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**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM YOUR  
 METRO HERALD FAMILY**



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 Happenings  
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# THE METRO HERALD NEWSPAPER

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# Editorial

**I** can't ever remember  
roses blooming  
in December . . .  
snow and roses,  
December's song . . .  
lit by sunlight  
frozen in mind . . .  
snowflakes and rose leaves  
dancing the minuet  
on breezes in concert:  
light and empty . . .  
like living in  
a sud's bubbles . . .  
like raindrops  
on their journey  
to becoming snowflakes.

Fredericksburg, Virginia,  
is the place  
where I found  
December's song  
in an island of roses  
on the grounds  
of the Rappahannock  
Regional Library . . .  
a congenial meeting  
of snowflakes and rose  
leaves  
bowed in the caress  
of snowflakes  
and rose leaf hair . . .  
a conveyance  
fashioned in dress  
by yesterday's raindrops  
and daybreak's snowflakes  
confined by nothing  
but morning breezes  
and snowflakes  
dancing on top of  
soft winds  
with the velocity  
of a human whisper,  
corkscrewing through the  
air  
like Bojangles  
dancing on a stage . . .  
yet:

I am still puzzled  
by the moondrops  
dancing on top  
of each other  
like snowflakes . . .  
Snow is a smell  
as distinctive  
as rosebuds  
in the springtime . . .  
morning glories  
in early summer . . .  
freshly showered  
leaves in autumn . . .  
and pine needles  
at Christmas.

Is Christmas  
the gift  
or chance meeting  
of all things touching  
or a place  
to melt all things  
still glowing  
in the aftermath  
of thought . . .  
like chocolate sprinkles  
on ice cream . . .  
a place where  
vision overrides  
the unspoken  
and  
the untouched . . .  
like the star  
guiding the three wise men  
on a mission of discovery . . .  
where the meek  
bathe in their own visions . . .

To your knowledge:  
have you ever  
in your life  
said to a child  
"happy birthday"  
in roses?  
Christmas  
is always  
a place of the heart . . .  
it is the back theater  
of the soul  
searching for the heart . . .

The oracle always asks  
if you are seeking others  
or  
yourself . . .  
Yesterday looks  
so much  
like today . . .  
people move  
inside and outside  
themselves . . .  
like Dickens'  
A Christmas Carol . . .

There is a profound beauty  
in change . . .  
It's like new snow  
covering all that was  
or taking a canvas  
and wiping it clean . . .  
it's like Monet  
painting over  
a Van Gogh . . .

There are times  
when a city  
like Fredericksburg  
could be transposed  
to Bethlehem . . .  
Rose crystal snowflakes  
clinging to each other  
like babies  
to their mothers . . .

Christmas  
requires that  
we cling  
to others  
before ourselves . . .  
Snow and roses:  
the beauty of life . . .  
birthdays and  
Christmas music . . .  
singing a relationship  
of bonding . . .  
like roses  
and snow . . .

PDD

## NIGERIA CONFIRMS STATE EXECUTIONS

A Nigerian state official has confirmed that at least seven people have been executed in recent years, despite denials by the national government. Amnesty International said the executions had taken place in secret after convictions in Kano State.

Last month a Nigerian representative at the United Nations said: "Nigeria has not carried out any capital punishment in recent years." A Kano

official told the BBC that armed robbers could face the death penalty.

Kano governor's spokesman Sule Yau Sule told the BBC's Focus on Africa program that the cases had been taken all the way to Nigeria's Supreme Court under the previous government.

He also said that Kano State would be willing to carry out further executions "as long as due process" had been followed.

According to the UN's official

record of the committee debate on a death penalty moratorium on 15 November, the representative of Nigeria said the death penalty was still on his country's statute books for national security reasons and as a deterrent against serious crimes.

The Nigerian representative, whose name was not given, said "punishment only comes after exhaustive legal and judicial processes, including recourse to the Supreme Court of the land."

The moratorium proposal will be put to a full vote in the 192-member UN general assembly on 18 December and Nigeria has already indicated it will vote against.

In a statement sent by Amnesty to media organizations, Africa program director Erwin van der Borgh said:

"The Nigerian government has been misleading the world". He called on Nigeria to "come clean on their death penalty record, establish an immediate moratorium on all executions in the country and fully investigate."

Amnesty said the seven men had all been convicted in Kano State, before being transferred elsewhere in the country for their executions:

- Kenneth Ekhone and Auwalu Musa, executed at Kaduna Central Prison, May 2006.
- Salisu Babuga, executed at Jos prison, June 2006
- Reported hangings of four men in Enugu and one in Port Harcourt

In May this year a Nigerian presidential commission report called for



Nigeria retains the death penalty as a "deterrent"

"an official moratorium on executions until the Nigerian criminal justice system can ensure fundamental fairness and due process in capital cases." The report also highlighted that inmates on death row are "almost exclusively poor and without legal representation."

## DARFUR PEACE FORCE SET TO FAIL



The 26,000-hybrid force is due to deploy within weeks

The hybrid United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force for Darfur in Sudan is "being set up to fail", a report by 35 aid organizations warns. It says the mission is hamstrung by Sudanese government obstruction and a lack of critical logistical support.

Khartoum has yet to agree to the deployment of non-African troops, is blocking night flights and insists on restricting the force's communications.

The 26,000-strong UN peacekeeping force is due to deploy in Darfur next year.

More than 200,000 people have died in the more than four-year conflict between rebels and pro-government forces in Darfur.

Meanwhile, Amnesty International (AI) says the lives of civilians are at risk because of delays in the deployment. "The Sudanese government must stop playing games with the lives of the Darfuri people," said AI's Africa Program Director Erwin van der Borgh. They must allow the UN peacekeeping force to do their job effectively. That means allowing them all facilities, personnel and infrastructure necessary."

The joint report by organizations including AI and Human Rights Watch sets out five ways in which the Sudanese government is actively obstructing the deployment of the

UN/AU Hybrid Mission for Darfur (Unamid):

- No approval for non-African troops
- No approval for night flights
- Insistence on the right to block communications
- No allocation of land for Unamid bases
- No agreement on resources for Unamid

"Sudan is saying 'yes' and then doing everything in its power to obstruct and undermine the hybrid force," Steve Crawshaw of Human Rights Watch said.

UN member states also come in for criticism by the non-governmental organizations' report which says they urgently need to guarantee transport. "It's also inexcusable that the international community continues to stubbornly refuse to provide the helicopters Unamid so desperately needs," said Amjad Atallah of the Save Darfur Coalition.

AI says that "more people's lives will be at risk if the Sudanese government continues to thwart and delay peacekeeping plans".

The NGOs say that mass displacement and the killings and rapes of civilians in Darfur have not ceased over the five months of prevarication by Khartoum and that humanitarian aid workers have been assaulted, wounded and threatened.

"Until the [UN] Security Council is prepared to exert real pressure, Sudan will continue to manipulate the situation to ensure there is no effective force on the ground in Darfur," said Moataz El Fegier of the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies.

Earlier this month, Sudan rejected a complaint by UN chief Ban Ki-moon that it was delaying the deployment of Unamid.

own child, who was albino. As well as the four killings, the body of an albino has also been exhumed. It was found with its limbs cut off.

The BBC's Vicky Ntetma in Dar es Salaam says there is now fear in the albino community there. Christopher Dadenekeye from the TAS said the witch-doctors must also be arrested.

Some people in Tanzania think albinos are a kind of ghost-like creature. "We need to clear out all these beliefs," Mr Dadenekeye said.

There are some 270,000 albinos among Tanzania's population of some 35 million.

Old women with red eyes have been killed in parts of Tanzania in the past, after being accused of witchcraft but this is the first time that albinos have been targeted in ritual killings.

TAS also wants more help for albinos and says the condition should be treated as a disability.

## SOMALI CHILD SAFETY ZONES CALL

The UN children's fund has called for the creation of safe zones in Somalia for about 1.5m children whose lives have been affected by conflict. Persistent battles in the capital between insurgents and Ethiopian-backed government forces have created Africa's worst humanitarian crisis, the UN says. "We have reports of both parties recruiting child soldiers," Unicef's Christian Balslev-Olesen told the BBC.

It is estimated that 60% of Mogadishu's residents have fled their homes. Insecurity has cut off food supplies and access to clean water and medical assistance.

The BBC's East Africa correspondent Adam Mynott says outside the capital, Mogadishu, where families have sought shelter from the fighting, the situation is equally precarious.

Unicef's Ann Veneman said "an immediate cessation of the conflict" was necessary to enable humanitarian workers to access those in need.

"Safe zones must be created where children and families can find assistance and stability," she said in a statement.

She also said that not only were the children malnourished and at a high risk of disease, but they were also suffering from exhaustion and emotional trauma.

A mother and her three children were among the latest casualties of the ongoing conflict in the capital, Mogadishu, killed in shelling on Tuesday.

Mr. Balslev-Olesen, Unicef's representative in Somalia, suggested that the few schools open in Mogadishu could act as the "safe havens" as the conflict was intensifying. "This is an escalation of the conflict that we have not seen in the past... we have reports of insurgents simply using children to plant roadside bombs and so on," he said.

The number of children in need of urgent humanitarian assistance are scattered all over Somalia, but mainly in the central south and in pockets close to Mogadishu on the road to Afgoy, Unicef says.



Unicef estimates 1.5m children are at risk

Last December, Ethiopia helped the transitional government end the Union of Islamic Courts' six-month rule over large parts of southern Somalia, but Mogadishu has been a battleground for insurgents hoping to oust the Ethiopians.

Ethiopia says it wants to withdraw its troops, but only when they are replaced by peacekeepers.

So far only 1,600 Ugandan peacekeepers have been sent to Somalia, of a planned 8,000-strong force.

Somalia has not had a functioning national government since 1991.

## ZUMA'S SUPPORTERS CELEBRATE WIN

Supporters of Jacob Zuma have been celebrating his election as the new leader of South Africa's governing party, the African National Congress. Mr Zuma defeated President Thabo Mbeki after an acrimonious conference, during which Mr Mbeki was heckled. As the celebrations got under way, both sides spoke of trying to heal the deep rifts in the party.

Mr Zuma is now in a strong position to become the country's next president when Mr Mbeki's term ends in 2009.

Of the 3,834 voting delegates, Mr Zuma received 2,329 to Mr Mbeki's 1,505. He and his supporters also won a clean sweep of five other top positions in the ANC.

The BBC's Peter Biles at the conference says South Africa now has two centers of power—Mr Mbeki as president and Mr Zuma as head of the ruling party. The announcement of the result was greeted with chants of "Zuma, Zuma". Mr Mbeki embraced Mr Zuma and clasped his rival's hand in congratulation.

The BBC correspondent says the public show of unity was a powerful signal to the rank and file that they needed to heal the rift and get on with the business of running the country. But the real question is whether Mr Zuma can deliver on that promise of unity and continuity, he adds.

Mr Zuma has already made it clear that there will be no change in ANC policy. But while he is strongly placed to become the next national president,

Mr Zuma could still face corruption charges in connection with a multi-million dollar arms deal.

Helen Zille, leader of the main opposition Democratic Alliance, called the vote a "dismal day" for the ANC and for South Africa. "It is an indictment on the ruling party that they could find no better candidate than Jacob Zuma to lead them," she said.

Correspondents say it has been the most divisive contest in the long history of the ANC—for some this is a sign of a healthy democracy in action while others fear the split in the ANC could spell trouble for South Africa.

It was the ANC's first leadership contest in 58 years.

Delegates were warned to behave or face disciplinary action on Monday after rival supporters tried to out-sing each other amid chaotic scenes.

Mr Mbeki had said claims by the Zuma camp that he had centralized power were false. But growing unpopularity with Mr Mbeki's style of leadership had made Mr Zuma favorite. Mr Zuma's supporters believe he will do more to reduce poverty in South Africa.

Once close allies, Mr Zuma and Mr Mbeki fell out in 2005 when Mr Zuma was sacked as deputy presi-



Mr Zuma is set to challenge Mr Mbeki's hold on power

dent over corruption allegations.

The case against Mr Zuma was thrown out by a judge last year. He was also acquitted of rape charges, which he said were politically motivated.

Before the vote, former President Nelson Mandela said he was saddened by "the nature of the differences currently in the organization".

The former Archbishop of Cape Town, Desmond Tutu, said neither Mr Zuma or Mr Mbeki were suitable candidates.

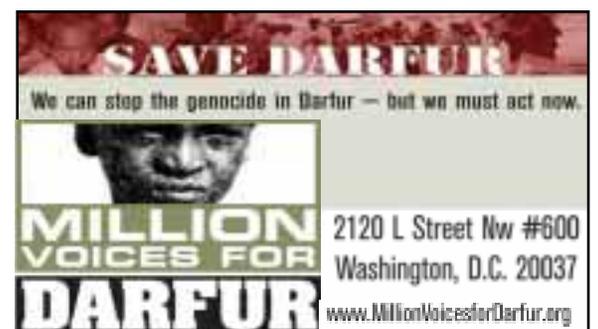
## TANZANIA FEAR OVER ALBINO KILLING



Albinos are also at high risk of getting skin cancer

Tanzania's Albino Society has accused the government of turning a blind eye to the killing of albinos, after four deaths in the past three months. An albino spokesman said there was a belief that the condition was the result of a curse put on the family. Some witch-doctors also say they can use albino body parts in a potion to make people rich.

A teacher in the northern town of Arusha has been arrested for killing his



## PLANNING BOARD ASKS DEPARTMENT OF PARKS TO DEVELOP ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE FOR NORTH FOUR CORNERS

The Montgomery County Planning Board has heard testimony and Department of Parks staff recommendations for amending the facility plan from September 2005 for North Four Corners Local Park to include a new large athletic field and improved parking at the park.

"We're really trying to create a better park," said Department of Parks Landscape Architect Heidi Sussmann, "while balancing the need for athletic fields in the county with the need to maintain the integrity of the surrounding park neighborhood."

Department of Parks staff presented an overview of four alternatives to the Planning Board for North Four Corners Local Park. One, which reduces activity on the park's existing field, adds a new large field for use by all ages and improves parking at the park—a modification to the existing facility plan for the park which calls for two large fields for use by all ages; another which renovates and makes larger the existing park field, adds open space and improves parking; and a third alternative which includes no fields at the park and makes no improvements to parking.

The alternative recommended by parks staff at the Planning Board includes replacing the existing park field with open space, seating areas and

paths, adding a new large park field for use by all ages and improving parking at the park.

"Our recommendation today is really a compromise," said Sussmann. "This change to the renovation and expansion plan for the park addresses park neighbors' expressed concerns about how increased use of the park might impact the surrounding neighborhood, but does not add an additional park field to an area that needs it."

More than a dozen community members signed up to testify at the Planning Board meeting about this park project. Public testimony was limited to one hour and community feedback provided about the project was mixed. Several park neighbors and the Northwood Four Corners Citizens Association asked the Planning Board to reject the parks staff's recommended alternative and to keep the park's new large parcel—where the recommended new athletic field would be developed—as open space, an area the community has affectionately named "Rachel Carson Meadow."

Others, including a Blair High School student and a representative from the Takoma Park Neighborhood Youth Soccer League spoke in support of renovating and expanding the park and the need for more athletic fields in the Silver Spring/Takoma Park area.

The Board acknowledged the need for more soccer fields in the county. At the County Council's request, over the past year parks staff has analyzed the need for athletic fields in the county. Based on data in the County's approved 2005 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan there are almost no opportunities available to meet an estimated year 2020 need for nearly 11 additional large athletic fields in the Silver Spring area.

After much discussion and consideration of the testimony provided by the community, the Planning Board directed parks staff to develop a new alternative for the park which rotates the

position of the proposed new athletic field, reconfigures parking at the park, provides additional buffers from field activity at the park for some of the adjacent community and leaves a portion of the new park area in its existing state.

Before concluding the discussion on this park project, Chairman Hanson asked parks staff to bring this item back to the Board as quickly as possible so that the Board might take action and get this project scheduled for design and construction in the FY09-14 Capital Improvements Program (CIP).

It was also noted that the parks staff recommended alternative presented on December 6, has not been ruled out.

## ALEXANDRIA TRANSIT COMPANY (DASH) OFFERS FREE RIDES IN OLD TOWN ON NEW YEAR'S EVE

Alexandria Transit Company (DASH) will be offering free shuttle service for the "First Night Alexandria" events on New Year's Eve, **Monday, December 31, 2007**, and free bus service on its regular routes operating between the King Street Metrorail Station and Alexandria's Market Square.

