C range. So, why do nearly all of the scholarship how-to guides out there only target the low percentage of straight-A students? Is it possible for an average or even a below average student to win some of the millions in scholarship funds just waiting to be snatched up?

"My grades suck and my parents are broke. What do I do?" The "C" Students Guide To Scholarships

According to Felecia Hatcher, author of the new book *The 'C' Students Guide To Scholarships*, even a so-called 'average' student can put themselves in the running for scholarship funds. The proof is in the author's personal experience. As an average high school student - with a GPA that fluctuated between 2.1 and 2.7 Hatcher beat the odds and managed to pull down over \$100,000



in scholarship money.

In her new book, Hatcher has outlined a step-by-step guide for other less-than-

stellar students looking to turn their hidden talents and unusual strengths into cash for college. "Hatcher takes a serious topic and makes it fun, entertaining and relatable for students who have had a few bumps in the road and have been told they don't have the grades to get into college, let alone receive scholarship dollars," says Dr. Sheila Francisco, Miami Dade high school guidance counselor.

"My story makes me an ambassador of hope for those who told they are not quite 'college material', but choose to reject such a life-crippling label. I'm living proof that 'C' students can find scholarship success. If I could win \$130,000 in free money for college, then so can you," Hatcher says

Named one of the "Top 10 Superstar Entrepreneurs Under 30" by Allbusiness.com and one of Miami's Power 30 Under 30 in 2010, Hatcher has dedicated her life to motivating young people to look past their circumstances and get creative. As a

"C" student in high school, Hatcher beat the odds and won over \$100k in scholarships to attend college. Subsequently, at 19, she started her first college coaching business called Urban Excellence. Hatcher has since traveled around the country conducting workshops and building successful college prep programs for companies like DeVry, the YMCA, Texas A&M, TED and the Urban League.

Hatcher has also spearheaded a number of successful experiential marketing campaigns while working for Nintendo, Sony and the WNBA, and in 2008 she embraced her inner foodie and took to the Miami streets with her now wildly successful Feverish Ice Cream Truck and boutique ice cream catering company. In her free time, Felecia Hatcher works with the NFTE (National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship), consults with start-ups, and lends her expertise and charisma to the Sweet Success Youth Empowerment Speaking tour.

Bethune Cookman University is winner of 2011 "Retool Your School"

The Home Depot recently announced the top winners of its 2011 "Retool Your School" Campus Improvement Grant Program, an initiative designed to reinvigorate

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Through this program, 11 schools will receive \$150,000 in grants for lasting

renovations. The grand prize winner is Bethune Cookman University, located in Daytona Beach, FL, which will receive \$50,000 to install automated access doors and a wheelchair ramp in its Student Center to accommodate students, faculty and staff members with disabilities.

Also, the following 10 schools will each receive a \$10,000 grant for enduring on-campus improvements: Virginia Union University (Richmond, VA); Knoxville College (Knoxville, TN); North Carolina A&T State University (Greensboro, NC); Morris Brown College (Atlanta, GA); Howard University (Washington, DC); North Carolina Central University (Durham, NC); Tuskegee University (Tuskegee, AL); Mississippi Valley State University (Itta Bena, MS); Southwestern Christian College (Terrell, TX); Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (Tallahassee, FL).

"The Retool Your School" program launched in 2010 and underscores The Home Depot's strong commitment to some of the nation's most historic institutions.

The Home Depot prides itself on making a positive impact on the environment. As many HBCUs were built at the turn of the twentieth century, The Home Depot provides "Retool Your School" as a vehicle to encourage energy-efficient upgrades among the HBCU community, thus decreasing their carbon footprint.

Support for this year's "Retool Your School" program began at the grassroots level as many schools utilized Facebook,

Twitter, school websites, newsletters, local media appeals and their Alumni associations to spread the word. Also, some heavy hitting media influencers including nationally syndicated radio personalities Steve Harvey and Tom Joyner took to the airwaves to help make the public aware of this dynamic initiative.

With a growing sustainability movement currently brewing on HBCU campuses, many are actively seeking more eco-friendly options to limit greenhouse gas emissions on campus and utilize renewable energy sources whenever possible.

The "Retool Your School" Campus Improvement Grant Program supports this growing crusade for environmental change by providing special consideration to eco-friendly, sustainable projects. With the goal of issuing grants for projects that have a lasting impact, this year's winning projects include establishing the only public park in a 10-mile radius, transforming a residence hall, creating safe and well lit outdoor areas, installing a sustainable rain garden, upgrading campus grounds and communal areas, decreasing the amount of waste on campus by supplying students with reusable recycling bags and encouraging recycling on campus, installing sustainable ecofriendly landscaping to help reduce pollution and providing automated irrigation systems for campus greenery.

"I was most impressed with the institutions who really understood that they should be See "Retool Your School" on pg. 19

VCU sets 2011-12 tuition and fees

The Virginia Commonwealth University Board of Visitors has set tuition and mandatory fees for the 2011-2012 academic year and adopted a six-year strategic plan.

Undergraduate, in-state students will pay \$9,517 in tuition and mandatory fees for the upcoming academic year. That represents a \$700 or 7.9 percent increase over current tuition and mandatory fees. Out-of-state undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees was set at \$22,949, a \$1,000 increase.

The university's increase is in the range of tuition and mandatory fee levels established by the state's other four-year institutions. VCU's tuition and mandatory fees remain slightly below the state's average and significantly below the other major research universities.

"In the current economic climate, public universities must work diligently to ensure financial access for qualified students combined with a conscientious commitment to academic quality and the assurance that students are able to succeed in the long term," said VCU President Michael Rao. "VCU continues to transform the lives of its students and we need to be sure that we are doing so as

effectively and efficiently as possible."

The rates reflect the impact of ongoing reductions in state support for VCU's in-state students. As of July 1, VCU will receive \$41 million less in federal and state funding than it did the year before. Between fiscal years 2008 and 2012, state support for Virginia students at VCU will have been reduced by \$63.5 million - about 31 percent -- the largest reduction among four-year institutions in Virginia.

Rao called the budget austere and said it continues to manage the decline in state funding and "is sensitive to the financial concerns of our students and their families." He said the budget accommodates modest but strategic investments in faculty, student scholarships and libraries by reallocating university resources and taking advantage of savings realized primarily through the active management of energy costs.

The VCU board of visitors also approved VCU Quest for Distinction, a new six-year strategic plan that establishes a roadmap to reach VCU's vision as the nation's premier public urban research university distinguished by commitments to academic quality and student success.

“Rejoice & Shout” delivers the truth about gospel music

By Dwight Brown

“Gospel music has kept us afloat. It’s very important to Black people,” says Mavis Staples. Staples and Smokey Robinson narrate “Rejoice & Shout,” a comprehensive, historical, and enlightening look at the phenomenon of gospel music.

Gospel music has evolved along with the African American experience for more than 100 years. Originating with African sounds and culture, and blending with white Christian music, it’s a unique mixture that dates back to slavery when workers sang in the fields: “Steal Away” was originally a coded song that alerted slaves that there would be a meeting; steal away and come. Scholars like Anthony Helibut and Bill Carpenter recall the genesis of the art form using facts, figures, photos, and anecdotes.