The First Night shuttle service will originate from the Masonic Temple and King Street Metro station and will serve all of the "First Night Alexandria" performance venue stops. There will also be two buses running between the First Night venues in Del Ray and the King Street Metro station. Additionally, all regular DASH routes operating on King

Street, between the King Street Metrorail Station and Market Square, at

King and Fairfax Streets, will also be free. The free service will begin at **5:00PM and end at 1:00AM.**

"DASH plays a vital role in the First Night Alexandria festivities by safely connecting First Night event goers to the many different performance venues throughout the evening and to the fireworks at the

Masonic Temple at midnight," stated DASH General Manager, Sandy Modell.

For more information, contact Anne Janeski, Marketing & Communications Manager, at **703-370-3274 x614.**

## ADAPTED AQUATICS VOLUNTEERS

Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) is looking for high school students and adults to volunteer and work in the Adapted Aquatics Program. This program works with children with disabilities to help them adjust to the water and learn to swim. Classes are usually held **Saturday** mornings at these RECenters: Oak Marr, Providence, South Run, Audrey Moore, Cub Run, and Mount Vernon. Volunteers work under the supervision of trained instructors and with students from 3-5 years, 6-12 years, and teens and adults (13+). This is an excellent way to earn service hours and training is provided. The next training session will be held at Providence RECenter, 7525 Marc Drive, Falls Church, VA22042 (**703-698-1351**) **on Saturday, January 12, 2008 from 1:00am-6:00pm.** Dress comfortably and bring a swimsuit and towel. For more information, contact Jean Skinner at **703-324-8565** or **jean.skinner@fairfax-county.gov.**

## BLACK FACT

**On December 21, 1921, The Spingarn Medal was awarded to actor Charles S. Gilpin for his performance in the title role of *Emperor Jones*.**

## SPECIAL-NEEDS HOUSING FORUM AT URBAN INSTITUTE

There will be a First Tuesday forum hosted by the Urban Institute entitled "Special-Needs Housing for the Frail Elderly and Homeless" on January 8, 2007 from noon to 1:30pm. Forum will be held at the Urban Institute located at 2100 M Street, NW, 5th Floor, Washington, DC. Lunch will be provided at 11:45am and the forum begins promptly at noon. To RSVP, e-mail **paffairs@ui.urban.org** or call **(202) 261-5709.**

Panelists will include:

- Mary Cunningham, director, Homelessness Research Institute, National Alliance to End Homelessness
- Thomas Kingsley, principal research associate, Center on Metropolitan Housing and Communities, Urban Institute
- Christopher Swope, staff writer, *Governing* magazine (moderator)
- Louis Tenenbaum, independent living strategist

The Census Bureau projects that the elderly population 65 and over will grow from 35 million in 2000 to 80 million in 2040. With increasing longevity, people over 85 will more than triple from 4.3 million to 15.4 million while the disabled population over 65 will double from 10 million to 21 million.

Many seniors will need in-home services and housing arrangements and designs that can accommodate their special needs. But it is uncertain how the service needs of this much expanded population will be met given their high cost, current incentives favoring nursing homes over at-home care, and a forecasted decline in unpaid care from family members.

At the same time, many communities are contending with a persistent housing affordability gap that puts many residents at risk of homelessness. And the poorest, most vulnerable people with disabilities may have to become homeless before qualifying for permanent supportive housing.

Public programs and private providers are experimenting with promising models addressing affordability, accessibility, and service provision. Panelists will discuss the needs of the frail elderly and homeless populations, the missing pieces in housing options, design solutions that can improve accommodations, and ways to better a delivery system that is highly fragmented across jurisdictions and target populations.

## COLLEGE-BOUND HIGH SCHOOLS SHOULD REGISTER FOR ACT EXAM BY JANUARY 4



The next ACT exam will be administered on **February 9, 2008**, in all states except New York. Students who wish to take the college admission and placement exam on this date must register by **January 4**, which is the deadline for having their registration postmarked. There is a late registration postmark deadline of **January 18**; an extra fee is charged for late registrations. Students can register online at **www.actstudent.org**, or registration forms can be picked up at high school counseling offices.

The cost is \$30 for the traditional ACT and \$44.50 for the ACT Plus Writing. Some colleges require ACT's optional Writing Test score, but many don't, so students should find out the

requirements of prospective colleges before registering for the exam. ACT scores are accepted by all major four-year colleges and universities across the United States.

ACT's website **www.actstudent.org** has helpful information about the ACT and how to prepare for it, including sample tests. It also provides information on college planning, financial aid, career planning, and the opportunity to order inexpensive test prep materials.

The ACT is given in all 50 states, U.S. Territories, Puerto Rico and Canada, in October, December, February, April and June. The next national test date for the ACT after **February 9** will be **April 12, 2008.**

## CITY COUNCIL APPROVES FUNDING FOR NATIONAL HARBOR PREPARATION

Recently, the Alexandria City Council tentatively approved \$1.3 million in funding for a three-tiered initiative related to preparing the City for the opening of the National Harbor Development in Prince George's County, Maryland. National Harbor, which will open in April 2008, is a 300-acre, mixed use development that will include five hotels, the Gaylord National Resort, and Convention Center. The 4,000 hotel rooms at National Harbor, along with eventually up to one million square feet of retail and restaurant space, and a half-million square feet of office space, condos, and the convention center, have the potential to generate tens of thousands of new visitors to the City annually.

The funding (which includes \$700,000 from the FY 2008 General Fund balance set aside for National Harbor readiness purposes and \$600,000 from other sources) will support high priority projects identified by The National Harbor Collaborative Work Group, convened in 2006 by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce at the request of Mayor William D. Euille. Over the last ten months, the Collaborative, with input from stakeholder forums and citizen organizations, identified, developed, and prioritized projects designed to achieve four goals: (1)

to attract visitors to Alexandria's waterfront; (2) to welcome them to the City; (3) to orient and direct them to places they may want to visit; and (4) to disperse them from the Marina area out to King Street's attractions, business, and retail. The projects in the first tier presented to Council tonight include expanded marketing initiatives to attract visitors to the City; City Marina area improvements, lighting, and security; improving and increasing heritage services and living history programs; providing a rubber tire trolley service on King Street; and, supporting business and retail in preparation for increased patronage of visitors from National Harbor.

The funding of these projects marks a major step in the City's long-term efforts to prepare for the National Harbor's positive effect on Alexandria; to gain an opportunity to attract new tourism and retain existing tourists, meetings, and restaurant customers; and to create and expand economic opportunities for the City, its business community, and its residents.

For more information about the National Harbor Collaborative report and recommendations, visit the City Council page on **alexandriava.gov**, and click "Dockets and Video."

## COMCAST AND NAACP WORK TOGETHER ON A \$5 MILLION AFRICAN-AMERICAN VOTER CAMPAIGN



Malcolm-Jamal Warner

Comcast, the nation's leading provider of cable, entertainment and communications products and services, in partnership with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People National Voter Fund (NAACP NVF), today announced the launch of "Our Time to Vote," a year-long, non-partisan voter education and registration campaign designed to increase voting in African American communities served by the cable industry.

"Comcast recognizes that broader

participation in the democratic process is important for our nation, and we are very pleased to launch this partnership to pursue that goal," said Comcast Executive Vice President David L. Cohen. "This campaign reflects the cable industry's commitment to strong local communities and to active public citizenship."

The outreach to the African American community, part of an estimated \$5 million multicultural campaign, consists of four public service announcements (PSAs), one of which features African American celebrities and leaders, such as Malcolm-Jamal Warner, Musiq Soulchild and National Urban League President Marc Morial, encouraging African American audiences to register to vote, as well as the creation and launch of two nationally available voter education resources: the [www.ourtimetovote.com](http://www.ourtimetovote.com) webpage, and a voter information resources hotline, **1-866-544-VOTE**.

The PSA was recorded at this year's BET Awards, and will begin airing leading up to the 2008 primary

elections in Comcast, Time Warner, Cox Communications, Inc. and Bright House Networks markets. A series of "Get out the Vote" spots will run from **September 1, 2008**, through **November 3, 2008**, just prior to the general election.

"Voter participation by the African American community is critical to the election of the next President of the United States and other key leadership positions," said Congresswoman Carolyn Kilpatrick (D, MI-13), Chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus. "Our community will be empowered through the voting process. This type of private, non-profit partnership is necessary to register to vote, as well as the creation and launch of two nationally available voter education resources: the [www.ourtimetovote.com](http://www.ourtimetovote.com) webpage, and a voter information resources hotline, **1-866-544-VOTE**."

"Too few Americans vote and that hurts our democracy," said FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps. "'Our Time to Vote' is a welcome and multi-faceted campaign to promote citizen participation in the electoral process. It's a real public service."

Additionally, the Comcast Foundation has awarded a grant to the

NAACP National Voter Fund (NVF), a social welfare organization established by the NAACP to engage in civic participation and community-based mobilization efforts through education and awareness campaigns surrounding key issues in communities of color. The funding will help support the NVF's voter engagement work through their Empowerment 2007/08 Voter Education and Civic Participation plan for maximizing the African American vote.

Specifically, the program will build upon NVF's past voter engagement success and incorporate best practices and lessons learned from its efforts over the past two presidential election cycles. Target communities include Atlanta, Northern California, Houston, Philadelphia, South Florida, Baltimore/Southern Maryland and New Jersey.

"The 'Our Time to Vote' campaign will become an integral part of The NAACP NVF's Empowerment 2008 Campaign which seeks to register and mobilize 300,000 new voters," accord-

ing to Greg Moore, the NAACP NVF Executive Director. "This partnership with Comcast will allow NAACP members and activists additional technical tools to reach millions of voters across the country and most importantly across racial lines."

"'Our Time to Vote' is designed to bring a wide range of diverse Americans into the voting process," added Susan Gonzales, Corporate Senior Director of Federal and External Affairs and Vice President of the Comcast Foundation. "As a company dedicated to diversity, we are pleased to make this contribution to broadened civic engagement in the African American, Asian American and Pacific Islander and Hispanic communities."

Comcast's overall commitment to diversity is focused in four key areas: attracting and retaining a multicultural workforce, developing a diverse supplier group, offering a wide selection of multicultural programming and pledging significant community investments.

## MONTROSE ROAD TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE FOR SIX MONTHS

Beginning on **December 6**, eastbound Montrose Road, between Tildenwood and East Jefferson Street, was closed for six months as the Montrose Parkway West project enters its final stage of construction. Eastbound traffic on Montrose Road will be diverted onto the new Montrose Parkway. Two weeks later, westbound traffic on Montrose Road will also be diverted and all traffic will use the Parkway while Montrose Road is reconstructed and a new bridge over Old Farm Creek is built to eliminate flooding problems and provide a safe crossing for wildlife. The project should be completed in **summer 2008**.

During the temporary closure of 650 feet of Montrose Road, local traffic will still have access to homes, churches, and synagogues from either side of the construction project. A newly installed temporary pedestrian bridge along the north (westbound) side of Montrose Road, across Old Farm Creek, will provide safe pedestrian access along Montrose Road during the road closure.

The County's Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) has posted detour and informational signs in the area. Montgomery County's Traffic Management Center will monitor the detours, adjust traffic signal timings and take other measures to minimize traffic disruptions. However, DPWT does expect some delays while drivers become accustomed to the new traffic patterns. To avoid congestion, motorists are advised to use major roadways as alternate routes and avoid local side streets.

Throughout construction of Montrose Parkway, DPWT has worked diligently to ensure that affected residents, employers and others using Montrose Road have been informed about the project's progress. DPWT has used newsletters, County cable updates, press releases and meetings to coordinate with community groups, homeowners' associations, religious organizations, schools, Police, and Fire and Rescue services.

Montrose Parkway West is the largest road project ever constructed by the County and is a key component

in efforts to relieve east-west traffic congestion and provide congestion relief in North Bethesda and along the Rockville Pike corridor. About 40 percent of the County's employers are located in the North Bethesda area.

When the entire project is completed, it is expected to reduce traffic volume on Montrose Road between the Parkway and East Jefferson Street by nearly 50 percent.

Residents who travel on the Montrose Parkway portion of the project will see the new 10-foot wide bikeway along the north side and a five-foot wide sidewalk along the south side. Traffic signals, streetlights, crosswalks, bus stops, ramps, bikeways and other features have been designed to maximize pedestrian safety. Enhanced streetscaping will eventually be provided along the new Parkway.

Other Parkway benefits include providing greater safety for vehicles turning onto and off of Montrose Road, safer places for pedestrians to cross the road and reduced cut-through traffic in neighborhoods abutting Montrose Road.

The project design also includes many special features to minimize or mitigate environmental impacts, enhance recreation and beautify the roadway. Special construction techniques developed by environmental consultants were used to control sediment and reduce runoff of pollutants and sediment into streams. Stormwater management basins will preserve stream water quality and control water flow through streams. Other measures to enhance the environment include wetland mitigation and an extensive program of reforestation following construction.

Noise barrier walls have been constructed along the north side of Montrose Road for about 1,300 feet behind homes on Farm Haven Drive in the North Farm community in Rockville and along the south side of Montrose Road for about 1,700 feet behind homes in the Old Farm community in North Bethesda.

For more information about the Montrose Parkway project, visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dpwt](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dpwt) and click on "Capital Projects and Construction."

## CITY OF ALEXANDRIA CELEBRATES POTOMAC YARD DEVELOPMENT GROUNDBREAKING

On **Saturday, December 15**, officials from the City of Alexandria and Potomac Yard Development, LLC (comprising Centex and Pulte Homes) broke ground on The Station at Potomac Yard, an innovative public-private partnership combining affordable housing, retail, and community infrastructure at East Glebe Road and Jefferson Davis Highway.

"The productive partnership between the City of Alexandria and Potomac Yard Development, forged through creation of The Station at Potomac Yard project, has achieved extraordinary results which will benefit the whole community by enhancing public safety, meeting critical needs for new infrastructure and affordable housing, and by providing an excellent example of Smart Growth," said Alexandria Mayor William D. Euille.

The collaboration between Potomac Yard Development and the City began in 2004 with a vision to redevelop a 167-acre tract along Jefferson Davis Highway (Route 1). The plan includes the City's first new fire station facility in more than 30 years and an innovative mixed-use structure that combines first floor municipal use and a small retail element with a four-story residential component. Potomac Yard Development provided the parcel of land as well as \$6.6 million for the new fire station. The residential component includes 44 long-term affordable rental units and 20 apartments with rents affordable to City workers, including first responders and teachers.

"In maximizing the use of donated land, incorporating green building design and principles, and in combining uses, including affordable housing close to shopping, amenities and public transportation, The Station is an outstanding model of sustainable design," said James K. Hartmann, City Manager. "It is a project featuring construction and livability that Alexandria hopes to repli-

cate again, possibly through other public-private collaborations."

The Alexandria Housing Development Corporation (AHDC), a non-profit housing entity designated by the City to develop, finance, own, operate, and manage the residential portion of the project, and to maintain it as long-term affordable rental housing, submitted a successful application for low-income housing tax credits. AHDC was awarded more than \$10 million in tax credit equity by the Virginia Housing Development Authority, the state's

housing finance agency. Potomac Yard Development made a significant monetary contribution to the residential portion of the project.

"We're proud of the partnership we formed with the City of Alexandria to bring to the city its first new fire station in over 30 years and to provide the city with much needed affordable housing," said Kevin Hall, Land Development Manager, Potomac Yard Development. "This unique civic building will serve as a community focal point."

## PLANNING BOARD FINDS SILVER SPRING APARTMENT COMPLEX ELIGIBLE FOR HISTORIC STATUS

The Montgomery County Planning Board today decided that a Silver Spring 1930s-era complex of garden apartments, a portion of which had been proposed to be replaced with high-rise apartment buildings and stores, should be considered eligible for historic designation.

Called the Falkland Apartments, the complex at East-West Highway and 16th Street was built between 1936 and 1938 in the wake of federal New Deal programs that brought an influx of new residents to the Washington, D.C., region. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt cut the ribbon at the Falklands dedication in 1937.

Board members agreed that the complex merited eligibility for historic designation, saying that the Falklands represents a key part of history and should be preserved even as the county approves more dense projects in downtown Silver Spring.

"This is a very good example of suburban apartment design and architecture," said Planning Board Chairman Royce Hanson. "The idea of preserving historic and architecturally important communities even in dense urban areas may be as important, if not more important, than preserving them somewhere else. This is a rare opportunity to preserve something of real value."

Their decision followed the recommendation of county historic preservation staff, the county Historic Preservation Commission and more than 20 people who testified yesterday in favor of finding it eligible for preservation. Staff pointed out the Falklands' connection to New Deal history, praised its Colonial revival architecture and said its two- and three-story layout in a natural setting added complexity and interest to the design of downtown Silver Spring.

The board's consideration of the historic eligibility request was triggered when the owner of the Falklands property submitted an application to the Planning Department to build a mix of apartments and stores on about a third of the complex on the north part of the site.

The board's action sends the Falklands to be considered under the full historic designation process—through the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), to the Planning Board and then to the County Council—for a final decision on whether to actually designate the property as a historic landmark.

Properties on the list are protected from significant alterations, although other Montgomery County development projects on historic sites have occurred with HPC and Planning Board oversight.

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## MAYOR SHEILA DIXON AND DR. ANDRES ALONSO INTRODUCE DONORSCHOOSE.ORG IN BALTIMORE

**B**altimore Mayor Sheila Dixon, along with Dr. Andres Alonso, CEO of Baltimore City Public School System, introduced the city to DonorsChoose.org, the award-winning nonprofit website where teachers and donors connect to help students. Now, Baltimore public school teachers, with support from The Abell Foundation, will be able to receive resources for their classrooms, donated by individuals nationwide, through [www.DonorsChoose.org](http://www.DonorsChoose.org).

Founded in 2000 by a young teacher at a Bronx high school, DonorsChoose.org has been recognized as "America's most innovative charity" by the Stanford Business School and Amazon.com. Over 34,049 public school teachers across the U.S. have used the site to secure funding for \$16.3 million of books, art supplies, technology, and other resources that their students need to learn.

At a news conference at Belmont Elementary School in Baltimore, Mayor Dixon spoke in support of DonorsChoose.org and the outstanding opportunities it brings to students in Baltimore. Alongside Dixon, Dr. Alonso, Belmont Elementary School Teacher Erin Miller, The Abell Foundation's President Robert Embry and DonorsChoose.org Vice President of Expansion Missy Sherburne talked about how DonorsChoose.org is shining light on new possibilities for Baltimore students.

"I am very pleased that DonorsChoose.org is partnering with

the School System," said Mayor Dixon. "This will provide an outlet for the many individuals who desire to help young people in Baltimore excel in school."

With DonorsChoose.org now open to every public school in Baltimore, individuals from all walks of life can fully or partially financially support classroom projects such as:

- Global maps for social studies lessons (\$524)
- A classroom encyclopedia set (\$608)
- Hands-on geometry learning tools (\$386 remaining)

"DonorsChoose provides a direct link for individuals to support our teachers with additional resources to enrich lessons in the classroom," said Dr. Alonso. "This is a win particularly for our students who will directly benefit from added resources to enhance their learning. I encourage everyone to support our teachers and students—particularly during this holiday season." Baltimore public school teachers interested in registering classroom projects for funding should visit [www.DonorsChoose.org/md](http://www.DonorsChoose.org/md).

"We're thrilled to have the support of the mayor's office, and the Baltimore City Public School System, for this extraordinary program," said Sherburne. "We believe with their help and that of the rest of Baltimore, we can make positive changes in the city's public school education."



Mayor Sheila Dixon

## OBAMA TALKS FOREIGN POLICY

**D**emocrat Barack Obama said the nation's foreign policy challenges call for a new leader who will worry more about doing the right thing than how it will look.

"There are moments in history when it is not enough to fall back on conventional ways of doing things, because the threats we face, the challenges we face, are unconventional," Obama told a crowd in Des Moines. "There are moments when we're called to stand up for what is right even if it's not popular, because that's what makes us stronger and safer. There are moments when new challenges demand new American leadership."

He said that for too long the conventional way of thinking about foreign policy has valued "time in Washington over timely judgments, posturing over pragmatism and fear of looking weak over the conviction to get things right."

He said he hasn't been afraid to buck Washington thinking when it comes to foreign policy, including his opposition of going to war with Iraq while he was a state senator in Illinois. He said he's the only Democratic nominee his Republican opponent won't be able to challenge on that point.

While Obama highlighted his record, he also said he's "running to do more than end the war in Iraq."

"I'm even more interested in ending the mind-set that got us into it. It's easy for us to lay all of the problems of the world at George Bush's doorstep," he said.

Rival Hillary Rodham Clinton has frequently questioned Obama's experience when it comes to foreign policy. On Tuesday, he brought out a group of policy advisers including Tony Lake, a national security adviser to former President Clinton, and Susan Rice, former assistant secretary of state for African Affairs under Clinton.

During last week's Des Moines Register debate, Obama was asked how he could offer a new type of foreign policy since several of his advisers once worked for Clinton.

Hillary Clinton laughed out loud at that, and said with a smile, "I'm looking forward to hearing that." Obama, also smiling, waited for the laughter to die down before saying, "Hillary, I'm looking forward to you advising me as well."

Obama mentioned the exchange in his remarks Tuesday, saying he's thankful to be joined by members of previous administrations.

"I look forward to drawing on all of

the talent that I can get when I am president of the United States—because unlike George Bush, I'm not going to demand an ideological or loyalty test for my advisers," he said. "I don't intend to be surrounded by 'yes' men and women."

Obama said the U.S. continues to focus its resources on the wrong war, and instead should be doing more in Afghanistan. He said the U.S. troop increase was not the answer to Iraq's problems and was not achieving the needed political benchmarks.

"You cannot end a civil war unless the warring parties resolve their differences, and only a removal of our combat brigades in a careful and responsible fashion will put pressure on the Iraqis to do so," he said.

Obama said that conventional thinking when it comes to Iran has "prized bluster over common sense." He took a veiled swipe at Clinton, saying that when he was criticized earlier this year for calling for direct diplomacy with Iran, others were voting for an amendment that "called for George Bush to use our troops in Iraq to counter Iran." Then, he said, officials learned that international pressure had worked, and Iran suspended its nuclear weapons program in 2003.

He said bypassing diplomacy doesn't make the U.S. tough, "it makes us look arrogant." It also makes it more difficult to get international support and opens the door to countries such as China and Russia "to fill the vacuum left by the absence of American leadership," he said.

## AFRICAN AMERICAN ILLINOIS LEGISLATORS UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSE BARACK OBAMA

**T**he African American members of the Illinois General Assembly recently unanimously endorsed Barack Obama for President. The African American members of the

Chicago City Council unanimously endorsed Obama this fall.

"Barack Obama has spent 20 years delivering change we can believe in to communities across Illinois," said Senate President Emil Jones.

"Barack Obama started his career in public service on the South Side of Chicago, organizing folks who had little hope to strengthen their families and their communities. In Springfield, he fought to outlaw racial profiling, to prevent innocent people from being sent to Death Row, and to provide health care coverage to an additional 150,000 Illinois residents. In Washington, he secured increased investments for predominately black institutions to make higher learning more affordable for our children and to protect homeowners from risky loans and foreclosures. Every time we needed his help, Barack Obama stood up for us, and we need to stand up for him by voting on February 5th to elect Barack our next President."

"Our next President shouldn't be judged by the number of years they have spent in Washington, they should be judged by whether or not they have delivered change for our communities," added Representative David Miller. "We need to elect Barack Obama to take on the great challenges facing our communities—we know from his time in Chicago, Springfield, and Washington that he's able to unite folks from all walks of life to get things done. He stands up to special interests and defends our families no matter what the pundits say. Starting today, we've got to educate our friends and neighbors about Barack Obama, and then on February 5th we will turn out the vote for Barack in force."



Senator Barack Obama

## THOMPSON SAYS "SADDLE ME UP" IN CAMPAIGN

**R**epublican Fred Thompson says if he can be a presidential horse for conservatives to ride in the campaign, "All I've got to say is saddle me up."

Thompson was touring Iowa by bus rather than on horseback Tuesday, saying he's got the potential to come on fast in the final days before the state's Jan. 3 caucuses.

Thompson, who has occasionally been labeled a less-than-energetic campaigner, spoke with enthusiasm to about 30 people at a town hall in Manchester while his blue campaign bus, emblazoned with a huge picture of his head and shoulders, waited outside.

"We're taking it now to where it needs to be," Thompson told his audience. "This is where it starts. This is where we are. This is where we're going to be. ... We're going to make sure we meet everybody we can possibly meet."

Thompson is spending the final two weeks of the campaign in Iowa traveling the state with his wife, Jeri.

He referred to the GOP debate last week in Iowa, where he drew praise for refusing to comply when asked for a show of hands on a question about global warming.

"I said, 'Nope,'" and everybody pulled their hand down and looked around," Thompson said. "I just said to my buddies up there, 'How are you going to stand up to the leaders of Iran and North Korea if you can't stand up to an overbearing moderator?'"

He made his saddle-me-up comment after saying a newspaper had said he had given conservatives "a horse to

ride" in the campaign.

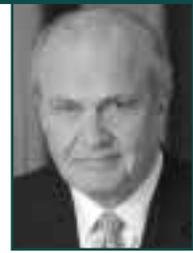
On Tuesday, Thompson listed some of his main issues—the role of the federal government, judges, taxes, Social Security—and took questions about trade, the value of the dollar and how he would end the Iraq war and bring troops home.

"I think we have to stabilize that place so that people can get up and go to worship without fear of being blown up," he said.

At a town hall meeting later in Decora, he disputed the idea, as polls show, that voters seem to be worried less about Iraq: "You don't hear as much about Iraq in the news media now because there's so much good news," he told an audience of about 100 people.

He reiterated the case he made during the Iowa debate: "When our worst enemy is sitting down at the negotiating table thinking about what they can get away with, or thinking about what they might do to the United States of America, who do you want representing us on our side of the table looking back at them?"

Thompson is battling for a third-place showing in Iowa, where former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee recently surged ahead of former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney in state polls. No candidate has gone on to become the nominee without placing in the top three in Iowa.



Fred Thompson

## BLACK FACT

On December 21, 1865, South Carolina issues one of the first set of black codes "to regulate the relations of persons of color." Among the codes were those of illegal interracial marriages, master-apprentice relations, and service contracts.

## STATEMENT BY HUD SECRETARY ALPHONSO JACKSON ON PASSAGE OF FHA MODERNIZATION LEGISLATION BY THE U.S. SENATE

**I**applaud the Senate's overwhelming passage today of an FHA Modernization bill that will provide hundreds of thousands of hard working American families a safer mortgage option—whether they're looking to purchase a home or refinance an existing mortgage. HUD's Federal Housing Administration can provide many homeowners with a fairer, more affordable, and more sustainable alternative to costly subprime loans. I especially appreciate the bipartisan leadership of Senators Chris Dodd and Mel Martinez in our effort to reform FHA.

I strongly urge the House and Senate to send the President a bill he can sign before the end of the year. Keeping a roof over the heads of families is the best gift Congress could give the American public this year."



Alphonso Jackson

## CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS CELEBRATES THE LIFE & SERVICE OF REPRESENTATIVE JULIA CARSON



Rep. Julia Carson (D-IN)

35 years, 'Miss Julia' was unapologetically out spoken and equally relentless in her pursuit of parity for women and minorities in Indiana's 7th Congressional District and across the globe. She was a stalwart for social justice and a trailblazer—serving as the first woman and first African American Indianapolis has ever sent to Congress."

"Congresswoman Carson lived her eulogy. She left few stones unturned. Her passion for family and community was unparalleled. She graced the halls of Congress for 11 years, but she has touched our lives for all eternity."

"The Congressional Black Caucus, the United States House of Representatives and the world has lost a star and a stripe. In honor of her rich legacy, we will charge ahead and do the business of the people with the spirit and the fight of Congresswoman Julia Carson in our hearts and minds."

Representative Julia Carson will lie in state at the Indiana State Capitol on Friday, December 21, 2007. A celebration of her life will take place on Saturday, December 22, 2007 in Indianapolis.

"Today our hearts are heavy as GOD has called home our esteemed colleague, friend and sister, Congresswoman Julia Carson," remarks Congresswoman Carolyn C. Kilpatrick (D-MI), Chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus on December 15. "The true embodiment of a political warrior, Representative Julia Carson rendered the best of herself to safeguard the American dream and ensure equality for all citizens."

"As a tireless public servant for over

## LONG TIME DC COUNCIL MEMBER HILDA MASON DIES AT 91



Hilda Mason was an at-large member of the DC Council

cil's liberal conscience on social issues. "Our city has lost a true legend today," Mayor Adrian M. Fenty (D) said in a statement. "From the earliest days of Home Rule to the present, as an elected official and a private citizen, Hilda Mason was a force behind the voting rights movement and the education of thousands of young people."

Hilda Holland M. Mason was born June 14, 1916, near Altavista, Va. She attended Virginia Seminary in Lynchburg and St. Paul's College in Lawrenceville before moving to Washington in 1945. She graduated from Miner Teachers College. Miner later became part of D.C. Teachers College and UDC. She received a master's degree in education at D.C. Teachers and did further graduate work at the State University of New York in Plattsburgh and at Catholic University.

She was a teacher, counselor and administrator in the D.C. public school system for 19 years until she was elected to the Board of Education from Ward 4.

Mason was a member of the American Personnel and Guidance Association, the American Federation of Teachers, the D.C. Counselors Association, the NAACP, the National Organization for Women, the National Women's Political Caucus, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the Links Inc., Women's Strike for Peace, the United Nations Association of the United States of America and All Souls Unitarian Church.

Hilda H.M. Mason, 91, an at-large member of the D.C. Council, the grande dame of city politics and a passionate and sharp-tongued champion of such issues as home rule, education and the welfare of children, died yesterday at Washington Hospital Center.

Mason was a veteran of the civil rights movement, a former teacher, a formidable committee chairman and the self-described "grandmother of the world." She also was virtually unbeatable at the polls despite running on the ticket of the minuscule D.C. Statehood Party. With the late chairman David A. Clarke, she was regarded as the coun-

## BLACK FACT

On December 21, 1874, President Grant issued a Proclamation on Violence in Mississippi.

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY ENDS THE DEATH PENALTY

Shortly before noon on Monday, December 17, Governor Jon Corzine signed legislation officially ending the death penalty in the State of New Jersey.

New Jersey is the first state in 42 years ago to legislatively end capital punishment. Iowa and West Virginia were the last states to repeal the death penalty in 1965. The New York Supreme Court declared that state's death statute unconstitutional in 2004

and the NY Assembly has refused to consider re-instatement.

"New Jersey's action reflects a trend both internationally and here at home, of legislatures, courts, and the general public questioning the continued use of the death penalty," said Jack Payden-Travers, Director of Virginians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty. "Polling data confirms that the majority of Americans now favor life in prison without parole over execution."

This month wrongfully convicted individuals walked off death rows in North Carolina and Tennessee. "The total number of individuals exonerated from death rows including Virginia's now stands at 126" said Jack Payden-Travers. "How many of the 1,099 individuals already executed across this land may also have been innocent?"

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## PREGNANCY CENTERS NAMED "DANIEL OF THE YEAR" BY WORLD MAGAZINE

Care Net President Melinda Delahoyde recently applauded WORLD magazine's choice of "Daniel of the Year:" those individuals who sacrificially serve in our nation's pregnancy centers and offer practical help and emotional support to those facing unplanned pregnancies.

"Care Net is honored to serve this esteemed national network of heroes," Delahoyde said. "Because of the support of pregnancy centers, women in crisis have been transformed, new life has been embraced, and families across this nation have been forever changed. All who have worked, volunteered, or donated time and resources to pregnancy centers deserve America's wholehearted thanks and praise."

Similar to TIME magazine's "Person of the Year" but with a different focus, WORLD magazine names a "Daniel of the Year" - a person or group of people whose "faith in God gave them the strength to stand up against tyrants who tried to put themselves in God's place." In the case of this year's "Daniel," pregnancy center directors and volunteers have been honored for standing up to those forces and circumstances in a woman's life

that seemingly point to abortion. As a result of their efforts, hundreds of thousands of lives each year are instead welcomed into the world and surrounded by a supportive community.

In its "Daniel" feature, WORLD magazine's editor Marvin Olasky highlighted the work of Wanda Kohn, director of Pregnancy Care Center in Leesburg, Florida, to represent the work of the thousands of women and men who serve in pregnancy centers.

This is the second national cover story this year for the more than 2,300 pregnancy centers across North America that comprise the "compassion in action" side of the pro-life movement. TIME magazine featured pregnancy centers in its February 26 issue, calling pregnancy centers "the new face of an old movement."

Care Net is a Christian, non-profit organization that supports a network of 1,100 pregnancy centers across North America and operates the Option Line website ([www.optionline.org](http://www.optionline.org)) and call center, a joint venture with Heartbeat International. To find out more about the pregnancy center movement or how you can get involved, visit [www.care-net.org](http://www.care-net.org).

## BLACK PUBLISHER TO EXPAND NEWSPAPER TO FIVE CITIES

By Robert "Rob" Redding Jr.

A Saint Louis newspaper veteran is scheduled to expand his publication's reach into Atlanta's black community and four other cities.

Anthony L. Sanders, 59, editor-in-chief of the black-focused *St. Louis Metro Evening Whirl*, says the *Atlanta Metro Weekly Whirl* will begin printing editions on Wednesday, with plans to expand the Whirl's brand into Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. in the future.

"I have lived in those cities and am familiar with the communities and the politics," Sanders said.