The documentary finds sure footing when it plays the 1902 recording “Gabriel’s Trumpet,” by the Dinwiddie Colored Quartet, from Virginia. This was the first time gospel music was put on record. The group’s vocals sound somewhat like a barber shop quartet, which is a solid example of how gospel music spawned, inspired or co-opted other genres, blurring



Smokey Robinson

the lines between it and jazz, blues, country, rap, rock, and inspirational.

All aspects of gospel music are explored. It’s connection to church/religion (Pentecostal to Baptist), God (“A natural means of expressing spirituality,” says Smokey Robinson), family (Ward, Hawkins, Winans), history, and social concerns (the Great Depression, Civil Rights movement), and mysticism (Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues).



Mavis Staples

The Dinwiddie Colored Quartet was just the first in a long string of recording artists who shaped gospel music. In the ‘40s, Thomas A. Dorsey performed in blues clubs at night and churches on Sundays, giving gospel its blues core with songs like “Take My Hand, Precious Lord,” and “Peace in the Valley.”

Mahalia Jackson, a fan of Bessie Smith, was the first gospel crossover artist with

stints on the “Ed Sullivan Show” and at Carnegie Hall. James Cleveland (Aretha Franklin’s mentor), the Edwin Hawkins Singers (“Oh Happy Day”), Andrae Crouch and other icons are on full view; some even perform songs in their entirety.

Archivist and producer Joe Lauro and documentarian/director Don McGlynn have wisely assembled the best of the best, in performance footage and first-hand interviews that make this very ambitious and significant film a thoughtful, heart-warming experience that gives credence to a musical form that has guided African American culture. The camera work (John Polsen, Steve Wacks) is decent and the editing (Frank Axelsen) is tight enough to give the film a rhythm that is methodical, but not annoyingly slow.

If shedding a light on history was the film’s only accomplishment, it would be relegated to the college circuit. It’s more than academic. This doc entertains. In the opening scene, an elementary school-age girl, from The Selvey Family, sings a perfectly crafted and emoted acapella version of Amazing Grace that would make Whitney Houston do a double take. It will give you chills.

Ask Gwendolyn Baines

My boyfriend ruined my credit!

Dear Gwendolyn:

Two years ago I met a man who appeared to be “Mr. Right.” He was handsome, tall, and had the perfect body build for a man. After dating for two weeks, he moved in. You see...things were going good for me. I had received housing assistance and later accepted a job at a fast food restaurant. My rent increased a bit, but that is expected when the government is helping you to survive this high cost world of living.

This is the problem: Immediately after moving in, his car broke. I let him use my credit card to get it fixed. Besides repairing the car, he purchased (with my card) a set of new tires with the new type of silver rims. He also purchased new upholstery and had the car painted. All of this came to over \$7,000.

Each month I struggled to pay the amount due, but eventually I lost my credit card. After losing the card, he left and started living with a lady two blocks down the street from my apartment. Every time I see them, I break out crying. It hurts so badly.

Gwendolyn, he used me.



April

I know your heart is hurting, but soon please stop the crying. He was not worth it. Let me tell you this: In giving your explanation of “Mr. Right,” you stated he was handsome, tall, and had a perfect body build for a man. Girl, are you crazy – or what? You made the mistake so many women make. What about letting “Mr. Right” be intelligent, educated, and have positive goals in life. When we make silly views of a man, we fail. Don’t feel badly. You are not alone.

April, don’t put the blame on your boyfriend. You used yourself. Also, you misused your assistance. The reduced housing assistance was created for mothers and their children and not mothers --- and their men.

Hines Ward is new dancing champ



Hines Ward added a disco-ball trophy to his Super Bowl shelf after his “Dancing With the Stars” championship victory.

The Steelers wide receiver and former Super Bowl MVP won the title, beating out actresses Kirstie Alley and Chelsea Kane to become the season 12 champ.

“You are the MVP of ‘Dancing With the Stars’ season 12,” judge Carrie Ann Inaba said after Ward and professional partner Kym Johnson finished their last dance. “You learned how to lead the dancing, not only in the dance, but you led your partner

out of injury. You dance with heart and it shows.”

Ward said after the show that he owes the victory to his partner, hard work and the fans.

Ward was chosen by viewer votes combined with judges’ scores. Ward came into the season finale tied for first place with Kane, who finished in last place when the votes were tallied. Alley finished second.

The 35-year-old Ward is the second professional football player to win the “Dancing” crown. Emmitt Smith won in 2006.

Chaka Khan gets star on Hollywood Walk of Fame



Grammy Award winner Chaka Khan is honored with a star in the Hollywood Walk of Fame.



Chaka Khan, left, and Stevie Wonder touch her new star at dedication ceremonies on the Hollywood Walk of Fame

Chaka Khan received her long overdue star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame during a ceremony that included her family and good friend Stevie Wonder.

"We're all very excited for Chaka," Wonder told the crowd before breaking into an acapella version of her hit "Tell Me Something Good," which he wrote for her in 1974.

"Oh my God," Khan said. "I'm like, oh, hell to the no. This is so fabulous. I am so honored. I don't ... do I deserve this? All I'm doing is what I love to do."

"Singing is my sanity," she added. "That is the way I stay as balanced as I possibly can, if you want to call this a balance. The best thing that you can do is to do something that you love and believe in. This is a blessing. This is another jewel in a crown of many jewels that I wear spiritually.

"When I told a lot of people I was getting my star, they said 'you ain't got no star? I thought you had a star 20 years ago!'" she said.

Khan received the 2,440th star in the Recording category and it is located at 6623 Hollywood Boulevard, in front of the My Studio nightclub in Los Angeles.

Oprah Winfrey says "until we meet again" on final show

After 25 years on the air, Oprah Winfrey has ended her famous talk show by sharing memories, reflecting on life lessons and thanking fans for coming along on the journey with her.

The last episode featured no guests - just Winfrey herself, standing alone on stage. It opened with a clip from her first show, and she then spent the hour showing favorite clips from throughout the years and recounting what she's learned during the show's quarter-century run.

She told viewers that sometimes she was a teacher - calling her show "the world's biggest classroom" - but more often her viewers instructed her. She referred to the episode her "last class."

Among the life lessons she shared was, "You are responsible for the energy you create for yourself, and the energy you bring to others. Don't wait for somebody else to save you, to complete you, to fix you."

"Each one of you has your own platform. You can help somebody, you can listen, you can forgive," she said. "My greatest wish for all of you ... is that you carry whatever you are supposed to be doing and don't waste any more time."



Oprah Winfrey

She also thanked viewers for watching throughout the show's 25 years.

"Twenty-five years and I'm still saying, 'Thank you America,'" Winfrey said. "Thank you so much. There are

no words to match this moment."