He said the Atlanta paper will feature articles from the nearly 70-year-old St. Louis newspaper's staff, with supplementary stories by several locally based writers.

Respected Atlanta-based journalist Maynard Eaton, who will serve as the paper's managing editor, said the publication will focus on crime and political coverage, much like its sister publication.

"This is Maynard unleashed," said Eaton, who parted ways with his soon-to-be rival the *Atlanta Voice* earlier this month.

"What is exciting about this is the inside pages are going to be about politics," said Eaton, an eight-time EMMY-award winning TV newsmen.

Sanders agreed. "It is going to be hot and sensational because I don't believe in taking prisoners. This is news they can use, but it is also given to them in a style that is easy to read."

Sanders said the publication, which will have a first-run of at least 15,000 copies, will also immediately challenge heritage publication, the *Atlanta Daily World*.

"I have never worked with publications that didn't sell," said Sanders, adding that he is not worried about his paper's price of 99 cents a copy.

"The other papers are free because they don't want to take a chance to sell papers, because they know they can't," he said. "They don't sell because they don't put anything in the paper that people want to buy."

## BUSH ADMINISTRATION ALLOCATES \$3 BILLION TO MEET PROJECTED SHORTFALL IN LOUISIANA'S ROAD HOME PROGRAM

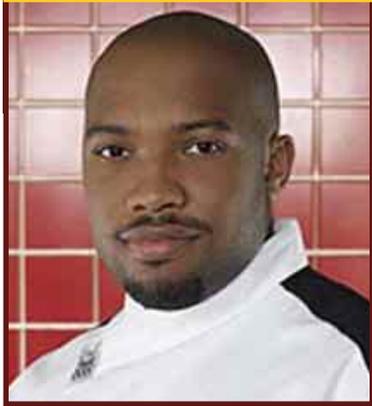
Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson recently allocated an additional \$3 billion to meet a projected shortfall in Louisiana's Road Home Program. Appropriated by Congress, the funds will help reassure thousands of Louisiana homeowners that they will be compensated for their losses following the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Last month, President Bush signed an emergency spending bill to supplement the \$10.4 billion already allocated to Louisiana through HUD's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, bringing the state's CDBG total to \$13.4 billion. CDBG disaster funding is supporting the long-term recovery efforts throughout the Gulf by funding State plans to compensate homeowners, stimulate the production of affordable rental housing and restore vital infrastructure. The Louisiana rebuilding plan, known as the Road Home, was both designed and administered by the State but was in danger of running out of funds. This \$3 billion, in addition to the \$1 billion in other federal funds that the state must commit to plug its shortfall, is expected to allow the program to serve all applicants.

"Louisiana homeowners can rest easier knowing that there will be enough money in the Road Home Program to compensate them for their losses," said Jackson. "As always, HUD will continue to work with state leaders to help thousands of residents who want to rebuild their homes and their lives in the wake of this natural disaster."

Many homeowners who applied for assistance feared that the state's homeowner compensation program was without enough money to satisfy their eligible claims. Jackson's announcement today, however, will provide sufficient funding into Louisiana's homeowner program to cover these costs and restore faith in the state program.

HUD anticipates that the State of Louisiana will submit an application quickly with HUD approval expected shortly thereafter. The funding allocated will satisfy eligible claims that homeowners filed on or before Louisiana's application deadline of July 31, 2007.



## CHEF ROCK HARPER TALKS WITH T.C. WILLIAMS CULINARY ARTS STUDENTS

The amiable chef, a 1995 T.C. Williams graduate, dished out advice and answered questions for about an hour during an informal talk to about 50 students seated in the Culinary Arts kitchen classroom.

"If you have a great foundation, a great basis, your whole career will just skyrocket," Harper said, referring to the T.C. Culinary Arts program, which started him on his journey toward becoming a celebrity chef. Harper stressed the importance of working hard, networking and paying attention to such details as cleanliness. "You have to be your biggest critic and your biggest fan."

Students asked Harper questions about his career and about his stint on

the TV series, which led to a \$250,000 executive chef position at a Las Vegas resort.

"They don't call it 'Hell's Kitchen' for nothing," Harper said. "It's like culinary boot camp!"

Harper said his visit to T.C. Williams was part of his effort to give back, "because so many people gave to me." He also visited schools in Washington, D.C., and met with local government officials.

For more information about the T.C. Williams Culinary Arts program, contact Mary Roman, director of Alexandria City Public Schools' Adult and Career and Technical Education, **703-824-6633**.

## MENTOR'S INC RECEIVES \$20K FOR DC PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Comcast Foundation announced recently that it has contributed a \$20,000 grant to Mentor's Inc. to support its Expanding Horizons youth program. The program introduces public school students in the district to local professionals who guide them along the path towards personal, academic and career development. This \$20,000 grant is part of more than \$250,000 worth of grants the philanthropic arm of Comcast awarded to D.C. area non-profits in 2007.

The Expanding Horizons program seeks to expose local students to perspectives and activities that build self-advocacy and leadership skills and encourage aspirations. Mentor's Inc. serves approximately 200 youth per year, focus-



ing on students most in need of guidance—those who attend underperforming schools, live in disadvantaged neighborhoods and, in many cases, come from unstable family environments.

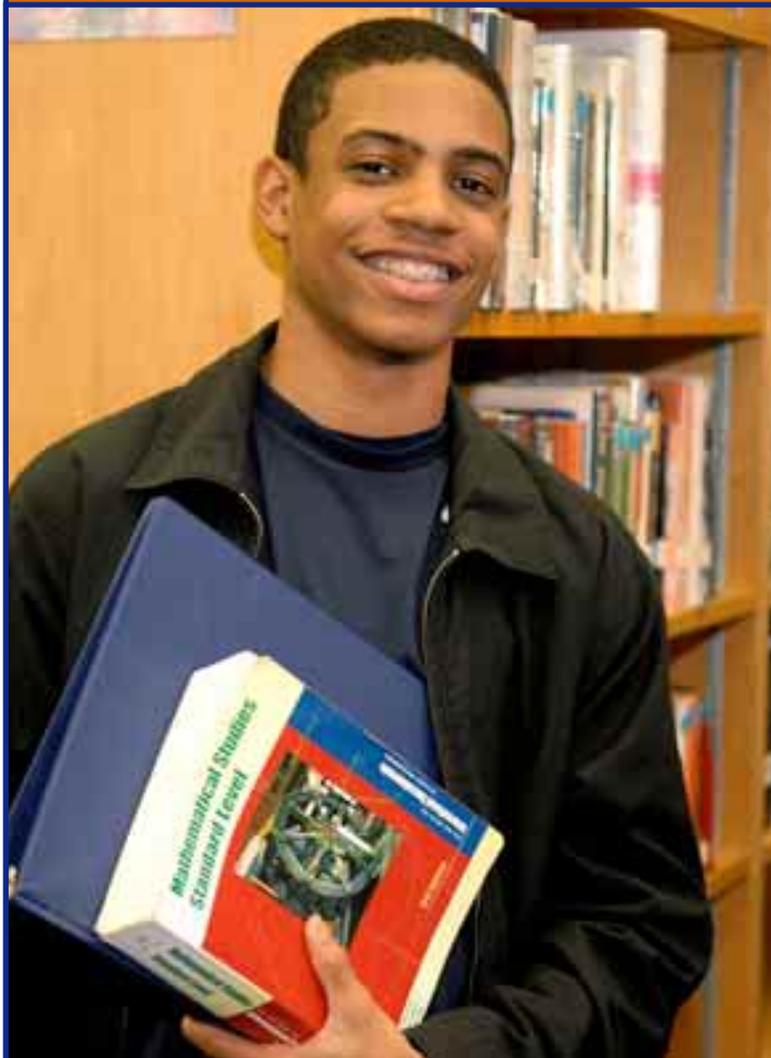
"Comcast's support helps ensure that these students build beneficial relationships that will last a lifetime," said Monisha Akhoury, Program Manager at Mentor's Inc. "These funds directly impact the students, allowing them to become successful, contributing adult members of their communities."

Comcast supports programs that create a positive, sustainable impact within local communities in the areas of volunteerism, literacy and youth leadership development. Since establishing the Comcast Foundation in 1999, Comcast has contributed more than \$43 million to non-profit organizations in Comcast communities throughout the country.

Throughout Mentor's Inc.'s 20 year history, nearly 4,000 students have been paired with mentors. Each year, more than 90% of Mentor's Inc. protégés entering 12th grade graduate high school, compared with 64% of their peers citywide. Of those who earn their high school diploma, more than 85% go on to postsecondary education. Visit [www.mentorsinc.org](http://www.mentorsinc.org) or call **202-783-2310** for more information.

## Scholar of the Week

### CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL RONALD EXUM



**GRADE: 12**  
**SCHOOL: CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL**  
**GPA: 3.70—CUMULATIVE, 3.79—CURRENT**

**Academics:** Honors English, Honors Biology, IB Geography, IB History of the Americas, IB World Literature, IB Spanish, IB Math, National Honor Society—Treasurer

**Extra Curricular Activities:** Indoor/Outdoor Track Team, Cross Country Team, and Gospel Choir

**Future Goals:** Plans to apply to North Carolina A&T State University and major in accounting

**Interesting Notes:** U.N.I.C.E.F. volunteer, Rotary Club member, International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidate

**Awards:** Outstanding Science Student (2005), Outstanding Freshmen for the Class of 2008 (2005), Honor Roll

## VIERS MILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NAMED NATIONAL TITLE I DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL

The power of high expectations, the impact of quality staff members and support from parents and the community—all have come together to create a successful learning environment at Viers Mill Elementary School.

That success has been recognized with Viers Mill's selection as a National Title I Distinguished School. Representatives of the winning schools from each state will be honored at the National Title I Conference, to be held in Nashville, Tenn., **January 31–February 1, 2008**.

Viers Mill serves 472 pre-kindergarten through grade 5 students from 19 countries. Sixty-seven percent of the students qualify for free or reduced-price meals, and 46 percent are learning English as a second language. The population includes Hispanic students (60.8 percent), African American students (14.7 percent), white students (12.6 percent) and Asian American students (11.1 percent).

"We are greatly honored to receive this award," said Principal Matt Devan. "Even with these challenges, our students have been very successful. We have been committed to closing the achievement gap, and we are the most proud of the fact that we are succeeding!"

Last year, students in all subgroups, including Hispanic, African American and special education, scored above 85 percent proficiency on the Maryland School Assessment, and several subgroups increased their percentage of advanced proficiency.

Viers Mill was the first Title I school in Montgomery County to have more than 70 percent of both third and fifth grade students reach proficiency levels in reading and math, based on results of the March 2004 Maryland School Assessments. When Maryland added the fourth grade to its benchmark levels the following year, the percentage of Viers Mill's students mastering state standards climbed even higher, to 86.4 percent.

Those successes resulted in Viers Mill being named a Maryland Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the Maryland State Department of Education and a National No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School of 2005

by the U.S. Department of Education for making "significant progress in closing the achievement gap."

Devan said that Viers Mill prides itself on a schoolwide focus on reading comprehension. "If you ask any student, staff or parent at Viers Mill 'What is our goal?' they will emphatically respond, 'Read, Read, Read—Because Great Readers Have Great Choices.'"

Teachers are committed to uniformly high standards for increasing performance of all students. Staff members receive focused professional development through the use of study groups and extended team meetings.

The school has benefited from many systemwide initiatives, such as all-day kindergarten, reduced class size in primary grades, and an elementary school curriculum with clear standards taught by well-prepared teachers.

Viers Mill Elementary implements a schoolwide Title I program. Title I funding has allowed the school to reduce class size in upper grades and provide additional academic support during the day. The funding also has allowed the school to provide successful morning and after-school clubs for struggling students. Title I allocations provide a four-week summer program, extended day academic programs, supplemental teachers for English language learners, a part-time math content coach, and gifted and talented teacher, along with funds for family involvement. A pilot program to extend the school's Head Start program to full-day was implemented this year.

The school nurtures strong partnerships with families and the community. For example, family learning nights are provided for parents. All school communication is provided in both English and Spanish. Viers Mill Elementary also benefits from business and community partnership with the Gazette newspapers; Linkages to Learning; Storage Village, which supports a supplemental food program for families; and the Ruth Rales Comcast Kids Reading Network.

## CPA FOUNDATION OFFERS ACCOUNTING SCHOLARSHIPS

The Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants (VSCPA) Educational Foundation, one of the largest providers of accounting scholarships and awards in the Commonwealth, is pleased to announce three new \$2,500 accounting scholarships this year, in addition to its regular offerings. The Foundation is now accepting scholarship applications from Virginia college and university students for the 2008–2009 academic year. The application deadline is **January 10, 2008**.

Scholarships are just one way the Foundation provides financial assistance for programs that benefit students, educators, the CPA profession and, ultimately, economic growth in Virginia.

For more information or to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Foundation, visit [www.vscpafoundation.com](http://www.vscpafoundation.com), e-mail [info@vscpafoundation.com](mailto:info@vscpafoundation.com) or call **(800) 733-8272**.

## NAVARRO REELECTED BOARD PRESIDENT



Nancy Navarro

"I wish to thank my colleagues on the Board of Education for electing me as their president for a second term," said Ms. Navarro. "It is a privilege to work on behalf of our amazing and accomplished students to ensure that MCPS continues to provide a challenging learning environment that is among the best in the world."

Ms. Navarro was elected to her first full term as a Board of Education member in **November 2006**. She was appointed by the Board in October 2004 to fill the term of the vacant District 5 seat. Ms. Navarro currently is a member of the Board's Communications and Public Engagement Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee.

Ms. Navarro is a co-founder of a non-profit community-based organization whose mission is to assist the economic and educational development of Latino and other immigrant communities. School readiness, healthy family development, and academic achievement are primary goals of the organization.

Among Ms. Navarro's volunteer leadership roles are PTSA co-president and chair of the Youth, Schools, and Childcare Work Group of the Long Branch Revitalization Task Force. She also has served as a bilingual classroom parent volunteer. She is the recipient of the 2007 Woman of Achievement Award from the Montgomery County Business and Professional Women, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Montgomery County Leadership Award, and the Maryland State Department of Education "Women Who Dare" Leadership Award, among other recognitions.

Ms. Navarro is a graduate of the University of Missouri—Columbia. She has two daughters who are Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) students.

Shirley Brandman was elected to her first four-year term in November 2006 as an at-large representative. She currently is chair of the Board's Special Education Ad Hoc Committee.

"It is my honor to be serving as vice president for a second year as part of this strong leadership team," said Ms. Brandman. "I look forward to working with the full Board in building our momentum."

Ms. Brandman began her professional career as an attorney representing children in abuse and neglect cases in Newark, N.J. In 1993, she founded Cornell Law School's first child advocacy clinic. After her children were born, she returned to school to become a teacher for children with learning disabilities.

For the past 10 years, Ms. Brandman has served as an elected local and county PTA leader, serving as vice president for educational issues with the Montgomery County Council of PTAs. She was appointed by the county executive as a parent representative to the Montgomery County Commission for Children and Youth from 2002–2004.

Ms. Brandman is a graduate of Yale College and Yale Law School and holds a master's degree in special education/learning disabilities from American University. She is married with two sons who attend MCPS.

For more information, visit [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org)



Shirley Brandman

**N**ancy Navarro was reelected president of the Board of Education in Montgomery County on the first ballot by a seven-vote majority, and Shirley Brandman was unanimously elected vice president of the Board on the first ballot. The election occurred during the Board's regularly scheduled business meeting on **Tuesday, December 11**. Both new officers will serve for a one-year term.

## SCOUTS EXPERIENCE A NIGHT AT VMNH

**T**he Virginia Museum of Natural History truly came to life the night of November 30 with the museum's first-ever Scout sleepover in the new VMNH facility. Thirty-seven Boy Scouts and 34 adults from throughout the region, including Martinsville, Danville, Roanoke, Blacksburg, Troutville and Fincastle, were dazzled by the unique experience of sleeping underneath The Harvest Foundation of the Piedmont Great Hall's view of the stars and lying beside an Allosaurus skeleton.

"Such a personal experience transforms children's feelings about natural history," said Trina Stevens, Southside education coordinator at VMNH.

By taking part in the sleepover, Boy Scouts earned their Geologist Badge. Scouts participated in numerous activities, many using everyday products to recreate natural events. Scouts made a volcano "explosion" using Alka Seltzer, observed the force of a geyser using Mentos and diet soda, and learned about plate tectonics using a Milky Way candy bar.

"The whole experience was wonderful," said Charles Aaron, an adult who attended the sleepover. "The children were very attentive and the excitement was electrifying. I'd highly recommend it."

Such an experience also fosters understanding of the natural world.

"In the unique setting of the museum, the experience of hands-on activities helped Scouts and adults alike gain a better understanding of the natural world," said Stevens. "This feeling of connection to the earth improves the learning experience. Overall, the sleepover experience was a positive one for everyone involved."

Scout sleepovers are offered throughout the year. Scouts can complete Try-Its, Geologist Badges, or pin requirements through hands-on programs led by experienced VMNH educators. Each program includes a Badge program, pizza dinner, evening snack, and breakfast. The fee for the Scout Sleepover program is \$40 per scout. One chaperone is required for every five scouts. To schedule a sleepover, or to request additional information regarding sleepovers and other Scout programs, call **276-634-4185** or email [discover@vmnh.virginia.gov](mailto:discover@vmnh.virginia.gov).

## JOHN ADAMS MUSIC TEACHER WINS ALEX AWARD

**W**esley M. McCune, a music instructor at John Adams Elementary School for more than 18 years, received the 2007 Alex Award for Outstanding Contribution to Arts Education, one of four Alex Awards presented annually by the Alexandria Commission for the Arts.

McCune influences the lives of nearly 600 children each year, encouraging and teaching them that a love of music will sustain and enhance their lives. He has received recognition from many organizations for establishing the renowned Orff Ensemble, consisting of students who play pitched and non-pitched percussion instruments to delight audiences at numerous venues, including the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. McCune's work with the ensemble so impressed an Ohio woman who heard about the group that she establish the Janice Baker Cook Fund for Music, which provided \$25,000 for new Orff instruments and equipment.

McCune, who has a long-term partnership with the Washington National Opera, annually helps his fourth-grade students create and perform an original opera with content derived from fourth-grade Standards of Learning.

Recipients of the 2007 Alex Awards each received a framed monograph titled "Italian Riviera" by artist Betsy Anderson. In addition, each recipient received a brass star draped on a blue ribbon created by David M. Martin of GoldWorks Inc.

For more information about the award or John Adams' music programs, contact McCune at **703-824-6970**.

## NEW WEB SITE ENHANCES STUDENT SERVICES

**P**rince George's Community College has launched a new Web site at [www.pgcc.edu](http://www.pgcc.edu) where visitors will see a newly-designed home page focusing on the needs of prospective and current students, parents, businesses, the community, employees, alumni and friends.

The new Web site allows prospective students to apply online for admission to the college as well as set up and update their individual account settings, giving them a customized experience throughout the site. Consistent site navigation provides users access to information on events, programs, services and staff directories. Students also will be able to conveniently register and pay fees for fall courses as early as April. By the end of the fall 2008 semester, students will be able to check their grades online.

Launching of the new Web pages is the first step of an overall three-phase make-over planned for the remaining 1,000 pages on the college's site and the implementation of new technology to enhance business processes, recruit students, and communicate more efficiently across the institution. The redesign of the college's Web site will be complete in two years. For now, the community will enjoy a convenient and easy-to-navigate Web site that allows users to seamlessly apply online.

"We are excited about Prince George's Community College's new Web look and we expect that users will find the information they need and want quicker and more easily," said Joseph Rossmeier, vice president for technology. The redesign is another step in a continuing effort to improve the college's current technological capabilities.

In September 2006, the college announced the selection of Datatel, Inc. to improve its institutional business operations and Web site.

For more information, visit [www.pgcc.edu](http://www.pgcc.edu).

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Martin O'Malley  
Mayor of Baltimore City

Dear Editor,

**T**his week, we nominated three highly qualified new members to serve on the State Board of education—a critical move in taking Maryland's schools to the next level, and making them more accountable to parents, students and teachers.

A recent *Baltimore Sun* demonstrated why we need more urgency and new ideas in school reform, reporting on a new study by Advocates for Children and Youth that found: "An alarming proportion of Maryland's poorest and lowest performing schools have the least experienced principals and struggle with a high turnover in leadership."

This report comes on heels of another study reported in the *Sun* and *Washington Post*, last week, that found: "Maryland's attempts to turn around its worst schools in the past several years have largely failed," according to the Center on Education Policy.

Maryland has been at the forefront of education standards and testing. But as the two studies mentioned above demonstrate, we still have a lot of work to do when it comes to ensuring that all of Maryland's children are provided with a high quality education that enables them to meet those standards. Our state's constitution requires nothing less.

Our school board nominees are: Kate Walsh, President of the National Council on Teacher Quality; James H. DeGraffenreid, Jr., chairman of the board and chief executive officer of WGL Holdings, Inc., the parent company of Washington Gas; and Ivan Walks, CEO and President of Ivan Walks and Associates and former Chief Health Officer for the District of Columbia. See our website for more information.

New school board leadership will help enable us to take the next steps, building on proven, successful models:

- Providing incentives to get strong leaders in struggling schools will help solve the problem of inexperienced principals facing the biggest challenges.
- Community schools—partnering with social service, health and workforce development agencies—will ensure that our children, and their families, are able to meet their potential.
- And career and technical, or vocational, schools will ensure that our state has the workforce we need to continue to thrive—as well as connect education to opportunity for thousands of children.

With record investments in our schools—and school construction—we are in a position to achieve truly great things for Maryland's children. We need to ensure that our state's many great schools continue to deliver the highest quality education - as we improve schools that continue to struggle.

The time to move education forward in Maryland is now. And we can't hesitate to be great.

Sincerely,  
Martin O'Malley  
Governor

There are lots of charitable organizations you can give to this Christmas, listed below are just a few that offer online gift catalogues where you can give a small donation to be part of a larger gift such as digging a deep well for a village or building needed housing. Or, you can give the gift of education, food, medical help, or even livestock. You can donate the gift in someone's name on your shopping list and they will receive a card letting them know about the gift. These organizations have been in existence for a long time and have a good reputation, so that you know your gift is actually being used where you have designated it to go. You can choose to help people from almost anywhere around the world as well as here in the United States. Below is a list of their websites and some examples of gifts that are available through their respective catalogues. *The Metro Herald* staff wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year.

## The GIFT OF HOPE Christmas Catalog

Feed The Children Catalog banner from their website

### FEED THE CHILDREN www.feedthechildren.org

#### FOOD BOX

For America's working poor, meeting the basic need for food can be a challenge. That's why your gift of just \$25 is so important for providing meal essentials to the families that need it most. \$25.00

#### BACKPACKS FOR 3 HOMELESS CHILDREN



Your gift will send three homeless children to school with new backpacks filled with food and school supplies—that's a great confidence booster! \$54.00

#### FOOD AND HYGIENE BOX FOR 10 CHILDREN

Meeting the basic needs of children is what we do best. For just \$50, you supply 10 children with nourishing food and all of the hygiene items that they need to feel good about themselves.

### WORLD VISION www.worldvision.org

#### SHARE OF A DEEP WELL



Give a share of a deep well fitted with a hand pump, and you can help provide up to 2,800 gallons of safe water a day for as many as 300 people! In many communities, clean water lies hundreds of feet below layers of hard rock. Children have no choice but to drink disease-infested water from surface lakes and ponds. When our drilling teams strike water, entire villages erupt in celebration because a clean water source can cut a community's child mortality rate in half—\$100

#### EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT FOR ONE CHILD

"I would collect unused sheets from notebooks and sew them [to-

gether] with yarn," remembers Arnold Salvador about his early school days in the Philippines. Without the money for basic supplies like pencils and paper, children from developing countries are often turned away from class because they can't fully participate. Help ensure every young student has the resources he or she needs to enroll in school and do their best. Your gift can help pay school fees or provide essentials like uniforms, backpacks, and school supplies such as notepaper, scissors, rulers, pens and pencils, and crayons for boys and girls around the world—\$32

### CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S FUND www.christianchildrensfund.org

#### GOATS



Goats provide nourishment and additional income. Goat milk can be a source of vital nutrition for children living in poverty. Children can learn to help raise goats too, and parents can sell extra milk for income to care for their children.

- One Goat for a family in Kenya—\$179.00
- A Pair of Goats a for family in Ethiopia—\$80.00

#### HELP STUDENTS IN ANGOLA LEARN

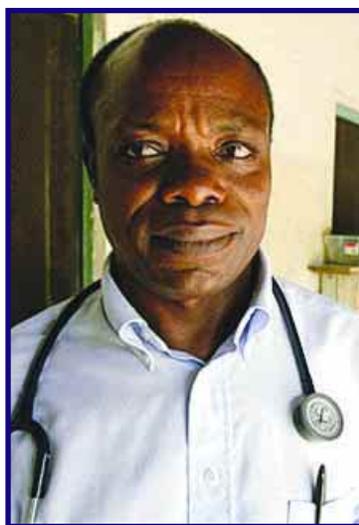


Without classroom furniture, CCF children in Angola must sit on stones, cans, or the ground, making it difficult to pay attention and learn comfortably. Blackboards are also needed so our students can see and copy what the teachers write.

- A Blackboard for students in Angola—\$36.00
- Eight Small Plastic Chairs for young students in Angola—\$30.00
- Eight Plastic Chairs for middle school students in Angola—\$50.00
- Four Plastic Chairs for teachers in Angola—\$37.00

### SAMARITANS PURSE www.samaritanspurse.org

#### HELP FIGHT EPIDEMIC DISEASES



Malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS are three of the world's most dreaded diseases. They kill millions of people each year and have undermined the stability of entire nations. Yet all three can be prevented, and except for HIV they can be cured. Samaritan's Purse is fighting these and other epidemic diseases through a variety of programs in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. This fund enables our teams to bring medical care, health services, hygiene projects, and other aid to desperate communities as needs arise—Suggested Gift \$50



From KidsGive portion of Samaritans Purse website

This Christmas, Receive the Gift...



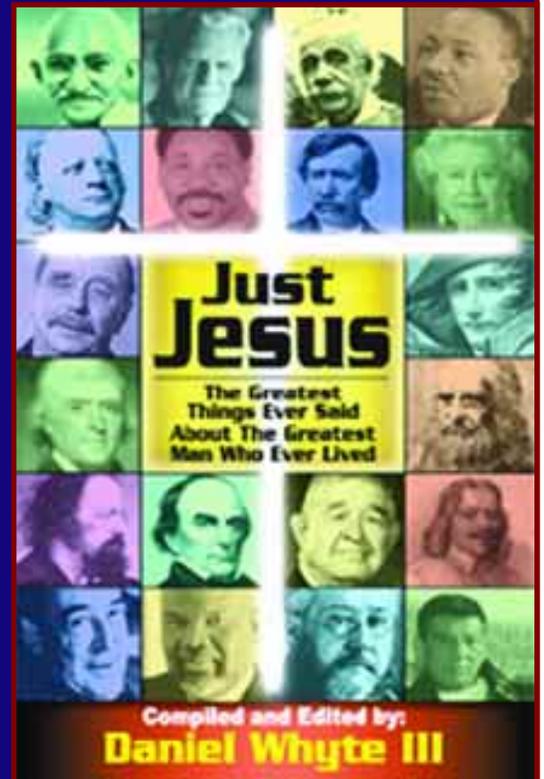
He had to come as He came, to be what He was. He had to be what He was, to live as He lived. He had to live as He lived, to do what He did.

### DANIEL WHYTE'S NEW BOOK ON JESUS

Bestselling author, Daniel Whyte III, has compiled and edited some of the most powerful words ever uttered about the greatest Man Who ever lived—Jesus Christ. Whyte put this book together to bring glory, honor, and praise to Jesus Christ, not only during the Christmas season, but all year round. It is a great coffee table book to place in doctors' offices, church offices and dentists' offices, etc. Also, every pastor should have a copy of this book to use as a reference when they need that perfect quote about the greatest Man Who ever graced the earth, Jesus Christ.

Daniel Whyte III has spoken in meetings across the United States and in twenty-three foreign countries. He is the author of ten books. He is the President of Torch Ministries International, which publishes a magazine called *The Torch Leader*. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Theology from Bethany Divinity College and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree. He is married to the former Meriqua Althea

Dixon of Christiana, Jamaica. God has blessed their union with seven children. *Just Jesus! The Greatest Things Ever Said about the Greatest Man Who Ever Lived* is available wherever fine books are sold, including: *Amazon.com*, *BarnesandNoble.com*, *BlackCBD.com*, and *TorchLegacy.com*.



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WITH

CASH

MARYLAND LOTTERY



With holiday Scratch-offs ranging from \$1 – \$20, the Maryland Lottery has something for everyone on your list. Visit your favorite retailer today and give the gift of scratch this holiday season!

LET YOURSELF PLAY.

[mdlottery.com](http://mdlottery.com)

The Maryland Lottery® encourages responsible play. Remember, it's just a game.

96008

## HOMELESS VERSION OF AMERICAN IDOL WITH REDSKINS HOLIDAY TOUCH

One of the hottest stories in the news this Holiday Season is the lack of food in local food banks around the country. Things are so bad that most food banks in major cities do not think that they will be able to supply Holiday food for all the families that have requested assistance. In order to alleviate this serious problem, community activists have organized a Hail to the Redskins! Support Our Local Food Bank Holiday Drive for this weekend before Christmas. The event was proudly kicked off at the First Seventh-day Adventist Church Soup Kitchen, located at 810 Shepherd Street NW on Thursday, December 20 from 11:30 AM to 1 PM. The event featured a Homeless Version of American Idol with soup kitchen participants performing Christmas carols. Prizes were given to the best singer selected by the discriminating audience present.

Our Redskins love to eat and would not want any in Washington metropolitan area and especially their less fortunate fans, to be hungry at Christmas. Over 50 homeless men and women and soup kitchen volunteers were present to cheer the Redskins on as they prepare for a great game with The Minnesota Vikings. Special Christmas musical tributes were given to Coach Joe Gibbs and the Skins by Rashida Jolley, Miss District of Columbia 2000 and a polished jazz vocalist who competed in the Miss America Pageant. The homeless, who definitely follow the Redskins, are anxious to give their analysis of the chances of the Skins making the playoffs. Soup kitchen volunteers also lead the homeless in carols. The one sour spot of this event is that Dr. Mark McCleary, the pastor of the church, is a staunch supporter of The Philadelphia Eagles. He wore his green colors and gloated in the fact that his team recently beat Dallas, the Redskins biggest rival. Most of all, an urgent plea went out to the community to support food banks in the area so that soup kitchens like this one can survive

and thrive. This kitchen, like many others in metropolitan areas and throughout the United States, receives a lot of supplies from the Capitol Area Food Bank. That organization is struggling right now and does not know how if it will be able to help all the families that have requested assistance for Christmas. Homeless fans received the opportunity to sign the Community Book of Condolences for fallen Redskins player Sean Taylor before it is sent to the family.

Fans of NFL teams across the country are urged to follow the example of Redskins supporters and use the Saturday and Sunday before Christmas to wear their team colors as they drop off goods (non-perishable items only) or checks to local food banks in their cities. Event represents a great way for fans to honor teams that have not had such a great season.

Maryland Redskins fans can bring non-perishable items to The Rockville Seventh-day Adventist Church, 727 West Montgomery Avenue, between the hours of **9:00AM and 2:00PM on Saturday, December 22**. Prince George's County fans can drop off supplies at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, 5203 St. Barnabas Road, Temple Hills, Maryland on **Sunday, December 23 from 8:00AM to 1:00PM**. (still have time to get home to watch the Redskins beat Minnesota). DC and Virginia fans can leave supplies at the First Seventh-day Adventist Church, 810 Shepherd Street NW, on **Sunday, December 23, from 8:00AM to 12:00 noon**.

Activists have been working hard and the idea has spread has spread to St. Louis, Nebraska, Ohio, Atlanta, and Los Angeles. It is our hope and prayer that every major city in America, especially those where NFL franchises exist, will participate in this important weekend endeavor. Our theme: Honor your Home NFL Team This Holiday Season!! Support Your Local Food Bank.

## HOLIDAY CHEER AT MADAME TUSSAUD'S WASHINGTON, DC

Residents and tourists looking for something fun and festive to do on Christmas Day—a day when everything everywhere seems to be closed—can enjoy getting “up close and personal” with plenty of familiar faces (George! Hillary! Brad and Angie! Tiger! Abe! and more...) at D.C.'s hottest family-friendly interactive attraction, Madame Tussaud's Washington D.C., which will be open all day December 25th and is located in the Woodies Building at 1025 F Street, NW, (at 10th St.) Washington D.C.

In honor of the holidays, from December 12th through December 31st, Madame Tussaud's will also makeover its lobby windows, which will feature Beyoncé's wax figure dressed as Santa's helper in a short red and white velvety mini-dress. The attraction will hand out candy canes to visitors and has even created a special mailbox for kids (big and small) to drop off letters to Santa.

Madame Tussaud's Washington D.C. features a wide array of wax figures from the world of American history, sports, politics, music, fashion and more that the whole family will love. The attraction also includes exciting interactive experiences and exhibits, including a replica of the White House's Oval Office and a behind the scenes hands-on look at the 200-year-old process of creating a wax figure at Madame Tussaud's.