The taping came a week after Hollywood A-listers and 13,000 fans bided Winfrey farewell in a double-episode extravaganza at Chicago's United Center. The shows that aired included Aretha Franklin, Tom Cruise, Stevie Wonder, Michael Jordan and Madonna, among other stars of television, music and movies. They were just a few of the approximately 30,000 guests who have appeared on the show over 25 years. Winfrey called the event "a love intervention on steroids." She ended the show by saying she felt "all sweet, no bitter."

"I won't say goodbye," she told fans. "I'll just say until we meet again."

Winfrey then stepped off the stage and through the audience and hugged and kissed longtime partner Stedman Graham before walking through the halls of Harpo Studios in Chicago, hugging, crying and high-fiving members of her staff. She shouted "We did it!"

The last shot of the finale showed Winfrey walking away with her cocker spaniel, Sadie.

Heart attack warning signs differ for women, recognition is key

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. According to statistics from the American Heart Association, a coronary event strikes every 25 seconds in America. And, while heart disease is often considered to be a health problem that's more prevalent among men, the truth of the matter is that more women die of heart disease each year than men—making it the number one killer among women—and claiming more lives than all forms of cancer combined.

According to the National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease, one woman dies from heart disease almost every minute in the U.S.

One of the challenges with heart disease—and specifically heart attacks in women—is that the symptoms can be different to those experienced by men. And, because the symptoms don't always present themselves as classic signs of a heart attack, women are often prone to delay seeking emergency treatment and, as a result, risk great damage to their hearts.

“Every second counts with a heart attack and the longer you wait to seek treatment, the worse the outcome is likely to be,” said Jennifer Lane M.D. of Mooresville Family Practice. “That's why it's so important for



women to understand the warning signs of a heart attack and how the symptoms may differ from the classic symptoms that men tend to experience.”

According to research conducted by the National Institute of Health, women very often experience physical symptoms well before they have a heart attack. Of the 515 women in the NIH study, 95 percent said they experienced new or different symptoms a month or more before the onset of their heart attack. The most commonly reported symptoms included unusual fatigue (70 percent), sleep disturbance (48 percent) and shortness of breath (42 percent).

Among the study participants, fewer than

30 percent of the women reported having any chest discomfort prior to their heart attacks and 43 percent reported no chest pain during any phase of the attack. Similar studies among men have found that between 17 and 27 percent of men do not experience chest pain during a heart attack.

Although fewer women experience chest pain during a heart attack than men, the majority of women do typically have some kind of chest discomfort, tightness or pressure during an attack. But, it's not always as severe as the kind of pain men experience and it may not be the most prominent symptom. Studies have shown that women are more likely than men to have symptoms unrelated to chest pain during a heart attack, such as:

- Neck, shoulder, jaw, upper back, arm or abdominal discomfort
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Unusual fatigue or weakness
- Nausea or vomiting
- Sweating
- Dizziness
- Feelings of anxiety

Research has shown that heart attack symptoms vary greatly from one woman to the next. Some women may experience typical crushing chest pain, tightness or

discomfort while others may have no chest pain at all, and have other symptoms such as fatigue or jaw pain.

“Given that women's heart attack symptoms are often more subtle than men's, it's vitally important that women educate themselves on the warning signs that may signal the onset of a heart attack,” Lane said. “The sooner that symptoms are recognized and action is taken, the higher the likelihood of a positive outcome.”

“Any woman who suspects she's having a heart attack should call 911 immediately and should take an aspirin to prevent further blood clotting,” Lane advises. “Once at the hospital, be sure that the emergency staff take your complaints seriously and insist that an EKG and/or blood enzyme test be administered to determine if you're having a heart attack.”

Although heart disease is becoming more prevalent among women of all age groups, medical experts agree that it's not unstoppable. Women can significantly reduce their odds of becoming a heart attack statistic by educating themselves on the risk factors and symptoms of heart attacks, having the information they need, and making heart-smart changes in their lives.

Special to the NNPA from The Charlotte Post

Stop worrying... There is relief for allergies



By Sandra Jordan

People can be allergic to almost anything and allergies can occur any time of the year. Allergy triggers can be found indoors or outdoors, and can affect your skin, eyes, respiratory system and/or your entire body. They are not contagious nor do they cause fever, but they are a nuisance, at best, and life-threatening, at their worst.

Dr. Susan Berdy, an allergist says, “What we see in the springtime is tree pollen and the tree pollen season goes from March

through May. Grass pollen goes from May into June and then ragweed will come out in the fall in August and September.”

Common indoor and outdoor allergens include tree, grass, and weed pollen, dust mites, animal dander, mold, and cockroaches.

Berdy says the best way for people to avoid those outdoor pollens is to “keep those windows closed and run your air conditioner 24 hours a day, seven days a week.”

That can get expensive.

For those who need other choices, there are options.

“There are over-the-counter antihistamines like Allegra, Claritin and Zyrtec—if those don't work, usually your doctor can prescribe a prescription nasal spray,” she says.

Nasal allergies cause your nasal cavity to become irritated and inflamed, making it hard to breathe.

“The most commonly used [prescription] nasal sprays are the steroid-type nasal sprays like Flonase or Nasonex,” Berdy says. “Usually the steroid nasal sprays are best used as a preventative before and during the season and they can effectively prevent the symptoms and they have a very

low side effect profile.”

Because they are not hormones and the active ingredient in them are not absorbed very well into the bloodstream, Berdy describes these as safe and effective.

Berdy says another class of nasal sprays – the nasal antihistamines, like Astepro or Patanase, can be added on to over-the-counter medications.

Ten to 30 percent of U.S. adults and up to 40 percent of all children suffer from hay fever. The National Institutes of Health says hay fever happens when pollen from trees, weeds, and grasses get into the nose and throat, causing sneezing, runny or stuff nose, itchy eyes, nose and throat; dark circles under the eyes, coughing, and post nasal drip.

Allergies affecting the skin can cause itching, hives, eczema and psoriasis.

Eye allergies are called allergic conjunctivitis. Symptoms begin almost immediately after exposure to allergens, and those watery, itchy eyes can last for what seems like an eternity.

Anaphylactic shock

Some people have very serious, life-threatening allergic reaction, called anaphylaxis, which involves the entire body and

develops very rapidly – in seconds or minutes. Anaphylaxis may result in breathing difficulties, shock or death and requires immediate medical attention. People who are at risk for anaphylaxis carry EpiPens to self-inject epinephrine (adrenaline) when a life-threatening allergic reaction occurs. The epinephrine raises blood pressure and your heart rate back to normal levels. The most common culprits causing anaphylactic shock are venom from insect stings or bites and drug and food allergies.

Berdy says people can outgrow some food allergies, but others are lifelong.

Allergy shots

For some people, allergy shots (immunotherapy) can help to reduce sensitivity to allergens over time.

“There are allergy shots for those patients where medications don't work or have side effects that people find unacceptable,” Berdy adds. “People are on them for about five years and you start off for safety reasons, with weekly injections. It goes from a low dose to an effective dose, and then after they start to become effective, the interval between the shots increases to every other week and every third week

See “Allergies” on pg. 19

State legislators introduce special needs scholarship bills

WASHINGTON, D.C. - In state capitols across America, elected officials are standing with families by introducing legislation that would provide increased educational options for children with special needs.

Continuing a trend that began in 1999 with the creation of Florida's McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities program, this year 15 states are considering bills to create or expand school voucher and scholarship tax credit programs that empower parents of students with special needs to select the best schools for their children.

If passed, these measures—frequently offered with bipartisan support—will offer educational choices to thousands of children across the country.

School voucher and scholarship tax credit programs for children with special needs are highly successful and popular among parents. Currently, seven such programs are serving nearly 25,000 children in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Utah.

In 2011, 12 states—Connecticut, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia, and Wisconsin—are proposing legislation to create new school voucher, opportunity scholarship, or scholarship tax credit programs for



Betsy DeVos

children with special needs.

In Wisconsin, for example, a bipartisan team of legislators is seeking to create a statewide scholarship program for children with special needs, modeled after the highly successful McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities program in Florida. And the Sunshine State itself passed legislation to expand the McKay program. Once signed by the governor, the bill will expand the program to include Section 504 students—students who have

an accommodation plan issued under federal law.

Federally, the U.S. House of Representatives Armed Services Committee has considered legislation to provide special needs scholarships for children in military families.

Already in 2011, two states have passed significant new special needs scholarship programs or expansions.

In Arizona, legislators developed, and the governor signed, the nation's first-ever Education Savings Account program for

children with special needs. The Arizona Empowerment Scholarship Account program will allow participating families to receive 90 percent of the per-pupil funding to use on a variety of educational options, including: tutoring, online education, testing fees, college courses, and textbooks. Any unused funds after high school graduation can be used for college tuition.

In Utah, legislation has passed that increases the ongoing appropriation by \$538,200 for the Carson Smith Special Need Scholarship program, allowing additional students to participate in the program. Demand is so high that a lottery system is now in place for participation in the program. A recent legislative audit conducted by the state of Utah showed that the program has a parental satisfaction rate of 100 percent.

The American Federation for Children a leading national advocacy organization promoting school choice —praised the growing trend towards special needs legislation as a vital step toward providing educational options to all children with special needs.

"Children with disabilities must receive an education that meets their individual needs," said Betsy DeVos, chair of the American Federation for Children. "Tens of thousands of children across the country will have the opportunity to thrive."

Foundation to honor Hollywood legend while focusing on cancer awareness

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority's philanthropic arm, the Seven Pearls Foundation, Inc., will host "Pearls and Stars Making a Difference: Partners for the Cure", a fundraising gala, at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C., June 18-19.

The gala will support the Seven Pearls Foundation's cancer awareness initiative named after Hollywood icon, Hattie McDaniel. Hattie McDaniel, the first African American female to win an Academy Award and member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Incorporated succumbed to breast cancer at age 57 in 1952. Cancer also claimed the life of Dr. LaRona J. Morris, the sorority's charismatic and visionary former international president.

Despite many advances in cancer research and treatments, African Americans still have the highest mortality rate than any



Mynora J. Bryant

other racial or ethnic group for all cancers combined.

"With cancer affecting our communities disproportionately, we have to do all that we can to heighten awareness and encourage getting tested regularly. Early detection is a major factor in saving lives" said Dr. Mynora Joyce Bryant, president of the Seven Pearls Foundation.

During the gala, Dr. Deepa S. Subramaniam, interim chief at the Center for Thoracic Medical Oncology, Division of Hematology and Oncology, at Georgetown University, will be recognized for her efforts to increase cancer awareness and cancer research.

The Hattie McDaniel Health Program is just one of the philanthropic initiatives employed by the Seven Pearls Foundation to enhance the quality of life within at-risk communities. The Seven Pearls Foundation

has supported the Operation BAM (Babies and Mommies) Project by donating car seats to expectant service women and military wives and is currently developing programming that will address teen violence.

Tickets to the fundraising gala can be purchased by calling 1-888-SGR-1922, extension 106 or through the Seven Pearls website: www.sevenpearls.org.

The mission of the Seven Pearls Foundation, Inc is to support the educational programs of the sorority in the community that focus on health issues, leadership development and concerns that impact society educationally, economically and civically; networking with other organizations and corporations throughout the nation to render service; and protect the real assets of the sorority.

Ride 2 Recovery Memorial Challenge presented by UnitedHealthcare

The public is invited to cheer on more than 200 injured veterans as they continue their six-day, 350-mile Ride 2 Recovery Memorial Challenge presented by UnitedHealthcare from Ft. Eustis to Virginia Beach.

Ride 2 Recovery, a 501(c)3, helps injured veterans improve their health and wellness through individual and group cycling. Cycling has proven to be a catalyst in the recovery process by providing a new physical challenge while concurrently helping to cope with the mental challenges. The Memorial Challenge ride began on Memorial Day, Ft. Myer and will end on Saturday, June 4 in Virginia Beach.

On Saturday, June 4, 8:30 a.m., Courtyard – Newport News 530 St. Johns Road.

On Saturday, June 4, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m., The Cavalier Hotel, 4201 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach.

The cost is free.

The website: <http://www.ride2recovery.com>.

Paws to Read

Children ages six to 10 build their confidence by reading out loud to trained therapy dogs, 3-4 p.m. on Saturday, June 4, at Grissom Library in Newport News. Parents are required to fill out a permission slip and may accompany their children, as well. Dogs are accompanied by certified trainers. Paws to Read is normally held on the first Saturday of each month, excluding holidays. No registration is required. Call Grissom Library at 757-369-3190 for more information.

PFAC Free Admittance

Peninsula Fine Arts Center is opening its doors once again for free admittance during the first weekend of June: Saturday, June 4, 10-5 p.m.; Sunday, June 5, 1-5 p.m. On Saturday June 4, Pfac is offering free activities for the whole family from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

While listening to music and studying the sculpture of Richard Hunt, people can discover their artistic side by drawing in a sketch book provided by Pfac.

In Pfac's "Hands On For Kids" gallery, children can play Art Concentration, a memory game that requires matching pictures of artworks. Kids can also add imaginary characters to the giant chalkboard drawing and make beaded bracelets.

The first weekend of every month at Pfac is free to the public, with special family activities on Saturdays. Free weekends at Pfac are made possible through a grant from the Noland Foundation. For more information call 757-596-8175 or visit www.pfac-va.org.

American Indian Festival

The 15th annual American Indian Festival with The impressive Grand Entry that captures the spirit of the festival as Native Americans enter in full regalia will take place June 4-5 from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. at Chesapeake City Park, 900 Greenbrier Parkway, Chesapeake. The Grand Entry will take place Saturday at noon and Sunday at 1 p.m.

The essence of the Native American culture is revealed in the Pow-Wow, where dancers move gracefully to the beat of the drum. This is an educational family event featuring traditional dancing and drumming, American Indian food, demonstrations, native jewelry, and crafts for purchase. The event also features children's activities such as pony rides and make n' take crafts

The festival, presented by the Nansemond Indian Tribal Association, among others, is free to the general public. Donations to the Nansemond Tribal Association are appreciated. For more information, call 757- 382-6411.