Attraction opens daily at **10:00AM**. Last ticket sold at **6:00PM**. Regular Admission: \$25—Adults (13-59), \$18—Children (4-12), \$23—Seniors (60 and over)

Madame Tussaud's Washington D.C. is located within walking distance of the National Mall and the White House, 1025 F Street, NW (at 10th Street), Woodies Building, Washington, D.C. 20004. The entrance is on the corner of 10th and F Streets.

Directions: Take the Metrobus to 11th and F Street, NW or the Blue, Orange and Red Lines to the Metro Center Station.

For more information, go to [www.madameTussaud'sdc.com](http://www.madameTussaud'sdc.com) or call **202-942-7300**.

## FOCUS ON EYE SAFETY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

A sharp focus on safety goes a long way toward preventing eye injuries during the holidays. Candles, Christmas Trees, or opening a bottle of champagne can pose serious risks to the eyes. In the interest of preserving vision, the doctors and staff of TLC Laser Eye Centers (TLC) provide the following safety suggestions so everyone can celebrate the holidays with eye safety in mind this year.

Candles are an important part of many holiday celebrations, but they can cause eye injuries if improperly handled so use extra caution when extinguishing candle flames. Coming over the top of a candle to blow it out can cause hot wax to splash up into the eye. To avoid this type of eye injury, use a candlesnuffer or blow candles out from the side so the wax won't end up in your eye.

Christmas Trees are the centerpiece of many homes this time of year. When decorating the Christmas Tree, be especially careful of branches near your eyes when decorating or going behind the tree to plug in lights.

“Every year, painful corneal abra-

sions are caused by scrapes from tree branches,” says Dr. Edward Perraut, TLC Medical Director in Rockville and Reston. “Low hanging branches should be removed to prevent children from injuring their eyes when looking at the tree or inspecting gifts underneath. And in homes with small children avoid placing breakable ornaments, those with metal hooks, or ornaments that look like food or candy on lower branches where small children can reach them.”

Wearing gloves while decorating with Angel Hair can also help avoid eye injuries.

“Angel hair is made from spun glass similar to fiberglass and can cause major eye irritation if particles are rubbed into the eyes,” says Dr. Mark Whitten, TLC Regional Medical Director. “Spray Snow, made up of wax and other chemicals, is also hazardous to the eyes. Avoid spraying any aerosol near the eyes and apply it according to package directions in ventilated areas. And never spray artificial snow at anyone's face or eyes.”

Popping the cork for a bottle of champagne adds enjoyment to many holidays—especially New Year's Eve. Unfortunately, when a bottle is opened improperly, the cork is propelled at high velocity. If the cork accidentally strikes the eye, it can lead to serious injuries.

To avoid turning a happy occasion into a tragedy, follow these rules for

opening champagne:

1. Chill the bottle and keep it cold. Warm champagne generates more pressure behind the cork. Do NOT shake the bottle.
2. With the bottle pointed away from everyone, remove the foil seal. Hold down the cork with the palm of your hand while carefully removing the wire hood that keeps the cork in place.
3. As soon as the wire is removed, cover the top of the bottle with a towel or cloth napkin and tilt it away from yourself and others at a 45-degree angle.
4. Grasp the cork firmly and slowly twist to break the seal until you feel or hear the release of gas.
5. With one hand, hold the cork and gently turn the bottle in one direction. Turn the bottle and not the cork. Pull slightly upward until the cork is nearly out of the bottleneck.
6. Then, using slight downward pressure of a controlled “roll,” pull the cork completely out with a hissing noise and a soft “pop.”
7. If the cork won't twist, place the bottle under cool tap water for about 20 seconds.

Should an eye injury occur, seek immediate medical attention to reduce the risk of permanent damage since the extent of damage to the eye may not be immediately apparent.

## ONLINE MENTAL HEALTH SCREENINGS AND TIPS FOR COPING WITH THE HOLIDAYS

The December holidays: Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and New Year's. For some, it is a time packed with celebrations and social gatherings. For others, it is a season filled with sadness, loneliness and anxiety.

Depression is a common, yet serious illness that affects more than 19 million Americans each year. Sometimes a stressful event—such as the holiday season—can trigger depression, but at other times it can occur with no specific cause.

Early warning signs for holiday season depression include having a shorter temper than normal, sleep problems, losing interest in activities you normally enjoy and overreacting to minor annoyances.

The Alexandria Community Services Board offers free, anonymous mental health self-assessments online. Visit [www.mentalhealthscreening.org/screening/welcome.asp](http://www.mentalhealthscreening.org/screening/welcome.asp) to complete a simple online questionnaire. You will receive immediate, customized feedback and if necessary, information about scheduling an appointment for further evaluation.

In addition, the online brochure, Coping with Holiday Stress, full of helpful tips for adults and children, is available at [alexandriava.gov/mhmrca/](http://alexandriava.gov/mhmrca/).

When untreated, depression can take a terrible toll on individuals and families by leading to disability, dependency and suicide. Get the help you need.

For additional information please call Jennifer Cohen Cordero at **703-838-445, ext. 161** or email [jennifer.cohen-cordero@alexandriava.gov](mailto:jennifer.cohen-cordero@alexandriava.gov).

## WINTER LIGHTS AT SENECA CREEK STATE PARK

Winter Lights is a magical Christmas light display at Seneca Creek State Park located at 11950 Clopper Road, Gaithersburg, Maryland. See more than 350 illuminated displays along a 3.5-mile drive through the park. Winter Lights benefit local charities.

Runs through **January 1**. Admission: \$10 per car **Sunday–Thursday**, \$12 per car **Friday and Saturday**. Hours: **Sunday–Thursday, 6p.m.– 9p.m., Friday and Saturday, 6p.m.– 10p.m.**



## COMCAST ADDRESSES DC HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC WITH DC HIV FORUM AND HIV 101 ON DEMAND

Comcast recently announced the launch of HIV/AIDS ON DEMAND, new local video ON DEMAND content focused solely on raising awareness about the devastating HIV/AIDS epidemic affecting Washington, DC. Available under the "Get Local" menu, the content includes DC HIV Forum, an hour-long discussion among local elected officials, DC Public Schools representatives, local HIV/AIDS education advocates and 450 DC Public Schools students; as well as City Year Washington DC's HIV 101, a 30-minute presentation aimed at educating young people about the disease. The forum will be available ON DEMAND to Comcast Digital Cable customers throughout the Washington Metro area through **March 2008**.

In commemoration of World AIDS Day 2007, the DC HIV Forum features Council Chairman Vincent Gray, Council Members David Catania and Harry Thomas, Department of Health Senior Deputy Director of HIV/AIDS Administration Shannon Hader and local organizations Metro TeenAIDS and City Year Washington DC in a powerful and candid discussion about DC's AIDS

crisis. HIV 101 is part of City Year's 9-week "Making Proud Choices" curriculum that reaches 100% of DC Public Schools sophomores.

HIV/AIDS ON DEMAND is a direct result of Comcast's newly formed partnership with City Year's HIV/AIDS Outreach, Prevention & Education (HOPE) Team.

"Having a unified effort to combat HIV/AIDS in our community is the best approach to fighting this epidemic. I am pleased to join the City Year Comcast HOPE Team in this effort to educate young people about HIV/AIDS," said Vincent Gray, Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia. "Their engagement will ensure the desolation of HIV/AIDS for future generations."

HIV/AIDS ON DEMAND is provided free of charge to Comcast Digital Cable customers and can be accessed from the "Get Local" category of the ON DEMAND menu by selecting "HIV/AIDS."

"Comcast is proud to provide our customers with another educational tool that is useful in their everyday lives and is aimed at bettering our community overall," said Curt Pendle-

ton, regional senior vice president for Comcast's Potomac Region.

Across its footprint, Comcast is committed to providing relevant local programming that educates its customers and strengthens the communities it serves. Throughout its Potomac Region, Comcast offers a variety of programming options that speak to the area's social needs, including English ON DEMAND, featuring English as a Second Language (ESL) courses, and GED ON DEMAND, offering Comcast customers throughout Virginia access to GED prep courses.

Comcast's Eastern Division leads the way with 'Get Local' ON DEMAND programming, providing hundreds of hours of local content geared specifically to local audiences. 'Get Local' is reshaping how customers connect with their communities, offering support and visibility to local political and civic leaders, plus area organizations, schools and teams. All 'Get Local' content is free to digital cable subscribers and allows them to utilize ON DEMAND's interactive technology to fast forward, pause and rewind their favorite programs.

## NEW DATA REVEAL ETHNICITY MAY PLAY ROLE IN WEIGHT LOSS DECISIONS

A new analysis of a landmark weight loss survey suggests that Hispanics and African Americans are more likely than whites to use unproven dietary supplements for weight loss. The data, presented today at the 2007 Annual Scientific Meeting of NAASO, The Obesity Society, adds to the growing body of research that more awareness about recommended weight loss treatments and the associated health risks of overweight and obesity is needed among these populations.

The new data shows that Hispanics and African Americans are less likely to use commercial weight loss programs—defined as organized programs where clients attend regular meetings either in person or online—and more likely to exercise and use dietary supplements for weight loss, such as herbs or plant extracts, as compared to whites.

This finding is important because in contrast with prescription and OTC medications, dietary supplements generally do not require FDA evaluation and approval for safety or efficacy before they are marketed. Most people are unaware that most OTC products currently marketed for weight loss are not subject to the same regulations as FDA-approved drugs.

"The rates of obesity among African Americans and Hispanics groups in the U.S. tend to be higher than obesity rates among whites," said Adam Gilden Tsai, M.D., Medical Director, Center for Weight and Eating Disorders, at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. "There are a variety of diseases associated with being obese or

overweight and it is important that individuals use evidence-based treatments for weight loss."

The new subgroup analysis was based on a landmark telephone survey of 3,500 U.S. adults conducted in 2005-2006. The results suggest that while concern about weight was similar across all groups, whites were more likely than African Americans (p=0.0056) or Hispanics (p=0.0014) to have used a commercial program and less likely than African-Americans (p<0.0001) or Hispanics (p=0.0077) to have used OTC supplements for weight loss. Data showed no differences between ethnic groups in the use of prescription medications or medically supervised programs. These associations remained significant after controlling for socioeconomic status, age, gender, self-perceived weight and beliefs about efficacy of supplements.

Researchers also noted that other factors may contribute to ethnic differences in reported use of treatments including differences in preference, specific knowledge of weight loss options and supplement advertising targeted to ethnic minorities.

"We need to be proactive in educating all Americans about realistic expectations when it comes to weight loss and providing them with the tools that work," said Valentine J. Burroughs, M.D., MBA, Associate Professor of Medicine Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York and a member of the Board of Trustees, National Medical Association.

The survey was funded by Glaxo-SmithKline Consumer Healthcare.

## LOCAL AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES AND DONOR CENTER

The Greater Chesapeake and Potomac (GC&P) Region of the American Red Cross is reporting a declining blood supply and low appointment rates in the coming holiday weeks. Below is a listing of upcoming community blood drives and donor center locations. All eligible donors are invited to schedule a donation appointment at any blood drive or donor center, by calling **1-800-GIVE-LIFE**. Platelet donors can call **1-800-272-2123** to schedule an appointment. The GC&P Region runs nearly 25 blood drive operations daily at locations throughout the Region. Additional listings can be found at [www.my-redcross.org](http://www.my-redcross.org) or by calling **1-800-GIVE LIFE (1-800-448-3543)**.

### WASHINGTON D.C. DONOR CENTER

2025 E. Street, NW, Washington D.C. 20006—**Mon, Tues, Thurs 1pm-7pm, Wed, Fri 8am-2pm**

### FAIRFAX DONOR CENTER

2720 Prosperity Avenue, Fairfax VA 22031—**Mon, Wed, Thurs 12pm-7pm, Fri 8am-2pm, Sat 7am-2pm**

### FREDERICK DONOR CENTER

141 Thomas Johnson Drive, Suite 120, Frederick MD 21702—**Mon 1pm-8pm, Wed 12pm-7pm, Fri 8am-2pm, Sat 7am-2pm**

### GAITHERSBURG DONOR CENTER

501 N. Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg MD 20877—**Mon, Wed 12pm-7pm, Sat 7am-2pm**

### ROCKVILLE DONOR CENTER

11820 Parklawn Drive, Suite 510, Rockville MD 20852—**Mon, Tues, Thurs 12pm-7pm, Fri, Sat 7am-2pm**

- **12/21**—Fort Washington Hospital, 1711 Livingston Road Ft. Washington MD—**9am-2pm**
- **12/22**—St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 4512 College Avenue College Park, MD—**10am-3pm**

- **12/22**—Beltway Plaza Mall, 6000 Greenbelt Plaza Mall Greenbelt, MD—**12pm-5pm**
- **12/22**—Lowe's New Carrollton, 7710 Riverdale Road New Carrollton, MD—**10am-3:30pm**
- **12/24**—Gwendolyn Coffield Community Center, 2450 Laytonsville Road, Silver Spring, MD—**10:30am-3:30pm**
- **12/24**—YMCA Arlington, 3422 N 13th Street, Arlington, VA—**9am-2pm**
- **12/26**—Lakeforest Mall, 701 Russell Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD—**12pm-4pm**
- **12/27**—Safford Lincoln, 3110 Automobile Avenue, Silver Spring MD—**12pm-5pm**
- **12/27**—Kensington Fire Department, 10620 Connecticut Avenue, Kensington MD—**12pm-6pm**
- **12/27**—Spring Hill Recreation Center, 1239 Spring Hill Road, Mclean, VA—**8am-2pm**
- **12/28**—Pilgrim Church – Fellowship Hall, 2206 Briggs Road, Wheaton MD—**10am-3pm**

CALL **1-800-GIVE LIFE (1-800-338-3453)** for appointments

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO GIVE BLOOD?

Donors must:

- Be generally in good health;
- Be at least 17 years of age, or in the state of Maryland only, 16 years of age w/ written parental consent;
- Weigh no less than 110 pounds;
- Have NOT received a tattoo within the past year;
- Have NOT donated whole blood within the past 56 days.

Information about Regional Blood Donor Centers or community blood drive locations and times can be found at [www.my-redcross.org](http://www.my-redcross.org). Business and community groups that are willing to hold blood drives are asked to call **800-787-9282, x4925** for information.

## BLACK FACT

On December 21, 1956, the bus boycott started by Rosa Parks ended with the Supreme Court ruling that segregation on city buses was unconstitutional.

## Is Your House Working 24 Hours a Day to Keep You Healthy?

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—Dorothy Curtis, Riderwood Resident

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301-495-5700



www.Erickson.com

## Home Baking for the Holidays Can Be Both Sweet and Sugar Free

**Y**ou've heard the experts give tips on making the holidays stress-free, but has anyone ever told you how you can also make them sugar-free? If you're a home baker who wants to enjoy the taste, texture and sheer beauty of holiday goodies—but you also want to reduce sugar—Clabber Girl Corporation has good news for you.

From cookies to cakes to pies, a revolutionary new product, Clabber Girl Sugar Replacer for Baking<sup>®</sup>, allows home bakers to make many types of reduced sugar baked goods with the same great taste and texture they would have if they were made with actual sugar. In addition, Clabber Girl Sugar Replacer for Baking<sup>®</sup> has 70 percent fewer calories than sugar and is as easy to use as sugar in your favorite recipes; it measures equally, cup-for-cup.

Clabber Girl Sugar Replacer for Baking<sup>®</sup> is now available at retailers in select markets. It is also available online at [www.clabbergirl.com](http://www.clabbergirl.com). The web site also features a variety of sugar-free recipes using Clabber Girl Sugar Replacer for Baking<sup>®</sup>.

"Holiday baking is a cherished tradition for many people, but for a long time, consumers wanting to eliminate sugar or reduce calories in their favorite baked goods have been unable to find a product that tastes and performs like sugar in their recipes," said Eric Gloe, vice president of sales and marketing for Clabber Girl. "Years of research and testing went into Clabber Girl Sugar Replacer for Baking so we could give home bakers a sugar replacer that truly works just like sugar in most baked goods."

### BAKING IS BELIEVING

"When I was first given the opportunity to try this product, I was skeptical. I'd baked with other sugar replacers and had disappointing results," said Nancy Younce of Sevierville, Tenn. Younce was one of 275 home bakers given samples of Clabber Girl Sugar Replacer for Baking to try in their recipes of choice earlier this year. "When I used other brands, my baked goods were flat, heavy, hard and never reached their full height."

Younce and her husband love baked goods, but both have diabetes and are following a diabetic diet. They had all but given up on sugar-free baking when Clabber Girl Sugar Replacer for Baking came along. "I couldn't believe it when I tried it in my grandmother's coconut pound cake recipe," exclaimed Younce. "It was absolutely beautiful, baking up as high and fluffy as it would have with sugar. Then, when we tried it and it tasted like it had been made with sugar, we knew we finally had a winner!"

Clabber Girl Sugar Replacer for Baking contains SweetDesign sugar replacer from Cargill.

Founded in 1850, Hulman & Co. is America's largest producer of national-brand retail baking powder. Its Clabber Girl brand is one of the oldest and most trusted trademarks in the United States. For more than 150 years, the company has earned the trust of home cooks and culinary professionals alike, with food products ranging from coffee to gourmet baking mixes. In the past, the company has focused on its core business of baking powder. Re-

cently it has expanded its offerings to include a broader range of cooking and baking ingredients, as well as some specialty mixes and custom leavening systems, establishing Clabber Girl as its flagship brand. [www.clabbergirl.com](http://www.clabbergirl.com)

For more information, visit [www.cargill.com](http://www.cargill.com).

Below are three holiday baking recipes featuring Clabber Girl Sugar Replacer for Baking. For more recipes, visit [www.clabbergirl.com](http://www.clabbergirl.com).

### Deluxe Cherry Cheesecake

#### Crust:

- 1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 1/4 cup unsalted butter, melted

#### Cheesecake Filling:

- 2 1/2 pounds cream cheese (May substitute Neufchatel)
- 1 1/2 cups Clabber Girl Sugar Replacer for Baking
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 6 eggs
- 2 egg yolks
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 Tablespoons orange zest

#### Topping:

- 2 cups low-fat vanilla yogurt

#### Garnish:

- 1 (21oz.) can sugar free or low sugar prepared cherry pie filling

Preheat oven to 425 degrees F.

**Graham Crust:** In a small bowl combine graham cracker crumbs and melted butter. Press into the bottom of a 9 or 9 1/2 inch springform pan.

**Filling:** Mix the cream cheese on slow speed and add the Clabber Girl Sugar Replacer for Baking and flour.

Add eggs, then yolks, one by one until thoroughly incorporated. Stir in vanilla, lemon juice and zests.

Bake for 15 minutes at 425 degrees F. Reduce heat to 225 degrees F and bake an additional 55-60 minutes or until cheesecake is just set, but now browned. (Do not let cheesecake color or bake too long so that the sides begin to rise and show cracks.)

Remove cake from oven and increase oven temperature to 350 degrees F. Gently spread the low fat vanilla yogurt over the top of the cake and return to oven to bake an additional 8 minutes. Remove cake to refrigerator immediately and chill overnight.

Unmold chilled cheesecake from springform pan and top with cherry pie filling. Chill until serving time. Serves 8-12.

### Peppermint Biscotti

- 3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup Clabber Girl Sugar Replacer for Baking



- 1 cup butter, softened
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1 teaspoon peppermint extract
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup finely crushed peppermint, divided (preferably sugar-free)
- 1/2 cup slivered almonds, toasted

#### Glaze:

- 4 oz. sugar-free white chocolate
- 1/8 cup skim milk

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F; Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper.

Combine flour, Clabber Girl Baking Powder and salt in a large bowl; set aside. In a separate bowl combine Clabber Girl Sugar Replacer for Baking, butter, water, peppermint extract and eggs. Mix at medium speed with an electric blender about 1 minute, or until well blended. Add flour mixture, 1/2 cup crushed peppermint and almonds. Beat on low speed until just blended.

Divide dough in half. Shape each half into a 10x3 inch log. Place both logs on a large cookie sheet, about 2 1/2 inches apart. Bake for 30 minutes or until center is firm to the touch. Remove from oven and let cool 15 to 20

minutes. Using a serrated knife, cut logs diagonally into 1/2-inch slices. Place on cookie sheet and bake another 15 minutes; turn and bake 12 to 15 minutes longer or until edges are

browned. Cool completely on wire racks.

**Melting chocolate:** Combine white chocolate and skim milk in microwave safe bowl; microwave 30 seconds and stir; microwave another 30 seconds, stir and remove.

Dip each cookie halfway into melted chocolate or spoon onto end of cookies. Dip in crushed peppermint or sprinkle on top. You can also place cookies on cooling rack and drizzle white chocolate over to make swirls.

Biscotti can be stored in a tightly covered container for a few days or up to 2 weeks, covered, in the refrigerator.

Makes about 20 biscotti.

### Linzer Cookies

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup ground almonds
- 1/2 tsp. Clabber Girl Baking Powder
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 3/4 cup butter, softened
- 3/4 cup Clabber Girl Sugar Replacer for Baking
- 2 egg yolks
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 tsp. almond extract

#### Filling:

unsweetened or sugar-free jelly or jam (preferably tart, like currant or raspberry)

Preheat oven to 300 degrees F.

In a bowl mix together flour, almonds, baking powder, salt and cinnamon. In a separate bowl blend butter and Clabber Girl Sugar Replacer for Baking. Add flour mixture slowly and beat until just combined.

Roll into 1 1/2 inch balls and place 2 inches apart on parchment lined baking sheets. Press an indentation into the top of each for filling. Bake for 20 minutes, until golden around edges. Transfer to cooling rack and top with 1/2 tsp. jam or jelly. Decorate with sliced almonds.

Makes about 2 dozen cookies.



December 21, 2007

## SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY CANCELS "TAMBURLAINE" PERFORMANCES THROUGH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2007

The Shakespeare Theatre Company announced today that performances of "Tamburlaine" on **December 20 and 21 at 8p.m., December 22 at 2p.m., and December 23 at 7:30p.m.** have been canceled to allow ample time for Avery Brooks, the "Tamburlaine" lead, to recover from an injury. On **Friday, December 21**, the Company will reassess Brooks' ability to perform future performances and announce whether the remainder of performances will resume as scheduled with Mr. Brooks or with his understudy, Bill Christ.

"I am incredibly saddened to say that Avery Brooks has suffered an injury and is currently unable to perform in his role as Tamburlaine," said Michael Kahn. "Under normal understudy procedure, these performances would not have been canceled. However, Avery Brooks' original understudy—who also was playing the roles of Lancaster, Orcanes and Ortygius—recently left the production because of a family emergency. The new understudy, Bill Christ, who also learned and assumed those roles, has not yet had the time to sufficiently prepare for the tremendously large role of Tamburlaine.

"We feel deeply for our audiences who were looking forward to seeing

Avery in the role," he added. "We are encouraging patrons to switch into later "Tamburlaine" performances, or into another of the season's plays."

"I am devastated," said Avery Brooks. "I have never intentionally missed or tried to miss a performance. My work is my life. I am especially devastated for my fellow company members; we have invested so much in each other and the work on "Tamburlaine." Michael Kahn and the Shakespeare Theatre Company have been extraordinarily generous to me, and I would not ever betray this love. I will do everything in my power to return and finish this wonderful work as soon as is physically/humanly possible. I offer my humble apology to all and especially to the audience, whose loyalty and support I could never live without."

Patrons wishing to exchange into a later performance of "Tamburlaine" or another play of the season should call the Shakespeare Theatre Company Box Office at 202.547.1122.

"Tamburlaine" is running in repertory with "Edward II" through **January 6, 2008**, at the Shakespeare Theatre Company's Sidney Harman Hall (610 F Street NW), a part of the Harman Center for the Arts. Performances of "Edward II" will continue as scheduled.

## GET INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT: BECOME A FRESH AIR HOST FAMILY

This year many families in the Alexandria area are thankful for something special: the gift of their friendship with a New York City child. Through The Fresh Air Fund's Friendly Town program, local families open their hearts and homes to inner-city children as volunteer hosts for two weeks during the summer. By volunteering as a host family in summer 2008, the spirit of giving can continue throughout the year. One child recounts the activities he tried in Friendly Town during his visit in 2007. "We went hiking, swimming and rode horses. I wish I could spend the whole summer there because I never get bored!"

Since 1877, The Fresh Air Fund, an independent, not-for-profit agency, has provided free summer vacations to more than 1.7 million New York City children from low-income communities. Nearly 10,000 New York City children enjoy free Fresh Air Fund programs annually. In 2007, close to 5,000 children visited volunteer host families in suburbs and small town communities across 13 states from Virginia to Maine and Canada. Additionally, 3,000 children attended five Fresh Air camps on a 2,300-acre site in Fishkill, New York. The Fund's year-round camping program serves 2,000 young people each year.

For more information on hosting a Fresh Air child next summer, contact Tony Richard at 301-883-8834 or The Fresh Air Fund at (800) 367-0003. You can also visit [www.freshair.org](http://www.freshair.org) for more information.

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**IN THEATERS EVERYWHERE CHRISTMAS DAY**

## TIGER WINS ANOTHER PLAYER OF YEAR AWARD



Tiger Woods

how much better he can get.

"Is he spoiling everyone?" Brad Faxon asked after a pro-am round at the Target World Challenge. "I don't see anyone close. I don't see who the next guy is."

Phil Mickelson was the only other player on the PGA Tour ballot with three victories, including The Players Championship. Woods won the money title by more than \$5 million over Mickelson, and Woods' stroke average was 1.4 shots per round lower than Ernie Els.

But when asked to review his year, Woods spent a lot of time looking at lost shots.

He was tied for the lead at some point in the final round of the Masters and U.S. Open and was a runner-up in both of them by a combined three shots. And the only tournament he failed to win during the PGA Tour Playoffs was at the Deutsche Bank Championship, where he took nine more putts than Mickelson in the final round and finished two back.

So while he won one fewer event and one fewer major in 2007, Woods considers it a better season than 2006.

No one came close to matching Tiger Woods on the PGA Tour, which is becoming as predictable as Woods being voted the PGA Tour player of the year.

With seven victories and another major championship, Woods won the award for the third straight season and the ninth time in his 11 years since he turned pro. The only questions now are whether he's playing his best golf, and

## TRANSFORMATIVE COACHING ARRIVES IN DC

Beginning this January, Invite CHANGE will offer innovative transformative coaching programs, services, and training to the Washington, DC area. Invite CHANGE provides advanced programs and services to individuals, groups, and organizations that are ready to embrace sustained change and growth through the transformative coaching paradigm.

To kick-off their new services in DC, Invite CHANGE is hosting a free in-person introductory evening on **January 25, 6:00-8:00PM** at the Doubletree Hotel & Executive Meeting Center, 8120 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda, MD 20814. During this complimentary session, company owners will share the power of the paradigm of transformative coaching for daily living. Participants will experience coaching demonstrations by ICF-credentialed coaches and answers will be given about the coaching profession and the various Invite CHANGE programs available.

Invite CHANGE offers exceptional Certified Professional Coach (CPC) training programs that are accredited by the International Coach Federation (ICF), the leading global organization of coaching professionals. Their exclusive Living Your Vision® individual coaching process has helped thousands of people, in all walks of life, clarify and live their visions. Invite CHANGE programs bring professionalism, honesty, and integrity to the coaching relationship and foster excellent personal and professional development.

If you want to hire a coach, become a coach, or transform personally, Invite CHANGE has the programs, services and training that will fulfill all of these desires. For more information, and to learn more about what is available for you right now, visit: [www.invitechange.com](http://www.invitechange.com). To register, call Paige Finch at 1-877-228-2622

Archive issues are available at [www.metroherald.com](http://www.metroherald.com)

## MYSTICS 2008 SCHEDULE

The Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) released the league's 2008 schedule recently. The Washington Mystics will kick off its 11th season on **May 17th at 7:00p.m.** against the 2007 Eastern Conference finalist, Indiana Fever. Washington will host the club's home opener on **Sunday, May 25th**, against the four-time WNBA Champion, Houston Comets at **4:00p.m.** The Mystics' annual camp day game for local children's camps and groups will be held on **Wednesday, July 23rd at 11:30a.m.** against the New York Liberty. The Mystics will play on six Sundays, four Tuesdays, two Wednesdays, three Fridays and two Saturdays.

Washington will be featured on four National television games. The Mystics will face the following opponents at **3:30p.m.** on ABC on the following dates: **Saturday, May 31st** against the Los Angeles Sparks, **Sunday, July 6th** against the San Antonio Silver Stars, and **Sunday, July 13th** against the Connecticut Sun. The 2007 WNBA Champions, Phoenix Mercury, will host the Mystics on **Tuesday, June 3rd**, in a game that will be broadcast on ESPN2 at **7:30p.m.**

The Mystics will have the sixth pick in the WNBA draft to be held in **April**. Washington finished the 2007 campaign with a 16-18 record, following a thrilling game against the Connecticut Sun where Forward Monique

Currie hit the game winning shot with .1 second left on the clock.

In 2007, Washington hosted the WNBA All-Star game with Mystics players Alana Beard and DeLisha Milton-Jones named to the Eastern Conference All-Star team. Guard Laurie Koehn set a new record to win the Three Point Shootout contest in front of the home crowd. Washington's roster also features Coco Miller, DC native, Nikki Teasley as well as 2007 Most Improved Player of the Year Candidate, Nakia Sanford.

Season tickets and partial plans for the 2008 Mystics season are currently on sale and can be purchased by calling the Mystics Sales Office at **1-877-DC-HOOP1**

The following is a complete listing of the Mystics 2008 schedule. Home games are in BOLD. All times are listed as Eastern Standard Time.

### 2008 WASHINGTON MYSTICS SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
<b>MAY</b>		
Sat. 17	AT Indiana	7:00pm
Thu. 22	AT New York	7:30pm
<b>Sun. 25</b>	<b>Houston</b>	<b>4:00pm</b>
<b>Tue. 27</b>	<b>Atlanta</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
<b>Sat. 31</b>	<b>Los Angeles</b>	<b>3:30pm on ABC</b>

### JUNE

Tue. 3	AT Phoenix	7:30pm on ESPN2
Fri. 6	AT San Antonio	7:00pm
Sun. 8	AT Connecticut	3:00pm
<b>Wed. 11</b>	<b>Sacramento</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
Fri. 13	AT Chicago	7:30pm
Wed. 18	AT Houston	7:30pm
<b>Fri. 20</b>	<b>Atlanta</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
<b>Tue. 24</b>	<b>Phoenix</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
Thu. 26	AT Los Angeles	7:30pm
Sun. 29	AT Seattle	6:00pm

### JULY

Tue. 1	AT Sacramento	7:00pm
<b>Sun. 6</b>	<b>San Antonio</b>	<b>1:00pm on ABC</b>
<b>Tue. 8</b>	<b>Indiana</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
Fri. 11	AT Detroit	7:30pm
<b>Sun. 13</b>	<b>Connecticut</b>	<b>3:30pm on ABC</b>
Thu. 17	AT New York	7:30pm
<b>Fri. 18</b>	<b>Detroit</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
<b>Sun. 20</b>	<b>Seattle</b>	<b>4:00pm</b>
<b>Wed. 23</b>	<b>New York</b>	<b>11:30am</b>
Fri. 25	AT Atlanta	7:30pm
<b>Sun. 27</b>	<b>Connecticut</b>	<b>4:00pm</b>

### AUGUST

<b>Fri. 29</b>	<b>Chicago</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
Sat. 30	AT Minnesota	7:00pm

### SEPTEMBER

<b>Tue. 2</b>	<b>Indiana</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
<b>Sat. 6</b>	<b>Detroit</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
Tue. 9	AT Chicago	7:00pm
Thu. 11	AT Detroit	7:30pm
Sat. 13	AT Connecticut	4:00pm
<b>Sun. 14</b>	<b>Minnesota</b>	<b>4:00pm</b>

## BLACK FACT

On December 21, 1911, Josh Gibson was born in Buena Vista, Georgia. He was known as the black Babe Ruth and was probably the most powerful baseball player of his time.

## ACADEMIC SCANDAL SNAGS FLORIDA STATE

An academic cheating scandal could leave Florida State without as many as 25 players when the Seminoles go against Kentucky in the Music City Bowl on **Dec. 31**.

"We have some players not traveling for one reason and some for another, including those who are ineligible for the bowl because of academic issues," coach Bobby Bowden said in a statement released by the university.

Bowden put the number of players involved in the 25-player range. Many of the players could also be ruled ineligible for some games next season for their connection to the cheating scandal earlier this year.

Federal privacy laws prohibit the school from releasing names.

"We want to make sure that we have complete information, and that we have dotted all the i's and crossed all the t's," said Lee Hinkle, vice president of university relations. "It is premature to say anything at this point."

Bowden had previously not answered questions following the team's practices on the scandal that resulted in one full-time academic adviser, Brenda Monk, and a student tutor losing their jobs this summer.

The university reported its findings in a letter to the NCAA in September after a six-month investigation by the school revealed at least 23

athletes in various sports were implicated for cheating on tests.

At least two Seminole football players already have been penalized for their involvement. Defensive end Kevin McNeil missed the season and wide receiver Joslin Shaw missed the first four games.

"Kentucky would be a tough opponent when we are at full strength so clearly this will make things more difficult," Bowden said. "Our staff is in the process of determining what adjustments we must make for the game."