Volunteer to Cheer at Special Olympics



"Volunteer to Cheer" at this year's Special Olympics Virginia Summer Games, June 10-11 in Richmond, and be part of something special. Spend two hours – or all day – showing enthusiasm for more than 1,200 athletes from across Virginia who will go for the gold in six sports: powerlifting, swimming, track & field, tennis, softball and bowling.

Viewers will see that athletes are deserving of applause and support. Sign up at www.volunteer2cheer.com.

Check-in will be at the "Volunteer to Cheer" tables located at each competition venue. You will be able to make posters and signs and hopefully meet some athletes face to face. Feel free to dress up in your most fanatic costume or paint your face. Everyone who comes out to cheer also will get free "cheer sticks" to help them get into the spirit!

The Summer Games, presented by Comcast, Hardee's, Sheetz and the University of Richmond, is the largest of seven state-level competitions offered by Special Olympics Virginia.

For more information on the 2011 Summer Games, contact Holly Claytor at hclaytor@specialolympicsva.org or 804.726.-3025. To "Volunteer to Cheer," visit www.volunteer2cheer.com to sign up.

Book Talk: "The Horrors of Andersonville"

Author and consultant Catherine Gourley will discuss her book, "The Horrors of Andersonville," 2-3:30 p.m., Saturday, June 11, at Main Street Library. Gourley, a consultant for the Library of Congress and The Film Foundation, will cover her research and the story of the Civil War prison and its prisoners. Period photographs as well as photographs of Andersonville Prison as it is today will be displayed, and the author will sell copies of her books. Registration is required.

Visit www.nngov.com/library/custom/onlinereg or call Main Street Library at 757-591-4858.

Junk Mail Origami

Do something fun and interesting with some of the junk mail sent to your house. Call to enroll.

Age 8-up

Wed., June 1, 5:30 p.m., Princess Anne Area Library, 385-2610

PBL's Checkmate Chess Club with Mr. Dixon

Youth ages 7-18 can learn how to play chess at 4 p.m. on the first and fourth Wednesdays of each month at Pearl Bailey Library. The chess club will offer both informal games and timed games. The next meetings are June 1 and June 22. No registration required. For more information, call Pearl Bailey Library at 757-247-8677.

On the Boardwalk at the Dismal Swamp

June 12, 2011

On the Boardwalk at the Dismal Swamp
Location: Dismal Swamp State Park - Boardwalk; 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Admission: FREE

252-771-6593

<http://www.ncparks.gov/Visit/parks/disw/main.php>

Crafty Wednesdays

Enrollment begins June 15. Age 8-11. Wednesdays, June 22 and 29, 2 - 3 p.m., Bayside & Special Services Library, 385-2680

Discover the World of Magic

Magician Mike Klee will kick off Summer Reading Program with his Amazing Tales Magic show. These tricks will amuse and amaze. Call to enroll.

Sat., June 18, 10:30 a.m., Bayside & Special Services Library, 385-2680

Pamplin Historical Park and Richard Bland College



Pamplin Historical Park & The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier and Richard Bland College of the College of William and Mary will offer three summer Teacher Institutes. Teachers may choose to attend one of the week-long institutes that examine antebellum slavery, the Civil War, and Reconstruction scheduled for June 20-24 or Aug. 1-5. Teachers may also choose to attend the new curriculum on Lincoln, Davis, Grant, and Lee: The Last Year of the Civil War, offered the week of July 11-15.

Interested teachers are encouraged to visit the Pamplin Historical Park website, www.pamplinpark.org/institute.html or contact Al Neale at aneale@pamplin-park.org or (804) 861-2408.

Get Your Game On!

Video games, board games and zany "win it in a minute" games. Join us each week and practice for our ultimate tournament at the end of the summer.

Thurs. June 23 and 30, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., Bayside & Special Services Library, 385-2680.

Genealogy Tour

Tour the Central Library's Local History/Genealogy Collection and receive information about basic research techniques, basic sources, and Virginia Beach Genealogical Society membership, programs and activities. Adults, enrollment required.

Wed., June 1, 9 - 10 a.m., Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library, 385-0150.

Sat., June 4, 9 - 10 a.m., Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library, 385-0150.

Summer Movies @ Your Library

No enrollment required. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part I (PG-13)
Mon., June 27, 10:30 a.m., Kempsville Area Library, 385-2627

*Submit events to
editor@voicenewspaper.com
We reserve the right to
edit for space and style.*

President Obama's speech on Middle East draws mixed reviews

President Barack Obama's speech on the Middle East garnered a mixed reaction at home and abroad, with the president's claim it could be time for an "Arab Spring" being met with caution.

In his speech, Pres. Obama spoke of the people in the Middle East and North Africa moving toward claiming a free life of their own, in concert with Western values.

"I believe now that we have a stake not just in the stability of nations, but in the self-determination of individuals," Pres. Obama said. "The status quo is not sustainable. Societies held together by fear and repression may offer the illusion of stability for a time, but they are built upon fault lines that will eventually tear asunder."

Pres. Obama's words were met with optimism by Council of American-Islamic Relations Executive Director Nihad Awad who said it is "significant" that Obama supports the freedom movements that have taken place in the Middle East and North Africa in recent months.



President Barack Obama gives his address on the Middle East at the State Department in Washington D.C.

"We appreciate President Obama setting the right tone by applauding the recent freedom movements across the Middle East and North Africa, but the true test of our nation's commitment to freedom and human dignity will be in translating this speech into actions and concrete policies,"

Awad said in a statement.

Part of Pres. Obama's speech focused on the conflict between Israel and Palestine. Pres. Obama would like Israel to return to using the 1967 borders before the Six-Day War in which Israel invaded East Jerusalem. However, many conservatives

have shot down that theory fiercely; including Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who opposed the Obama approach in an Oval Office meeting with the president.

According to *The Washington Post*, Netanyahu told Pres. Obama that the country "cannot go back to the 1967 lines, these lines are indefensible. They don't take into account certain demographic changes that have taken place on the ground over 44 years."

Possible GOP candidates for president also slammed Pres. Obama's speech. Former Pennsylvania U.S. Senator Rick Santorum characterized Pres. Obama's speech as an incoherent and inconsistent policy for U.S. in the Middle East. The Obama policy, he said, has allowed dictators like Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi "to remain in power, while fostering overthrow of our allies in Egypt."

Special to the NNPA from the AFRO-American newspapers

Stuttering disorder may have led to death in "The Face of Emmett Till"

The New Initiatives of Aberdeen Gardens, a historical society in Hampton, presented, "The Face of Emmett Till," a stage play, that was open to the public.

"The Face of Emmett Till" depicts the singular event that is said to have sparked the civil rights movement in the 1950's, with the brutal murder of a 14-year-old African American Chicago boy full of zeal and curiosity.

Till, anxious to visit with his family in Mississippi, had a severe stuttering disorder, which may have led to his untimely death.