Bowden said he would not use any players redshirted this season in the bowl game.

## PLAY OF THE DAY: CLINTON AND MAGIC

Magic Johnson doesn't trust rookies to win a basketball game, much less lead the nation.

"You don't want somebody in there that is young or a rookie at politics," Johnson said at a raucous rally in support of presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton. "We want somebody in there that knows what they're doing because this job is so huge."

Johnson, a former star with the NBA's Los Angeles Lakers, joined with former President Bill Clinton to promote the New York senator's campaign. Implicit in Johnson's comments was the suggestion that Hillary Clinton had more experience than her rivals Barack Obama, who has served in the U.S. Senate since January 2005 and John Edwards, who spent one term as a senator.

Speaking in a packed high school gymnasium, Johnson kept up the comparisons between basketball and politics.

"The more I practiced the better I became," said Johnson, who won five NBA championships with the Lakers. "That's why I support Senator Clinton, because she is the only one with 30

years of experience."

Johnson said he has been good friends with the Clintons since they were in the White House and gave him advice on how to bring economic development—such as stores and movie theaters—to impoverished neighborhoods across the country.

He said that's a big reason he has endorsed the senator.

"When I looked at her track record... she has done an amazing job," he said of the former first lady, calling her "a woman of action and not just words."

Johnson also has started a national chain of home-loan centers and advocated for HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness.

Sharing the stage with Johnson, Bill Clinton called his wife the best presidential candidate he has met. He acknowledged that other Democrats have offered plans for solving the country's problems, but he said they haven't delivered on their promises.

"There's a great deal of difference between a good vision and a good plan and being able to change your lives," he said. "She's the best at that."

## CONGRESS TO HOLD HEARINGS ON STEROID USE

Congress announced plans recently to review the use of performance-enhancing drugs, with star-studded hearings scheduled next month and legislation to limit access to steroids and human growth hormone.

Two House panels are planning mid-January hearings featuring former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, author of a bombshell report last week that linked more than 80 baseball players to the illegal use of steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs. Players, likely some of those named in the report, could be invited to testify as well.

Mitchell thinks Congress should give Major League Baseball a chance to implement his recommendations before taking independent action.

"My hope is that Congress will permit the players' association and the commissioner's office to review this report, to digest it, to consult with their own experts, and to work together to come up with the best possible program. And then, give them a chance to see what they can do, and at that point, take a look at it. So I hope that's what will occur," Mitchell told the Portland Press Herald in Maine, according to a report on its Web site.

With Christmas a week away, there's no realistic chance that the 1,200-member players' association could have a meaningful consultation and exchange of views within such a short time, Mitchell said.

"They need time to be able to do that. Similarly, on the other side, there are 30 clubs. Each of them has several executives who are involved, so you're talking about hundreds and hundreds of people who have to be consulted and have a chance to express their views in this process," he said.

Meanwhile, a Senate Republican and Democrat announced legislation to limit access to performance-enhancing substances and stiffen criminal penalties for abuse and distribution.

## GM AGAIN DELIVERS STYLE TO NAIAS

Six-time Grammy Award winner Mary J. Blige, known as the "Queen of R&B," will perform in GM Style, a car-and-star-studded affair on the Detroit riverfront, on **Saturday, January 12**, leading up to the 2008 North American International Auto Show.

Similar to last year's inaugural GM Style event, the invitation-only affair will feature the world debut of GM global concept and production cars, as well as favorites revealed during 2007, including the Chevrolet Beat and Saturn Astra Tuner. All the GM

Styleshows vehicles will be introduced—fashion runway style—to live music. More cars and talent will be announced in the coming weeks.

Blige has sold 40 million recordings since the release of her debut "What's the 411?" in 1991; her eighth album, "Growing Pains," hits stores on Dec. 18. A native of Yonkers, N.Y., she was "discovered" in 1988 when she recorded an impromptu cover of Detroit's Anita Baker's "Rapture" at a recording booth in a local shopping mall. In addition to her six Grammys, she has earned another 23 nominations.

"We're thrilled that Ms. Blige will join our GMStyle celebration, because she embodies the new spirit behind our cars and trucks," said Ed Welburn, vice president, GM Global Design. "The combination of music and fashion is a natural fit with this event: Travel the world and tell people you're a designer from Detroit, and chances are they'll want to talk about great cars and great music."

Musical stars won't command all of the attention at GM Style, though. The Chevrolet Beat, conceived to evoke the mood of a speedy micro import tuner, comes to Detroit for the first time since its introduction last spring. The Beat was so popular among nearly 2 million online voters that it inspired a production car GM will build for markets outside of the U.S.

The Saturn Astra Tuner concept, revealed recently at the SEMA show in Las Vegas, comes to Detroit, too, and applies some of the latest bolt-on performance and appearance components—including eye-catching 19-inch wheels—to show what's possible with Saturn's all-new, European-bred subcompact.

The GM Style party will be held in a football field-size, climate-controlled pavilion on the Detroit River, just east of GM's Global Headquarters at the Renaissance Center. In addition to kicking off the world's largest auto show, which opens to the media the following day, GM Style kicks-off a series of activities, called GMnext, leading up to the start of GM's next 100 years. The corporation turns 100 on Sept. 16, 2008.

At the inaugural extravaganza last



Six-time Grammy Award winner **Mary J. Blige** will perform at GM Style, the car-and-star-studded affair on the Detroit riverfront Saturday, January 12, leading up to the 2008 North American International Auto Show (photo by General Motors News)

January, more than 1,200 media and invited guests filled the pavilion to see 17 global concepts and production vehicles accompanied by Hollywood stars such as Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Hudson, actor Christian Slater and hip-hop mogul Jay-Z. The event was covered by national and international media and simulcast on gm.com.

"It was a fantastic stage for us to

showcase our global design capabilities and a festive way to welcome media and guests to our global headquarters in Detroit," said Welburn. "The event created a lot of enthusiasm and excitement for the great vehicles we introduced in 2007, and I expect that the momentum will continue through 2008 as we celebrate GM's second century."

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The **Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA)** is pleased to announce the availability of up to **74 Housing Choice Vouchers for Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBA)** for existing housing and the acceptance of proposals from organizations that provide housing and services to qualified households, with a preference to organizations that provide housing with a preference for those that provide services to seniors, persons 62 years of age or older.

The **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**, which provides funding for the Housing Choice Voucher program, defines existing housing as that which requires less than \$1,000 per assisted unit (including the unit's prorated share of any work to be accomplished on common areas of systems) to meet Housing Quality Standards (HQS), excluding housing for which new construction or rehabilitation has started. PBA is limited to 25% of the units in a building unless the building has four units or less, or units designated for families that are elderly, disabled, or receiving supportive services will occupy the units. It may be possible to obtain a HUD waiver to this limit if supportive services will be provided to all PBA residents. Rent subsidy contracts are available for periods up to 10 years, subject to annual appropriations. If currently occupied units are to be included in the PBA program, the unit must meet HQS and the current tenant must apply and be determined eligible for Housing Choice Voucher assistance.

The FCRHA will rank each application based upon weighted selection criteria. The criteria include: Site and Community Amenities and/or supportive services: Maximum Points—10; Owner Experience and Management: Maximum Points—35; Consistency with FCRHA Initiatives: Maximum Points—35; Feasibility of the Project: Maximum Points—20 for a Total Possible Score of 100. Required minimum thresholds include that the units be standard, non-luxury multi-family or townhouse units meeting Housing Quality Standards, that the units not be located in a Census Tract with more than 20% poverty, Site Control in the form of a long-term lease or deed, and a minimum application score of 70 points. Vouchers will be awarded to the applying housing provider(s) based on the highest total score who also meets the minimum thresholds.

An information meeting to discuss the application for owners and the eligibility criteria for potential occupants will be held on **Jan. 9, 2008 from 2 to 4 p.m.** at the **HCD office, 3700 Pender Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030**. Interested owners must submit an application form that may be obtained from the **Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)** the office listed below or the FCRHA website, [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rha](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rha). Selected applicants will be notified in writing by **Feb. 29, 2008**.

Applications will be accepted from **Dec. 21, 2007 until 4 p.m. on Jan. 31, 2008**, at the HCD office on Pender Drive in Fairfax. Applications should be addressed as follows: **Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority, 3700 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax, VA 22030, Attn: H. Michael Wever-Chalathirikun, Associate Director, Rental Services Division**. Only applications submitted in response to this notice will be considered for selection. To obtain an application please call **703-246-5218 or TTY 703-385-3578**.

Fairfax County is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in all County programs, services and activities. Special accommodations will be provided upon request. For information, please call **703-246-5101 or TTY 703-385-3578**.



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- SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER (DIV CHIEF/CAPITOL PROJ)
- SITE PLAN REVIEW ENGINEER (CIVIL ENGINEER IV)
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- THERAPIST II - ADOLESCENT (RE-ADVERTISED)
- THERAPIST SUPERVISOR (RE-ADVERTISED)
- URBAN PLANNER (2)
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## OP-ED

### WHY DON'T BLACKS "BUY AMERICAN"?

William Reed  
Special to *The Metro Herald*

The American economy is declining. Are you a part of this problem, or its solution?

In a Capitol Hill briefing, the head of the nation's oldest black business organization said his National Business League (NBL) is addressing the problem with a focus on "creating more well-paying jobs for African Americans". NBL President W. Ronald Evans says that the solution is: "For America to secure economic prosperity now as well as in ten and fifty years in the future, we must restore and protect our manufacturing and technology foundation. Manufacturing and technology serve as the catalysts for all other sectors of the economy. American manufacturing and technology must be restored."

"As we've lost manufacturing and technology industries, too many African Americans have moved from well-paying jobs with good benefits at high tech automobile manufacturing plants to working minimum wage jobs," said Evans as he introduced an initiative between the NBL and the American Organization for Restoring Jobs (AORJ), a consortium of business and advocacy leaders to promote the preservation and restoration of the America's manufacturing base for both the economy and employment for more African-Americans.

The NBL action is worthwhile. Since the end of World War II, manufacturing jobs, particularly in the automotive industry, have been an important source of well-paying jobs for African Americans. Since blacks first went into the factories, in the early

1900s, millions of African Americans have attained middle-class lifestyles and many families are in their fourth generation directly due to auto industry wages. As recent as 1979, 2.1 percent of African American workers were employed in automotive manufacturing. But, by 2004, the numbers had fallen to 1.3 percent. In manufacturing in general, African American employment has fallen from 23.9 percent of all workers to 10.6 percent.

The NBL/AORJ alliance needs consumers' and legislators' assistance toward their goals. Stating, "It is time to turn this whole issue around," the NBL and AORJ have asked that Congressional hearings be held on this issue. But, the groups may get grips from many black consumers on the issue. The "Buy American" initiatives the alliance is promoting may fall on deaf ears among African American car buyers. Black Americans spend \$100 billion each year on vehicle purchases—56.8 percent on "foreign cars".

"When am I actually purchasing a vehicle made in America?" is a question African American buyers can ask the consortium. Across the nation's showrooms, Honda's best sellers come from plants in Ohio while Ford imports many of its cars from Mexico. Toyota has a plant in Texas, BMW is in Alabama and Chrysler brought in cars from Europe. Factually, the Big Three still have more domestic content—defined as made in the United States or Canada—on average than their foreign-owned competitors. Many African

American consumers don't care about the domestic content of a car or where it was assembled.

But, the Level Field Institute, an organization formed by former UAW members, encourages buyers to consider the domestic content and economic impact of purchasing a car. Even when deciding between a Honda and a Volkswagen people should make more sophisticated choices. Honda makes cars in Ohio and Alabama out of parts produced in this country. VW imports all of its cars. Buying a Honda supports nearly 2.4 more U.S. jobs per car than a VW. Black, as well as white, consumers need to note that buying a car made by Ford, GM or Chrysler, on balance, puts more money into the American economy than buying "a foreign vehicle".

Much of African Americans' fate into the future is in our own hands. The NBL/AORJ is seeking to build values and attitudes toward buying cars made by American corporations to keep more dollars and jobs in America. Evans says he's interested in hearing from African American consumers, business people and legislators about how to: Create manufacturing jobs; promote technical training programs and institutions among more African-American communities and more grants and contracts with government agencies and corporations for HBCU (Historically Black colleges and Universities) institutions.

The NBL/AORJ project can be reached via 202-460-2400 or NBL 202-726-9100. [www.nblgw.org](http://www.nblgw.org).

William Reed  
[www.BlackPressInternational.com](http://www.BlackPressInternational.com)

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### FAIRFAX COUNTY REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN FOR PUBLIC HOUSING AND HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA) invites all interested residents to review and comment on the draft Annual Plan for Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher for Fiscal Year 2009 mandated by the Federal Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998. Through this plan, the FCRHA will advise the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), residents of FCRHA-owned housing, and the public of the FCRHA's mission to serve the needs of low-income and very low-income families for Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing assistance, and the FCRHA's strategy to address those needs.

The Five Year Plan and Annual Plan for Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Program provides details about the FCRHA's immediate operations, program participants, and programs and services for the upcoming fiscal year. The Plan requires the FCRHA to examine its existing operations and needs and to design long-range and short-range strategies to address those needs.

The draft Plan is available for public review and comment during the period **December 17, 2007, to February 4, 2008**. All public comments must be postmarked before midnight, **February 4, 2008**. The FCRHA will also conduct a public hearing at its **March 6, 2008** meeting. (The FCRHA meeting will be held at **4500 University Plaza, Fairfax, VA at 7:00 pm.**) The draft Plan is available for review at the FCRHA Website (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rha>) and at the addresses that follow:

Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development  
3700 Pender Drive, Suite 300  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
(703-246-5103)

Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development  
South County Government Center  
8350 Richmond Highway, Suite 527  
Alexandria, VA 22309  
(703-704-6760)

Fairfax County Region II  
6245 Leesburg Pike, #300  
Falls Church, VA 22044  
(703-533-5701)

Fairfax County Region III (Reston/Herndon Area)  
11484 Washington Plaza, W, #110  
Reston, VA 20190  
(703-787-4962)

Fairfax County Region IV (Western County)  
12011 Government Center Parkway, #232  
Fairfax, VA 22035  
(703-324-5285)

If you have any questions concerning the draft Plan, please call 703-246-5103.

This document is available in an alternative format to persons with disabilities upon request. Please call 703-246-5101; TTY: 703-385-3578. Please allow seven working days for preparation of the material.



Equal Housing/  
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## U.S. BLACK ENGINEER AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MAGAZINE HONORS DAVID BANKSTON



David Bankston

Bankston is a pioneer in the software industry, leading the design, development, and execution of one of the first Software as a Service (SaaS) products on the market. His leadership and knowledge has led Neighborhood America to commercial success, establishing the company as a leading provider of enterprise social network solutions.

Bankston oversees development and is responsible for consistently driving technological innovation. He leads a team that consists of five departments and nearly 50 technical professionals.

Aside from being a pioneer and a visionary, Bankston is a giving soul who shares his passion and experience with our future business leaders as an adjunct professor at Antioch University McGregor in Ohio. He is committed to recruiting and retaining minorities, and in fact, Neighborhood America's workforce makes up a diverse group of people from seven different countries and minorities represent nearly half of the company's leadership team.

For more information, visit [www.neighborhoodamerica.com](http://www.neighborhoodamerica.com).

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## Sometimes at least part of the answer actually *is* blowing in the wind.

### Renewable energy is an important part of meeting Virginia's ever-growing need for electricity.

Virginia's demand for electricity is growing. In fact, we'll need more than 4,000 megawatts of new generation over the next 10 years alone. That's enough electricity to power 1 million new homes. Dominion is committed to making sure Virginians have the energy we need for the future—to keep our economy strong, our businesses growing and our communities vibrant.

Renewable energy is an important part of meeting that need. Like using wind-powered turbines to generate electricity, Dominion is partnering in a planned 8,000-acre wind farm near our Mount Storm power station. Much of the emissions-free energy generated there will serve customers in rapidly expanding Northern Virginia via a new transmission line Dominion has proposed. This transmission line will increase both the supply and reliability of electricity throughout the region. Dominion has proposed a route for this line that's within

or adjacent to existing transmission line rights-of-way. It minimizes the impact on Northern Virginia's communities, historical and cultural sites, and scenic vistas. And the proposed route also avoids all pre-existing conservation easements. After exploring every alternative, we're certain this new transmission line is the very best way to serve the population of Northern Virginia.

Dominion's dedication to renewable sources of energy doesn't end with wind turbines. Bio-fuels, hydro and solar power, and technologies still being developed can work in concert with conservation to help meet our electricity challenges. But these efforts alone won't be enough. Building this transmission line will prevent blackouts, provide important support for ongoing economic growth throughout the region and ensure reliable electric power every day. That's Dominion's promise to Virginia.



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keyword: meadowbrook.