The news of Emmett's death spread through the country almost overnight and his mother, Mamie Till Bradley insisted on an open-casket funeral "so the world could see what was actually going on in Mississippi."

Written by Mamie Till Bradley and David Barr, "The Face of Emmett Till"



left the audience in awe with its talented cast of actors and director, Terrance Afer-Anderson.

Afer-Anderson, an award-winning playwright, director, actor and television is most noted for his work with "Hiram and Nettie," a love story between two slaves, last produced in Las Vegas in 2010.

"I've produced and/or directed more than 50 productions, "The Face of Emmett Till" is one of the most well-crafted plays I've ever done," said Afer-Anderson.

Fight for justice continues for NYC Public School custodians

Last week, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit issued an order requiring a federal trial court to further review an agreement that settled an employment discrimination lawsuit against the New York City Board of Education. The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF) represents 10 African American and Hispanic public school custodians who were adversely affected by the board's discrimination and benefited from the settlement agreement.

This lawsuit, *United States v. Board of Education*, began in 1996, when the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) sued the board for employment discrimination in recruiting and selecting school custodians. African Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and women were disproportionately excluded by the board's hiring process for permanent positions. As a result, most could only obtain provisional employment. Provisional custodians do the same work as permanent custodians and are similarly qualified, but they lack many of the job benefits that permanent custodians enjoy. For instance, they can be fired at any time and have no ability to obtain transfers and promotions.

In 1999, during President Bill Clinton's administration, DOJ entered into a settlement with the board, which agreed to give permanent positions with retroactive seniority to those minority and female provisional custodians affected by the discriminatory hiring practices. After a group of white male custodians challenged the lawfulness of the settlement, DOJ

proposed revisions, during President George W. Bush's administration, that would have dramatically limited the remedies it previously negotiated. LDF intervened at the request of African American and Hispanic custodians, whose remedies would have been reduced by DOJ's change in position.

A federal trial court upheld most of the relief awarded to LDF's custodian clients under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act and the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. In its recent ruling, the Court of Appeals sent the case back to the trial court and directed it to apply the Supreme Court's 2009 decision in *Ricci v. DeStefano* to determine the lawfulness of the settlement. In *Ricci*, a narrow majority of the Supreme Court created a new legal standard that places additional hurdles in front of employers seeking to fulfill their obligations under this nation's core antidiscrimination law.

"We are disappointed that the Court of Appeals did not see fit to bring this long-running dispute to an end," said John Payton, LDF president and director-counsel. "Nevertheless, we are confident that the trial court will ultimately uphold the discrimination remedies for African American and Hispanic employees who were unfairly denied key job benefits."

Special to the NNPA from thedefendersonline.com

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A sense of urgency: Panic and ignorance mark U.S. debt ceiling debate



Timothy Geithner

By Charles D. Ellison

It may not have showed up in a reality show and it certainly wasn't the pick of the week on "American Idol," but it was important enough to further rattle ravenous market speculators and red-eared lawmakers on Capitol Hill still playing chicken: On May 16, the national debt hit its ceiling — then kept on moving past \$14.3 trillion.

At occasional briefings, press conferences and lectures, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner appeared as batty as a heartbroken mad scientist.

"I have written to Congress on previous occasions regarding the importance of timely action to increase the debt limit in order to protect the full faith and credit of the United States and avoid catastrophic economic consequences for citizens," said Geithner, last week, in yet another letter to Congress, looking as grim-faced and aged as Professor Lime in the hit sci-fi series "Fringe."

"I again urge Congress to act to increase the statutory debt limit as soon as possible."

But, as with most political and economic crises these days, life goes on. While the Treasury made dramatic moves on the day the debt peaked by temporarily divesting itself from two major government pension funds, the news didn't seem to hit the American public that hard.

It wasn't being bantered about on "The Michael Baisden Show" nor teased on TMZ. The Black blogosphere was, instead, lit up over Japanese evolutionary psychologist Satori Kanzawa's ill-founded conclusions on Black females, while tabloids were circling over the outing of former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's love child.

It all added to what observers lament is a severe lack of awareness surrounding the debt ceiling and what it is. While

Washington wonks can pick, probe, and pontificate on every aspect of the national debt standing on their hands, after drowning in merican simply sees it as yet another example of government spending beyond its means — and that's if they even know there is a debt problem.

"Miseducation is a big problem," admitted one Republican House, describing the electorate's collective intelligence on the issue in not so flattering terms. "One reason Members [of Congress] are playing games with it is because it's not a sexy topic. Most people are like 'debt what?,' literally looking up to see if a piano is going to fall on them. So, we can get away with playing chicken or going to the edge of the cliff because most people don't know what this is about."

This explains the sense of urgency Geithner and other Obama administration officials are having in pushing the subject. The Treasury's website is freshly updated with Geithner missives to Congress urging action — like now. The home page is making certain few miss the big-as-day primer titled "Get the Facts: Raising the Debt Ceiling."

And, while everyone from the president to his treasury secretary on down to the White House cooks are warning of a "financial meltdown" that will make the recent recession look like toddler potty training should Congress decide to vote against raising the debt ceiling, signs suggest the American public either doesn't care or is too mad to be bothered.

Recent polls show the reality of the above-quoted aide's blithering assessment combined with disturbing political schizophrenia on the topic. Princeton, N.J.-based Gallup, titan of weekly polls, showed a majority of respondents actually wanting Congress to vote against the debt ceiling — despite the Book of Revelation-style outcome, as

warned by Obama administration officials, if such a vote were to occur.

Forty-seven percent of poll respondents didn't want the debt ceiling raised, while 34 percent were "unsure" and 19 percent "favored it." A CNN poll was a bit more caustic: 60 percent were firmly against raising the debt ceiling compared to 37 percent who wanted it raised. Not surprisingly, seven out of 10 Republicans "rejected" the notion of raising it, while a small majority of Democrats reluctantly went along with the whole idea of kicking the can. Independents, however, are dead set against it across the board. That includes an NBC/Wall Street Journal poll, similar to the Gallup results,

which reflects 46 percent were against, 38 percent unsure, and 16 percent for it.

Yet, in an inexplicable roundabout that, perhaps, suggests lack of understanding, the CNN poll showed 58 percent agreeing with Geithner, and company, that financial Armageddon will ensue, if the ceiling wasn't raised.

Vice President Joe Biden, known for his keep-it-realism, was upbeat with thumbs-up after working on the dreary details of a deal as de-facto mediator in conversations between Democrats and Republicans on the debt ceiling.

Special to the NNPA from The Philadelphia Tribune

Motion filed to defend law ending prison-based gerrymandering

Last week, top civil rights organizations filed a motion in New York Supreme Court asking to intervene to help defend New York's new law allocating people in prison to their home communities for redistricting and reapportionment.

The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the Brennan Center for Justice, the Center for Law and Social Justice, Dmos, LatinoJustice PRLDEF, the New York Civil Liberties Union, and the Prison Policy Initiative, representing 15 rural and urban voters and three statewide nonprofit organizations, are seeking to defend the new law against a legal challenge brought by New York State Senator Elizabeth Little and others. The lawsuit, titled Little v. LATFOR, names the New York State Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment (LATFOR) and the Department of Correctional Services (DOCS) as defendants.

The new law requires that incarcerated persons be counted as residents of their home communities, in accordance with the New York State Constitution's provision that incarceration does not change one's residence. The legislation applies to state and local legislative redistricting, and would not affect federal funding distributions.

Previously, legislative districts with prisons were credited with the population of the disenfranchised people temporarily incarcerated there. This practice, often called prison-based gerrymandering, gives extra influence to voters who live in the district with the most prisons, and dilutes

the votes of every resident of a district with no (or fewer) prisons. The new law corrects this bias and assures that all communities in New York have equal representation in our government.

The most dramatic examples of prison-based gerrymandering are in upstate counties and cities. For example, half of a Rome City Council ward is incarcerated, giving the residents of that ward twice the influence of other city residents. Recognizing the distorting effect of prison-based gerrymandering at the local level, 13 New York counties with large prisons — including four in Senator Little's district — have historically exercised their discretion to remove the prison populations prior to redistricting.

The new law brings consistency to redistricting in New York, prohibiting the state and all local governments from giving extra political influence to districts that contain prisons. Sen. Little's lawsuit seeks to have the new legislation struck down, the effect of which would require legislative districts — most notably her own, which contains 12,000 incarcerated persons — to include prison populations in their apportionment counts to the detriment of all other districts without prisons. Returning to this practice would not only unfairly inflate the districts of those with prisons at the expense of those without but also violate the New York State Constitution.

The organizations seeking to intervene include:

The NAACP New York State Conference, the state-level body in New York of the See "**Gerrymandering**" on pg. 19

From Wire Reports

Sachs' three-baby plan for Nigeria 'tricky'

A Nigerian family planning expert says it would be difficult to implement the suggestion that Nigerians should only have three children.

Isaac Ogo pointed to the tradition of polygamy and the belief that the children were seen as a "gift from God" in a male-dominated society.

Recent UN figures suggest Nigeria's population could jump to 730 million by 2100 - behind only India and China. UN special adviser Jeffrey Sachs said this prospect alarmed him.

"It is not healthy. Nigeria should work towards attaining a maximum of three children per family," he said.

Ogo, from the Planned Parenthood Federation of Nigeria, agrees with the goal but says it will be hard to change the views of many Nigerians.

He says Nigeria is a "high birth, high death" society where many people think: "I need to have as much children as I want, as I don't know which will survive."

Nigeria is one of the world's worst places to have a baby, according to the UN. About 145 women die each day in pregnancy or childbirth, as do 2,300 children below five years of age.

Ogo also said that many women are unable to visit an organization such as his without their husband's agreement.

On the streets of the northern city of Kaduna, some people said that God decided how many children they had and



Jeffery Sachs

so it would be wrong to try to limit the number of births.

"[The UN] should try to advise the government how to make the lives of Nigerians better, not telling Nigerians not to have children - that is not their business," one angry woman said. But one woman agreed with Sachs, saying that in a poor country such as Nigeria, it was better to have fewer children and look after them properly.

Nigeria's population is currently 160 million - by far the most populous in Africa but a long way behind those of China and India. As those countries grow richer, the UN predicts their populations will stop expanding, while those in Africa such as Nigeria, will continue to grow rapidly.

Stemming the tide of e-waste in Africa

Activists with the U.K.-based Environmental Investigation Agency are trying to stop a toxic flood of broken TVs, computer monitors, cell phones, and other junked electronic devices known as e-waste pouring into Ghana.

"We are destroying the lives of children, we are destroying the environment, the rivers no longer have fish, just because of the illegal shipments and dumping of electronic waste from the U.K.," journalist Mike Anane said on the show "Panorama" in Britain.

More than three-quarters of all e-waste from England and Wales ends up in West Africa, primarily Ghana and Nigeria, according to a confidential report obtained by Panorama.

Professor Margaret Bates, of Northampton University, said that while other streams of



Child carrying e-waste

waste are being reduced, e-waste is going in the opposite direction - growing at a rate of 5 percent a year.

EIA's latest report, "Scandal of U.K.'s Illegal E-waste Trade Exposed" was recently released.

New gold rush seen for Sierra Leone

British company, Cluff Gold, will build a mechanized gold mine in the southern Kangari hills after finding large deposits of gold in the rock.

The new project, in Buomahun, near the Liberian border, will have an eight year mine life, and, assuming a \$1,200-plus gold price, could deliver a \$600 million return. Other Cluff Gold investments are also turning nice profits - their mine in Cote d'Ivoire produced 20,222 ounces of gold last year, despite the turmoil in the country.

Under the terms of Sierra Leone's new Mines and Minerals Act, Cluff Gold must invest one tenth of annual revenue in local communities.

But, the news has not given comfort to local gold miners, who worry about the future. When the mine starts operations, they will have to move, if they can't get jobs with Cluff Gold.

One resident, Bobo Simbo, for example, reported making enough from selling gold dust to take care of his wife and three children. The guarantee of a daily profit makes the back-breaking work worthwhile, he said.



Gold panning in Sierra Leone

And, a new article "Artisanal gold mining: A new frontier in post-conflict Sierra Leone", suggests that the small-scale gold mining sector could ameliorate Sierra Leone's emerging 'crisis of youth' by providing immediate economic relief for jobless young people desperate for work.

Nigeria militants end fight for justice

Militants' struggle for a fair distribution of Nigeria's oil wealth appear to be winding down with the news that the Nigeria Delta Liberation Force is seeking a truce.

In a public statement titled "End of the last battle; why we have surrendered," the militants said they accepted a deal offered by Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, which will give amnesty in exchange for abandoning their position in the creeks.

"We have fought a good fight," wrote rebel spokesman Capt. Mack Anthony. "This is dawn of a new day. ...We are aware the Joint Military Task Force is still counting

their monumental losses just as we count our losses in the battle."

"It is good news, which I think the government should embrace," said Onengiya Erekosima, president of Niger Delta Non-Violent Movement. Erekosima organized the first face-to-face meeting between the militants and the government.

Militants began a campaign of kidnapping and pipeline bombings in 2006, upset over pollution and the resource rich region's poverty, but a 2009 government-sponsored amnesty fractionalized them and reduced attacks.

Coke plant workers demand decent pay

In a protest over low wages and long hours, casual workers of the Nigerian Bottling Company, bottlers of Coca-Cola, said they would no longer accept a daily wage of \$2.56 (400 naira) being paid to them.

"We do hard labor with sweat as if we are prisoners and they expect us to survive on \$2.56 a day," said Femi Martins, a worker. "We come to work every day, 31 days a month, and 12 months a year, with nothing to show for it... At the end of the year, we

don't even get a bottle of coke as bonus for the year's work."

Bearing signs saying: 'We say no to slavery', the workers at the Ikeja plant in Lagos, are seeking a monthly wage of \$288 (45,000 naira) 200 percent more than their current pay of \$107.89 (16,800 naira).

As casual staff, they do not get safety gear and are also paid less than permanent staff.

Management, in a statement seen by media, claimed it was handling the matter internally,

The VOICE flashes back to: Marian Anderson

Marian Anderson was an African American contralto and one of the most celebrated singers of the 20th century.

Most of her singing career was spent performing in concert and recital in major music venues and with major orchestras throughout the United States and Europe between 1925 and 1965.

Although she was offered contracts to perform roles with many important European opera companies, Anderson declined all of these, preferring to perform in concert and recital only. She did, however, perform opera arias within her concerts and recitals. She made many recordings that reflected her broad performance repertoire of everything from concert literature to lieder to opera to traditional American songs and spirituals.

Anderson became an important figure in the struggle for Black artists to overcome racial prejudice in the United States during the mid 20th century.

In 1939, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) refused permission for Anderson to sing to an integrated audience in Constitution Hall. Their race-driven refusal placed Anderson into the spotlight of the international community on a level usually only found by high profile celebrities and politicians.

With the aid of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, Anderson performed a



(February 27, 1897 – April 8, 1993)

critically acclaimed open-air concert on Easter Sunday,

April 9, 1939, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., to a crowd of more than 75,000 people and a radio audience in the millions.

She continued to break barriers for Black artists in the United States, becoming the first Black person, American or otherwise, to perform at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City on Jan. 7, 1955. Her performance as Ulrica in Giuseppe Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera* at the Met was the only time she sang an opera role on stage.

Anderson was also an important symbol of grace and beauty during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, singing at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963. She also worked for several years as a delegate to the United Nations Human Rights Committee and as a "goodwill ambassador" for the United States Department of State.

The recipient of numerous awards and honors, Anderson was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1963, the Kennedy Center Honors in 1978, the National Medal of Arts in 1986, and a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 1991.

Anderson died of congestive heart failure in 1993 at the age of 96. She died in Portland, Oregon at her nephew's house. She is interred at Eden Cemetery, in Collingdale, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Philadelphia.

Where you can find us

VOICE The Hampton Roads

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Denbigh Municipal Ct.
NN Prison Farm Business Office
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The Greyhound Bus Station
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Freedom Outreach
Speedy Mart
Zion Baptist Church
Boys & Girls Club
Bottom Records
Carver Memorial Presbyterian
Reginas Restaurant
Al-Quba Islamic Center
Downing Cross Cultural Arts
Pearl Bailey Branch Library
Esquire News Conv. Store
Doris Miller Comm. Ctr.
C Waldo Scott Ctr.
East End Health Facility
New St. John's Church
Franklin Fisher Funeral Home
Wesley Grove United Church
St. Paul AME Church
Chic A Sea
Civic Social Club
Trinity Baptist Church
Britts Florist

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

Consolidated
E.J. Brown Unisex hair Salon
Palm Tree Resturant
BK's Barbershop
Bethel AME Church
1st Baptist of Hampton
Queen Street Baptist Church
Little Zion Baptist Church
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Hampton University
Exxon
Old Point National Bank
West End Baptist Church
Essence of Styles
Barber's Ink
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Retool your school
From Page 9

focusing on green initiatives. I think that is always a critical aspect for campuses in terms of conserving dollars, which are much needed across all HBCUs," stated Monica McCluney, Director, Corporate Alliances, United Negro College Fund. "There is a valid interest from HBCUs around green initiatives. So, the more opportunities we can give them to come together and leverage opportunities such as the "Retool Your School" experience in helping them to save resources through green initiatives, the better."

"Retool Your School" winning projects will begin in Fall 2011.

The 2011 Home Depot "Retool Your

School" Winners

\$50,000 Grand Prize Winner:

• Bethune Cookman University (Daytona Beach, FL)

\$10,000 Prize Winners:

- Virginia Union University (Richmond, VA)
- Knoxville College (Knoxville, TN)
- North Carolina A&T State University (Greensboro, NC)
- Morris Brown College (Atlanta, GA)
- Howard University (Washington, DC)
- North Carolina Central University (Durham, NC)
- Tuskegee University (Tuskegee, AL)
- Mississippi Valley State University (Itta Bena, MS)
- Southwestern Christian College (Terrell, TX)
- Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (Tallahassee, FL).

Allergies
From Page 12

and then once a month.

"The thing about allergy shots is they have to be given in a doctor's office where a doctor is supervising the patient to watch for signs of an allergic reaction so that they can treat it promptly and effectively."

After five years of shots, Berdy says many people are sensitized to their allergens.

"Many people have no symptoms after that and other people may have minimal symptoms that require just some medications – but it is usually very dramatic at reducing the severity of the symptoms or the complications, like sinus infections and asthma that can be associated with allergies."

Allergic asthma

Allergens can cause asthma attacks. Known as allergic asthma, it is the most common form of asthma and produces wheezing, breathing difficulties, coughing and chest tightness. Unlike other allergy shots, patients with severe, persistent asthma who take Xolair shots for allergic asthma are on them for the long haul.

"It is not possible to discontinue that one," Berdy says. "It has to be given every two to four weeks, based on how it's dosed indefinitely. Xolair is dosed based on your weight and your total IgE level, which is your total immunoglobulin E level."

IgE antibodies are found in your lungs, skin, and mucus membranes and react against foreign substances.

Special to the NNPA from The St. Louis American

Gerrymandering
From Page 16

NAACP, a membership organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing the civil rights of African Americans and other people of color. The Conference has approximately 90,000 members statewide Common Cause/NY, the New York branch of Common Cause, a nationwide, nonpartisan organization, with 20,000 members in

New York State, that advocates for honest, accountable, and responsive government. Voices of Community Activists and Leaders – New York, or VOCAL -NY, a statewide grassroots membership organization building power among low-income people who are living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, drug use and incarceration, along with the organizations that serve them, to create healthy and just communities.

Special to the NNPA from thedefendersonline.com

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**156-527
HAMPTON SOLICITATION**



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

CITY OF HAMPTON

Tuesday, June 28, 2011

2:00 PM – ITB 11-53/C LaSalle Avenue Streetscape improvements @ Kecoughtan Road

HAMPTON CITY SCHOOLS

Thursday, June 16, 2011

3:00 PM – RFP 11-355438/D Digital Common Assessments

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**



VDOT has opportunities statewide. We are currently seeking outstanding candidates for the following position:

Civil Rights Division Administrator - Richmond, VA

For more details on this position and other opportunities go to www.vdot.jobs

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**CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS
INVITATION FOR BIDS**

The City of Newport News will accept SEALED Bids in the Purchasing Conference Room, City Hall, 4th Fl., 2400 Washington Ave., Newport News, VA 23607, until the time specified below:

IFB #2011-6148-2005

OPERATIONS CENTER-REDEVELOPMENT OF THE ORIOLE'S CLUB SITE
June 21, 2011 @ 3:00 p.m.

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 of the IFB due date.

**Sheri L. Chapman, CPPB
Director of Purchasing**



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